

BP007-SP19

Proposal Calling for a Student Senate Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Sponsors: Senators Kaitlyn Steinhiser, Gregory Macyszak III, Liam Bodlak, and Emily Flores

WHEREAS through the voices of Valparaiso University Students, it has become glaringly apparent that Student Senate is not doing enough to promote diversity and inclusion on campus, and

WHEREAS Student Senate has no enumerated positions regarding the promotion of diversity and inclusion as of the passage of BP005a-SP19, and

WHEREAS the creation of a committee dedicated to hearing and addressing the concerns of underrepresented students on campus along with writing bylaw proposals, constitutional amendments, and Senate resolutions related to multiculturalism at Valparaiso University is a conscious, institutional effort, and

WHEREAS this committee and its involvement of student organization leaders follows precedent, as the Committee on Media houses each of the media organization executives, and

WHEREAS this committee and its ability to produce legislation follows precedent, as the Reapportionment Committee and the Committee on Media both have this power, and

WHEREAS it is increasingly important that all students are welcome to engage with Student Senate and its initiatives including but not limited to those involving cultural awareness, and

WHEREAS Student Senate should take advantage of every avenue available related to communicating its goals and procedures,

LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Valparaiso University Student Senate here assembled that the following legislative actions be taken in regards to its bylaws:

1. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII: "Diversity and Inclusion Committee"
2. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Preamble: "The Diversity and Inclusion committee of the Valparaiso University Student Senate exists to serve the campus' needs regarding cultural awareness, students with underrepresented ethnicities and identities, and intercultural collaboration. The organizations run by the Office of Multicultural Programs (Black Student Organization, Latinx in Valparaiso for Excellence, Alliance, and Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition) along with organizations run by the Office of International Programs are to play a key role in this committee. If an additional organization were to be created within the boundaries of the Office of Multicultural Programs or the Office of International Programs, this new organization would be included into the committee membership structure."
3. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 1: Authorization: "The OMP and OIP organizations have been authorized by the Student Senate to serve the Valparaiso Community, and the Student Senate has empowered the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, hereafter referred to as "the Committee," as a standing committee of Student Senate to:

- a. Draft policy related to diversity and inclusion
 - b. Serve as a forum of discussion of issues related to the campus' cultural tolerance and representation for all Valparaiso University students
 - c. Communicate the needs of underrepresented populations to the general body of Student Senate
4. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2: Membership, Section A: Members, Clause 1
 - (a) One (1) Student Senate representative, who shall be Chair who shall be elected by the Student Senate within a two-week period following the Spring Senate elections from among the Senators for the next academic year. The Chair shall vote only to break a tie.
 - (b) Three (3) student members to be called Student Members reviewed and recommended by the Student Senate Screening Committee and approved by the Student Senate no later than the end of the fall semester. Student Members shall have tenure of one year, until the end of the academic year; new members may be appointed to fill unexpired terms should a vacancy occur.
 - (c) All current presidents of the OMP and OIP organizations
5. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section A, Clause 2: "The voting student members of the Committee shall not be executive board members of any of the involved organizations unless they are proxy voters selected by one of the OMP/OIP presidents."
6. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section A, Clause 3: "Because the work of the Committee cannot be done unless its members attend its meetings:
 - a) Two unexcused absences from announced Committee meetings (pursuant to Article IV, Section A, Clause 2 of this code) shall be grounds for removal of that member from the Committee.
 - b) The member subject to removal shall be unable to vote on his or her removal.
 - c) Removal of voting members shall be done by a majority vote of the filled voting membership.
 - d) The resulting vacancy on the committee shall be temporarily filled by appointment of the Chair, subject to the approval of the Student Senate.
7. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section B: Chair Duties, Clause 1: "The Chair shall convene the Committee no later than September 20th."
8. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section B, Clause 2: "When applicable, the Chair shall aid in the transition of the Chair's duties to the newly appointed Chair at the end of the term."
9. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section B, Clause 3: "Within a week after the committee meets, the chair must give a report at a Student Senate General Assembly meeting about the status of the committee."
10. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section C: Duties of the Secretary, Clause 1: "The Committee shall elect a Secretary from among the voting membership."
11. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section C, Clause 2: "The Secretary shall keep minutes of each meeting."
12. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section C, Clause 3: "Minutes shall

reflect:

- a) Committee members present and absent and whether those absent were excused.
- b) Motions made and the actions taken.
- c) The reports of the executives of the organizations.

13. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 2, Section C, Clause 4: "Copies of the minutes shall be made available to the student body at large."
14. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 3: Meetings, Section A: "The Committee shall meet at least monthly during the academic year."
15. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 3, Section A, Clause 1: "Special meetings may be called by the Chair or at the request of any two members of the Committee."
16. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 3, Section A, Clause 2: "All Committee members shall be notified by the Chair (or his/her representative) of meeting times and places no later than five days prior to the scheduled meeting unless constrained due to an emergency."
17. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 3, Section A, Clause 3: "Meetings (pursuant to Article IV, Section A, Clause 2 of this code) may be held with as few as five members. Quorum for voting shall be a two-thirds of the filled voting membership of the Committee, including the Chair. "
18. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 3, Section A, Clause 4: "If the Chair is unable or unwilling to conduct a meeting, members of the Committee reserve the right to call an emergency meeting at the request of any two members. The Secretary will conduct the meeting."
19. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 3, Section A, Clause 5: "All meetings will be open to the student body at-large. The time and location of the meetings should be made public through the Student Senate website no later than one week before the meetings."
20. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 4: Voting, Section A: "All potential pieces of legislation proposed by the committee must be voted on during an officially sanctioned meeting of the committee."
21. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 4, Section A, Clause 1: "All potential pieces of legislation or recommendations to the Student Senate will be passed out of the committee with a simple majority vote."
22. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 4, Section A, Clause 2: "The Chair of the committee is only to vote when breaking a tie."
23. Insert the following as Bylaw XVII, Article 4, Section A, Clause 3: "If an organization president cannot attend a meeting, they can send a proxy voter in their place as long as the president sends a written notice to the Chair at least 24 hours before the

meeting. The proxy voter must be an executive board member of the absent organization president. If a president wishes to send a proxy for the duration of their term, that is also acceptable.”

24. Insert “Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair: \$200” in Bylaw IV Section B.