

Back in the spring of last year, student council was just a handful of upperclassmen. They were preparing for a meeting with administration regarding dress code and morning breakfast until the pandemic put it on hold.

Months later, student council met with administration on Oct. 22, but had two new co-presidents, about 50 attendees and with an entirely changed school format, a different slate of issues.

“It’s a new place for people to come in and share a lot of their concerns going into online learning and everything like that,” senior co-president Meredith Linzmeier said. “I think a place to air those concerns really brought [together] a lot of people, especially underclassmen who are new to high school and online learning.”

Through the meeting, topics included work load (homework and assignments on Wednesday), synchronous time being too long, confusing organization between Schoology, Powerschool and advisory. A solution that kept being brought up was simply talking to teachers.

“Student-teacher relationships are two way streets,” principal Dr. Schwamb said during the meeting. “Every teacher at Huron cares about kids, and wants to be supportive.”

While students can be a bit tentative in terms of taking the initiative to reach out, it’s something Linzmeier thinks they should try and get comfortable with.

“The administration is on the student’s side about talking to the teachers and letting them know [things] like ‘I’ve spent four hours on this assignment, and I can’t get it done,’” Linzmeier said. “Teachers should be receptive to that conversation and should be receptive to those kids and their needs. Currently, I hope that we prioritize working on a better format and address issues individually with teachers.”

Another relevant issue raised by senior student council member Shania Ahmed was that she couldn’t see her grades in Powerschool, and check how she was doing in classes. Because of this, she emailed her teachers.

“I feel like, at least in my experience, not every single teacher is nice,” Ahmed said. “I get that they might have good intentions, but not every single teacher seems to be nice to some students, or it could just be the student. Just like students [being] scared of reaching out, that’s [on] them, not really the teacher. But I think the student shouldn’t be scared to reach out because [it’s] the teacher’s job to help.”

Recently, student council’s work delivered on a couple of no-homework weekends and advisory changes.

“Student council can help students find their voices,” Dr. Schwamb said. “I think student voice is really powerful and I know our teachers care about the students deeply.”

As the aftermath of their first administration meeting, student council is now looking to kickstart a sock fundraiser, and plan other safe events to give kids a much-needed stress reliever.

“Ultimately our goal is to get to the edge of an open dialogue and hopefully see some change,” Linzmeier said, “and then hear as many stories from people as possible to try and give an ear to anybody who wants to talk. We just want to genuinely listen to people, and then bring those concerns up.”