

## SR001-FA20

# Resolution Requesting Changes/Additions to the Current Valparaiso University COVID-19 Dashboard

**Sponsor: Sen. Hoeksema, Sen. Byrnes**

**Co-Sponsor: Sen. Ares, Sen. Zaki**

**WHEREAS** Valparaiso University should foster an environment of transparency regarding student health and safety in such an unprecedented crisis, and;

**WHEREAS** many students of all constituencies, in the form of signing a petition with over five hundred signatures, have expressed dissatisfaction with the current COVID-19 data being provided online by the Valparaiso University administration<sup>1</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS** an organization called “We Rate Covid Dashboards” led by professors of medicine at Yale and Harvard gave Valparaiso University’s dashboard a 4 out of 13 for not including faculty/staff/student population level data, not including any city/county data, not including any data on testing, not including any isolation/quarantine data, and not including a campus summary<sup>2</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS** Valparaiso University’s peer institutions’ COVID-19 data dashboards share information regarding testing data, quarantine/isolation data, and faculty/staff/student data<sup>3</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS** at a glance, Valparaiso University’s COVID-19 data dashboard does not provide a snapshot of the virus’ impact on campus, as the only bolded, large piece of data is the number of current active cases, and;

**WHEREAS** Student Senate is aware that most of the reported tests would come from the student athlete population, as they are the only population being randomly tested, and;

**WHEREAS** Valparaiso University could include information about testing numbers in the footnotes of the dashboard if the above clause is a concern, and;

**WHEREAS** using current positive cases as our school’s only representation of COVID-19 safety gives students a false sense of security, as there could be exponentially more students in quarantine/awaiting test results about which the student body has not been informed, and;

**WHEREAS** students are more likely to remain cautious and follow Valparaiso University’s COVID-19 guidelines if they understand the full impact that the virus has on our campus (staff/faculty/student data, quarantine/isolation data, testing data, etc.). Students need to know where we are and have been to know how we can move forward through this pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> Link to petition:

[https://www.change.org/p/valparaiso-university-improve-the-covid-19-dashboard-at-valparaiso-university?recruiter=1152703389&recruited\\_by\\_id=d6c7e1c0-045f-11eb-af17-a1b0634760be&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=copylink&utm\\_campaign=petition\\_dashboard](https://www.change.org/p/valparaiso-university-improve-the-covid-19-dashboard-at-valparaiso-university?recruiter=1152703389&recruited_by_id=d6c7e1c0-045f-11eb-af17-a1b0634760be&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=petition_dashboard)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ratecovidashboard.com/ratings>

<sup>3</sup> [Ball State University](#), [Bradley University](#), [Butler University](#), [Carthage College](#), [Concordia University Irvine](#), [St. Olaf College](#), [University of Notre-Dame](#), and [Wheaton College](#).

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** by the Valparaiso University Student Senate here assembled that we urge Interim President Irwin-Knott and her administration to execute the following:

1. To include data on total and new students currently in quarantine and isolation, total and new faculty/staff/student cases, total and new tests reported to campus, and the percentage of isolation beds available.
2. To update the COVID-19 dashboard daily.
3. To link the Porter County data dashboard at the bottom of the Valparaiso University dashboard.
4. To make each data point the same size as the rest of the data points on the dashboard (see Butler University's data dashboard for a layout example).
5. To present a draft of the new data dashboard to Student Senate before the end of the fall 2020 semester.
6. To consider this Senate Resolution and its accompanying recommendations as the cornerstone of what students want and need to see from Valparaiso University in order to feel safe during these unprecedented times.