Hiram College Student Senate
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 2, 2023       Time: 7:30pm       Location: East Hall Forum

Call to Order & Roll Call  

Vice President Palm — 7:30PM

Presidential Announcements  

President Flaherty — 7:30PM

- President Flaherty asked senators if they would wish to attend the OSGS Event. She mentioned last year the event only lasted one day but this year they are scheduling it for two. They will be allowing the student governments from all over Ohio present on what their student governments are doing.
- James Workman will be sitting in on senate meetings once a month to hear about residential issues.
- She mentioned that in the Hiram Highlight’s there is a notice to students that the FAFSA deadline has been changed. No exact date is known at the moment but what is currently understood is that it will do some time near the end of the year.

Advisor Announcements  

Advisor West — 7:32PM

- Advisor West informed senators that boots for the Tech and Trek program will be going out. They are inquiring about clubs putting in encouraging messages and tips for first year from clubs and organizations.
- Senator Cotterman questioned how clubs could get involved. She was notified that clubs could fill out a form.

Guest Speaker  

Douglas Brattebo — 7:34PM

- Douglas Brattebo is a Professor of Political Science with a focus in American Politics. He was grateful for the invitation to talk in front of senate. The history of voting is that at the start of the U.S. to vote a citizen had to be a white male property owner 21 years of age and older compared to current voting standards being a U.S. citizen 18 years and older. He said that the government as it currently is, isn’t for the people. If that were the case the senate would not be limited to two seats per state but be based on the state's population. This is extremely difficult to changed based on an eternity clause where the vote would have to pass in senate and then be passed unanimously by the states. This means when it comes to states with lower populations, they have more representation than ones with larger populations. This creates a favor to minor issues that predominantly effect the smaller populations when it comes to law making. These areas of lower population also contain niche industries which become national priorities. To truly make it more democratic have places like D.C. and Puerto Rico become states and get rid of filibuster. People should excessive their right to vote because plenty of people protested fought and died for the current standard of voting. When the government saw how citizens reacted to the new laws on reproductive rights after the turn of Roe v. Wade the state tried to turn majority vote to 60% majority compared to the current. Citizens can express their opinions on Issue 1 and Issue 2 directly by going to vote.
• Senator Streator questioned why recreational cannabis was illegal in the first place. Professor Brattebo informed him it was based on non rational science. Nixon believed that marijuana was predominantly used by non-white citizens so a larger number of nonwhite citizens were imprisoned for using the drug.

• Senator Shannon was curious what would be the fate of people currently incarcerated for recreational marijuana if Issue 2 is passed. Professor Brattebo did not know the answer at this point in time.

• Senator Calvey inquired if Professor Brattebo saw the political opinion shifting even more conservative. He thinks it will go so far in one direction and then people will change their views. We see this when grassroots organizations start appearing more frequently.

• Senator Hostetler was curious is based on the recent results of the last poll if it would deter or more people would come to the polls to vote. He said that November always has a higher attendance and is expecting Issue 1 to pass but that there isn’t enough data to properly hypothesis what the polling results of Issue 2 might be.

Executive Board

Vice President Mongold — 8:13PM

• Vice President Mongold inquired if senators had any questions the executive board should ask for their meeting with campus safety on Tuesday.

• Senator Travis suggested bringing up lighting issues int Gelbke as well as Koritansky parking lot.

• Senator Calvey brought up that we should ask campus safety if they are aware of a cannon or loud noise bring produced by a sports team when a good play is completed.

• Senator Cotterman suggested bringing up unanswered phone calls and that first-year students are being told to leave voicemails.

• Senator Travis also suggested bringing up communication within campus safety itself because of a previous experience when she had a vehicular issue and getting ticketed.

• Senator Felvus mentioned an issue with key card access over the weekend. Other students and her brought attempted to use multiple key cards but only one card opened the door. This event happened on a Sunday.

• Senator Calvey was curious if there was any news on the new seat for the Senator of Health, Wellness and Accessibility. President Flaherty informed her that we will be updating it later in the meeting.

Clubs and Student Organization Updates

Vice President Chatman – 8:19PM

• Vice President Chatman informed senators that Tuesday there will be a reading by Bonnie Jo Campbell as a part of the Rust Belt Learning initiatives.

• The Hiram Christian Church will be blessing animals.

• Clubs are starting to host meetings and events so watch your email if you signed up or shown interest.

• She also let senators know that admissions are looking for more students to tour and give their experience as a non-athlete.

Committee Reports

Vice President Mongold — 8:21PM

• Vice President Mongold let senators know that the first Mental Health Committee meeting will be Friday October 6th at 5 on in the Library Conference room on the first floor.
- Senator Hartman brought up that she showed interest but did not receive any emails about availability.
- Senator Travis informed senate of the Academic Planning Committee’s meeting. There were some classes approved to be on the schedule. It has also been approved that the Preforming Arts Major will be discontinued and be available instead as two minors: Music and Theater. There has been a suggestion that a 4+1 track be added to sports management at hiram.
- Senator Marin informed everyone that the Sustainable Development Committee has a Pop-up at the Treehouse.

**Senator Action Item Updates**

*President Flaherty — 8:25PM*

- President Flaherty informed senate that there will be an email sent out to campus for the new seat for Senator of a Health, Wellness, and Accessibility. This email will be sent out to campus so anyone who is interested will be able to submit a paragraph of interest.

**New Senator Action Items**

*Vice President Mongold — 8:26PM*

- Senator Streater brought up that last meeting there were discussions of increasing the student activities fee by $18. He suggested that it be increased to a greater amount to become a comparable option of colleges in the area for potential future students. He suggested that we raise from the current amount by $35. On top of the increase, we have to make sure to use the money. Vice President Chatman suggested a potential gradual increase over a few years so students don’t feel as if they are being price gouged. Senator Hostetler inquired that if this is approved by the Board of Trustees when it may go into effect. Advisor West said it would be implemented in the fall.
- Senator Turk brought up that even if money is spent on events, it may not be well attended because there are other events going on at that point in time. Vice President Chatman mentioned that clubs, and organizations can check the master calendar that Julie Hild has made to schedule events and see when and where events are in an attempt to combat the scheduling conflicts. Senator Travis brought up that one such incident can deter students from attending Senate meetings. Senator Calvey questioned why events aren’t scheduled earlier in the evening because the late timing deters commuters from attending. She was informed that it is when practices and most games are over so student athletes can attend. Senator Travis also said that the arts are scheduled from 4:30 to 7:00PM. President Flaherty also mentioned that if commuters want to go to an event but don’t want to driving home late at night that renting a room for a night is also an option. It goes for $25 a night and bedding is supplied.
- Senator Travis let senate know of a large ditch going into the parking lot behind Koritansky Hall.

**Notes from the Gallery**

*Guests — 8:51PM*

**Adjournment**

*Vice President Mongold — 8:51PM*