

Staff Employee Advocacy Council

Regular Council Meeting: January 10, 2024

Agenda

Attendance: See "2023–2024 Attendance" spreadsheet

Excused: Zubaidah Albaro, Brett Calland, Dorothy Warner, Daniel Haynes

- A. Call to Order - Chloe Kiser at 2:31PM
- B. Guest Speaker - Valparaiso Success Initiative (VSI - Bloom Scholars Program - Chloe Kiser, Access College - Lucia Lopez, and Beacon Academy - Shannon O'Brien) **2:30-3:15 PM**
 - a. Access College - Lucia Lopez
 - i. Preparing students for lives of service and leadership, positive impact on the world
 - ii. Access College is an affordable, quality degree in a high touch environment. Incorporating gen ed requirements and degree coursework along with access to Valpo 4 academic colleges. Support for retention, graduation, and transition to college and career. Classroom/study space in Wesemann Hall.
 - iii. Cost of tuition comparative to other programs, \$19,500 fall of '24.
 - b. Bloom Scholars Program - Chloe Kiser
 - i. 26 students in the current cohort. 1st gen, minority preferred
 - ii. The 4-week Summer Bridge portion is all-inclusive for students; housing, dining, etc. Supplemental learning, classes, excursions, peer mentors, community involvement.
 - iii. Year 1 - Cornerstone: monthly meetups, fin aid meetings, connecting with mentors. \$500 scholarship
 - iv. Year 2 - Career & Alumni Network - shadowing opportunities/workshops
 - v. Year 3 - Inst of Leadership - reflection on calling
 - vi. Year 4 - leadership courses, finalizing portfolio
 - c. Beacon Academy - Shannon O'Brien
 - i. Working with high school students, preparing for college. Exposure, building character, exploring careers
 - ii. Eli Lilly funded grant. Partnering with Valpo professors & Dunes Learning Center. Have had over 400 students on campus since Feb '23

- iii. 13 day camps and a summer week long camp June 24-28
- C. Guest Speaker - rpk GROUP 3:30-4:15 PM
 - a. Rpk Group - Rilie Sibold
 - i. Office hours for staff/faculty this week, 100+ in attendance
 - ii. Rpk working with BOD throughout January
 - iii. Town Hall in early February, date TBD
 - iv. Feedback form remains open for a few more weeks
- D. Approval of Minutes from [December Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Mike J makes a motion to approve
 - b. Janneal G seconds motion
 - c. All in favor - Approved
- E. Executive Committee Report
 - a. Starting Budget: \$6,422.82
 - i. Spent a total of \$1,291.38 since our last meeting
 - ii. Cookie Exchange \$38.88
 - iii. Mini-Grant \$199.00
 - iv. Sweatshirts \$479.50
 - v. Swag Items \$574.00
 - b. Remaining Budget: \$5,131.44
- F. Administrative Meeting Report
 - a. Meeting with President Padilla and Rebekah on 1/8/24
 - i. rpk office hour for staff 1/8/24 at noon
 - ii. A town hall meeting is being scheduled for early-February to discuss findings
- G. Chief of Staff - Rebekah Arevalo
 - a. No report
- H. External Committee Reports
 - a. University Council — Carolyn Simpson
 - i. Last met on November 29. Next meeting is Feb 28
 - ii. Carolyn reached out to Kelly Anthony and Kurt Gillins from External Relations. They confirmed that the Provost Office tasked their office under the Strategic Plan: Theme 1 to coordinate the Discount Program. They've already met with the Valpo Chamber and have a list of Alumni owned businesses in the area. Will provide window clings for participating businesses. Once the program is set-up, it will be housed in the HR Intranet.
 - iii. Kurt Gillins is leading the project and is working with Kevin Jantzi. If we know of additional discounts, please email Kurt Gillins.
 - b. Investment Oversight — Justin Hunt

- i. Our next meeting will occur in February
 - c. Fringe Benefits — Natalie Muskin-Press
 - i. No update from committee
- I. Internal Subcommittee Reports
 - a. By-Laws — Justin Hunt / Sue Kukurugya
 - i. We did not meet due to the holiday. Our next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 24th.
 - b. Communications — Justin Hunt
 - i. Please submit articles for the newsletter by **Tuesday, January 30th**. The newsletter will go out on Thursday, February 1st.
 - c. New Employee Welcome — Chloe Kiser
 - i. Received swag items
 - ii. Subcommittee chair needs to reschedule subcommittee meetings for this semester
 - 1. Will plan a new employee get-together at the beginning of the semester // possible partnership with HR?
 - d. Representation — Jennifer Zatarski
 - i. No need for a meeting
 - e. Staff Appreciation Events — Emily Breitung / Julie Vick
 - i. February event “SEAC Sip & Paint” registration is already full.
 - ii. Possible March event: March Madness bracket challenge and happy hour at BB’s Cafe for first round games.
 - f. Staff Development — Jennifer Zatarski / Michelle Soller
 - i. Discussed potential edits to the web pages related to the mini-grant program as well as the application form. The edits would make the process more user friendly for the applicant. Once the edits are finalized, an intensive campaign to encourage applications will be launched.
 - ii. Awarded a mini-grant
 - g. Staff Recognition — Carolyn Simpson
 - i. December 2023 Employee of the Month: Melizza Zygmunt
 - 1. Presentation is Thursday, January 18 at 11:30 in KRE 105
 - 2. Meet in the Kretzmann Lounge, which is located in the basement around 11:20
 - ii. SEAC Spotlight will feature remaining Subcommittee Chairs and then members

- iii. Employee of the Month Nomination Form: Isis and Dorothy are working with the SEAC Communication Team to make the form live on the webpage
 - iv. Additional Staff Recognition: Department Spotlight
- J. Old Business
 - a. None
- K. New Business
 - a. DISCUSS AS GROUP
 - i. Topic of the day: None
- L. Announcements
 - a. Department announcements?
 - i. MLK Day Celebration will take place on Monday, January 15th, 2024
 - 1. \$6 rate for breakfast and lunch at Founders

2. Schedule:

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Realizing the Dream Through Healing and Resilience

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY MLK DAY CELEBRATION
Monday, January 15 | 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SCHEDULE

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:30-10 a.m.	Registration	Harre Union Atrium	1-2:30 p.m.	Convocation	The Chapel of the Resurrection
10-11:30 a.m.	Focus Sessions	Harre Union	3-5 p.m.	Campus Service Project	Ballrooms, Harre Union
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch	Founders Table, Harre Union	3-5 p.m.	Collaborative Art Project	The Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso University Center for the Arts

FOCUS SESSIONS

SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATIVE REFLECTIONS FOR HEALING AND RESILIENCE
SPEAKER: TRAVIS SCHOLL, M.Div., Ph.D.
Author of "Walking the Labyrinth: A Place to Pray and Seek God"

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: HARNESSING THE POWER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY FOR HEALING AND RESILIENCE
SPEAKERS: ADAM GIBSON-EVEN, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy
HAYDAR CUKURTEPE, Ph.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor of Computing and Information Sciences
SONJA STREUBER, M.S., M.A.
Lecturer in Computing and Information Sciences

MENTAL HEALTH FOR HEALING AND RESILIENCE
SPEAKERS: JORDAN EMBRY '19
University Enrollment Marketing Manager
KIMBERLY BOONE, M.A., LMHC
Director of Counseling Center

GOVERNMENT AS AN AGENT FOR HEALING AND RESILIENCE
SPEAKERS: JESSE HARPER, J.D.
Center Township Trustee
ROBERT COTTON
City Councilman, Valparaiso

HIP-HOP STORIES OF NEW AMERICA: BLACK AND BROWN HEALING THROUGH HIP-HOP
SPEAKER: DAVID OLMECA BARRAGAN
Hip-Hop artist, producer, activist, and scholar

3. Little Free Pantry - Apr 3rd to December 11th = 200+ visitors
4. Wellness Luncheon on January 24th
5. Fac/Staff membership at Fitness Center! Go workout!

M. Adjournment

- a. Motion: Sue K
- b. Second: Mike J
- c. All in favor - Yes. Adjourned at 3:43pm