Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice President Palm — 7:30PM

Presidential Announcements

President Flaherty — 7:30PM

- President Flaherty expressed her congratulations to Ann Haynam on becoming mayor. She announced that at the start of her term as a mayor Ann will be attending the first meeting of the month.
- She wanted to inform students that resident hall will be open till 7PM on November 21. There is a form attached to the latest email from James Workman if you would like to stay into or over the break.
- President Flaherty mentioned that Sunday there will be the Late-Night Breakfast provided by professors. This will be free for all students and if there are any questions reach out to Assistant Dean of Students, Mick Steiner at SteinerM1@hiram.edu.
- She gave an update on the hazing module mentioned in last week’s meeting. She informed there was no hard due date but if students could still fill it out as soon as they can.

Advisor Announcements

Advisor West — 7:32PM

- Advisor West informed that Diversity Committee has a head survey they are sending out to campus and ask that students fill it out and encourage others to complete it as well. This survey is sent out to campus every three years. This survey will be sent out on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and is expected to close end of February. If you would like to see what’s types of questions may be on it contact Dean of Students, Dee West at WestDE@hiram.edu to look at previous surveys.
- She let senators know that Ramadan will be starting in March after the head survey. For that students should be mindful and show support of those fasting along with current global situations.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Jeff Swenson and Dr. Steven Romberger – 7:34PM

- Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Dr. Jeff Swenson has been at the college for 16 years. He has been in various positions here at the college such as an English Professor, Director of Writing Across Curriculum, and ran the Writing Center at one point. He was the Associate Dean for a while before becoming the Interim Vice President. When explaining what Dean of the Academic and Student Affairs does is coordinate all faculty activities, curricular activities, student satisfaction, student retention, and working with Student Affairs and Faculty chair to make sure the student experience is what it is meant to be.
- Faculty Chair Dr. Steven Romberger previously was the Director of Office for Scholarly Endeavors. That encompassed a lot of activities surrounding Sugar Day, which he let everyone know will be April 4th this year. When explaining how he became faculty chair he said he was elected to this position but there is more to it than just that. When explaining
what Faculty Chair is, he explained in simplest terms is that is is a job to represent the faculty. To do this a person has to balance advocating for their students as well as faculty members.

- **Senator Streator** asked what was being done for faculty and staff retention. Dr. Swenson responded that the environment is difficult to retain faculty and staff when there is a high workload, and with finances being tight. This finance is being seen by many small liberal arts colleges at the moment. There are long term plans to address salary structures at the moment, but it takes time to look at current systems and attempt to implement solutions. Issues being discussed are compression of salaries for newer professors compared to professors who have been working here for a long time. Dr. Romberger then replied that salary compression is a difficult thing to fix because of budgetary issues and the quick solution of just adjusting the salaries to where they should be will only lead to more budgetary issues in the future. Based on internal faculty surveys the biggest concerns are compensation, workload, work life balance, and curriculum.

- **Senator Hosteller** asked why are we required to post to our e-portfolios if they are for our own personal use. Dr. Swenson explained they are for you but also an assessment tool to show how students are progressing within the specified courses. If you have to submit a signature assignment for a class, you can submit the page and then delete what is on it if you choose to do so. It is not recommended because there could be potential use for it at some point in the future.

- **Senator Cotterman** was curious what the college is doing for faculty mental health. Dr. Romberger responded that faculty members are aware of their mental health. It often takes some initiative as a person because faculty members do have health plans and can use the benefits they have. There are events that surround the topic of mental health, for instance Dr. Kasper hosts meditation workshops. There are professional development opportunities that come up to help but faculty members worry about students’ mental health more than their own.

- **Senator Bentley** asked if the evaluations actually help professors. Dr. Swenson explained that evaluations are an important part of appointment and promotion process. It is a huge part of how the teaching portion is responded to as well as faculty scholarship and service to the college. With negative evaluations the college does try and take a developmental route to try and help professors create a better teaching plan for the future and attempt to give the professor guidance rather than fire them. If a student has serious concerns a class or faculty member reach out to the Associate Dean of the College, Janet Pope at PopeJM@hiram.edu. Dr. Romberger added that evaluations or other forms of evaluation help professors when teaching.

- **Senator Streator** asked if there have been talks of going back to the original intention of the three week compared to recently how it has felt like a condensed twelve week. Dr. Romberger explained that sometimes there are courses that fit well in the three week and others that don’t. Trying to find the right ones that fit take trial and error. The three week is great for travel, research, and some specialty courses. Dr. Swenson expressed his agreement but the issues from an administrators position is that planning courses that are interesting and fun while also attempting to fill a requirement for students take a few years to plan out if they truly work during the three week.

- **Senator Picoult** asked if there was a Hiram wide policy for a certain number of mental health days students receive. Dr. Swenson explained how it didn’t lead to the outcome that
was expected. This also threw off the schedule for some faculty members placing mental health days within their curriculum. We don’t have mandated mental health days, but they are trying to shift the schedule to work more towards a student's mental health.

- Issac who is part of the gallery expressed difficulty getting responses from some professors. He asked if there are any ideas on currently bettering communication. Dr. Swenson replies that faculty should be responding to emails but may not respond extremely quickly because of a work life balance. He suggested maybe ask professors what the best way to contact them is or the best time to contact them as well.

Executive Board

President Flaherty — 8:11PM

- President Flaherty updated on behalf of Vice President Mongold who was unable to attend. She reminded senators that they need to have their semesterly meetings and that Vice President Mongold will be hosting hers during the three week.

Clubs and Student Organization Updates

Vice President Chatman – 8:12PM

- Vice President Chatman informed senators of some events on campus this week. Study-a-thon will be on the 14th from 6-9PM on the top floor for the Kennedy Center.
- There is an R.A. interest meeting for those who may be interested on the 15th at 11:15AM.
- There is a psychology poster session on the 15th as well from 4-6PM. Vice President Chatman and Senator Travis will be presenting for this poster session.
- Student Senate will be hosting a movie night on the 15th from 7:30-10PM and the movie being shown is Barbie.
- Senator Picoult informed senators that Study-a-thon will be having designated quiet and loud areas for working.
- President Flaherty let senators know that the movie night will be happening in the Kennedy Center basement and the first 20 people can get free fuzzy socks.
- Senator Felvus wanted clarification on the date for the relaxation station listed in Sunday's email. President Flaherty specified that the date was correct, and it was intentionally moved to be before the finals for the three week.

Committee Reports

President Flaherty — 8:15PM

- Senator Turk gave an update for Mental Health Committee. They meet with Dr. Romberger as well as other faculty in recent weeks talking about the covenant. They are looking at implementing another pilot study during the spring 12 week. Since Faculty is not meeting as a group until the spring 12 week, the committee has to reach out to individual faculty members to see if they would be willing to implement it in their class. The hope for the new study is to get more data as well as see how the covenant works for all classes.
- Vice President Chatman gave updates on the S.A.F.E. Committee. At the last meeting they discussed having emails be set up with preferred names. They also discussed safe zone training for people on campus. An event idea that is being discussed is surrounding relationships such as what is a toxic relationship. They are looking to host this in December and the date is unknown for certain. Senator Shannon added that they had Scott Pohlman there to talk about Title IX and the retiring athlete support group brought up in last weeks meeting. Athletic Director, Scott Pohlman recommended doing it as a 3 week course to expand on the students individual identity outside of their sport. President Flaherty directed Senator Shannon to have Director Pohlman or have Senator Shannon himself
reach out to Senator Galecki and Senator Travis so they can bring it up in the Next Academic Planning Committee meeting.

Senator Action Item Updates

President Flaherty — 8:19PM
- President Flaherty updated senate of the prices for the the gender-neutral restroom signs. With the company Hiram frequently works with the signs are expensive. She is trying to set up a meeting with marketing to see if it is possible to purchase cheaper signs in the Interim to gauge campus’ feeling on the restroom changes. A guest suggested that for a cheaper alternative to use heavy lamination on paper signs. Vice President Chatman informed that to be inclusive to all that the signs should have braille. President Flaherty then expanded on that, marking wants the campus to have the same signage across campus but we are trying to really push this initiative so that it doesn’t get pushed back because of funding. Senator Kuhl was curious if getting a braille punch to push through the lamination for a good temporary measure.

New Senator Action Items

President Flaherty – 8:21PM
- Senator Cambareri brought up that the doors to Colton Turner were locked where the ramp is located. Vice President Fritz asked if they doors were locked or jammed.
- Senator Bentley went to a conference for event planning for campus. She proposed events for commuters specifically. Some ideas to get commuters more informed and involved with events was putting posters on their cars when it is weather permitting and sending out a survey to gauge what events commuters might want to have. She also wants to bring more events to campus that can engage as much of campus as possible. Senator Bentley informed that if clubs would like to get more funding there are grants they can apply for. At this conference there was ample information of event ideas, vendors, gift ideas, and specialty events. Senator Bentley is talking to Julie Hild about creating a survey for campus to ask campus of events they might want to see and new gifts ideas for prizes. An idea for senior week at the moment is Drag Queen Bingo Brunch for seniors, this will be test run for seniors. New events are in the works for campus. If you have any ideas or feed back from events email Julie Hild at HildJL@hiram.edu.
- Vice President Fritz let senate know that on Wednesday in the first floor of the Kennedy Center Veticus and Crush are hosting an event for students to come and see therapy dogs.
- Vice President Fritz also mentioned that in the Dining Hall near the drink station there looks to be mold on the floor. A guest also mentioned seeing a similar phenomenon with some of the chairs in the dining hall and having an issue with them being having wet spots.
- Vice President Fritz then mentioned some concerning potholes. On being at the bottom of the ramp for Teachout. Vice President Chatman then brought up a similar safety concern with back entrance to Booth and Centennial near the Stone Soup Co-op that there is a large pothole at the bottom of those steps.
- Senator Marin brought up concern with the new car for campus safety. She expressed that it doesn’t look like campus safety and the identifiers were extremely difficult to see with the darkened rear windows. Advisor West informed Senate that it the cars were donated by a donor and it is in the works to put signage on the cars.
- Senator Picoult brought up concern about the stairs outside of Whitcomb close to Miller Hall.
- Senator Felvus commented that the red campus safety car was parked in the fire lane.
- Senator Picoult has received multiple reports of peoples locks not working to their rooms. There have also been a few people who have put in work orders for their lights, and nothing has been done. President Flaherty asked if Senator Picoult could send a list with the building and rooms that are having these issues.

Notes from the Gallery

Adjournment