

We The People: The Development of Student Government in Hinman

The citizen can bring our political and governmental institutions back to life, make them responsive and accountable, and keep them honest. No one else can.

- John Gardner

Prologue

Anyone who has lived in Hinman College knows that this residential community above all others is famous for its rich traditions and time-honored institutions. There is no organization in Hinman that exemplifies this standard of tradition and excellence so well as the Hinman College Council (HCC). Since 1968 HCC has been a powerful and driving force throughout all of Hinman. It has provided legions of Hinman residents the opportunity to get involved and make a difference within their residential college. Although HCC (like many other student governments) is sometimes blamed for being inefficient, not executing lasting reform, and for just generally being a waste of time, that could not be further from the truth. As in all Hinman institutions, HCC has had its ups and downs over the years, but through it all it has provided many important services to the student body living in Hinman. More importantly, HCC has been the forum for many individuals to rise up and take on leadership positions and gain valuable leadership experience and achieve self-actualization. Also, more so than any other of the great Hinman institutions, HCC is a fellowship of young men and women who join for a variety of reasons, but all end up striving to do what is best for their peers and in the process gain valuable leadership skills and create friendships that last a lifetime. While it is accurate to say that HCC is an organization that usually reacts to actions from other organizations, rather than being responsible for developing new policies for the community, HCC was and still is a force to be reckoned with and the most instrumental of all Hinman institutions.