

06/22/2020

Executive Committee

For Immediate Release



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## Student Senate Response to the Reconvening of the Presidential Search Committee

Dear Valpo Students,

The Presidential Search Committee sent out an email on June 15th detailing that the committee is resuming their search for the next President of Valparaiso University. Within the email, it was stated that the committee “will interview candidates confidentially” in order to “increase interest among very senior candidates who possess the leadership attributes and experience desired”. Many students have taken to social media and expressed their concerns with this decision. We in Student Senate recognized the frustrations that may have been felt and sought answers on their decision.

As many may recall, the Presidential Search Committee had made the previous process more open and transparent when it came down to the final three candidates. The Presidential Search Committee allowed student, faculty, and staff luncheons and forums to be held with the final candidates. This next search process will not include open forums and luncheons with the entire Valpo community. Instead, “the groups who will meet with the finalists will be representatives from faculty, staff, and students”. These representatives will be distinguished members of the community who embody different aspects of Valpo.

The main reason for keeping this next search process confidential is due to the Presidential Search Committee wanting to attract individuals with profound resumes and a wealth of experience in higher education. Many individuals who fit what they are looking for may be employed and do not want their current employers to be alarmed. By keeping the search process confidential, the candidates who are not selected to be the next president can safely return to their current positions without feelings of distrust from their communities.

The Presidential Search Committee is always keeping students, faculty, and staff in mind when making these decisions. We want a leader who has plenty of experience in managing a place of higher education, while also being able to connect well with the diverse and ever-evolving Valpo

community. We understood your frustrations that may have been felt when the Presidential Search Committee decided on keeping things confidential, however it is in our best interest as well as the candidates. This next search process will hopefully yield candidates who can fit in well with our community that we are proud to be a part of.

Sincerely,

Student Senate

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