

SR001-SP21

Resolution calling for Wider Zoom Access and Class Recordings

Sponsors: Senator Fickle, Senator Nelson

Under the advisory of Executive Secretary Meczyssine

To: Interim-Provost Johnson

WHEREAS Valparaiso University is a place of learning, accessibility, and growth, and;

WHEREAS The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed for new learning options, such as e-learning, Zoom, and Google Meets, and;

WHEREAS Some classes have moved to a completely online capacity, proving the accessibility of Zoom classes, and;

WHEREAS Offering Zoom as an option to attend classes, even when the classes are in-person, makes several constituencies of students more able and willing to attend and participate in class, and;

WHEREAS The Commuter Senators have received correspondence from commuter students expressing frustration with their inability to participate in a class during extreme weather conditions, when faced with car troubles, or when otherwise unable to make their commute, and;

WHEREAS Students should not be reprimanded for circumstances out of their control, and;

WHEREAS It has been reported to several Senators that students with illnesses unrelated to COVID-19 have been denied the opportunity to attend and participate in class through Zoom, despite Zoom already being utilized for students in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, and;

WHEREAS Faculty should not discriminate which students get to receive the Zoom link based on illness, and;

WHEREAS Class recordings are a far better alternative to an absence for students unable to attend class synchronously, and;

WHEREAS Students traveling on behalf of the university, such as student athletes, have expressed difficulty receiving a recording of classes, causing them to fall behind in their education and;

WHEREAS Faculty has arbitrarily and unnecessarily gatekept Zoom as an option only for students with COVID-19 or in students with quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19,

LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Valparaiso University Student Senate here assembled that the following actions be taken by Valparaiso University faculty immediately:

1. Allow students to attend Zoom classes synchronously for the following circumstances:
 - a. Commuter students facing difficulties attending class due to extreme weather circumstances (as determined by the student's concerns with safety and their own

comfort with traveling), vehicle problems, road closures, or other transportation issues.

- b. Students traveling on behalf of the university who must attend class remotely or are unable to attend class, such as student athletes, students with internships or clinicals, or other required university-sponsored events.
 - c. Students with illnesses unrelated to COVID-19 (that are acute enough to not require AARC accommodations) that still wish to participate and attend class remotely.
 - d. Students with emergencies that are outside of their control, such as funerals or family related issues which make it difficult for those students to attend class.
2. Record virtual class sessions by student request for one of the above circumstances.