

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 11/08/2021

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:31pm
2. ROLL CALL:
3. GUEST SPEAKER: Brian O'Rourke - Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing & Communications (Brian.Orourke@valpo.edu)
 - a. Been working with President Padilla's administration at Valpo for about 5 months
 - b. 3 core functions of the job
 - i. Enrollment
 - ii. Marketing and communications
 - iii. Retention
 1. Working to improve the percentage of students who return for a second year and the number of students who graduate
 2. Working to improve the number of graduating students in a meaningful way
 - a. Strong communication between administration and students has shown to increase retention
 - b. Create a dialogue about what can be better-- the business of doing college and the student experience
 - c. Favorite part about Valpo is the students
 - c. Questions-
 - i. How do you combat the enrollment decline?
 1. 6 pillar plan has been established to address this issue
 2. Tell our story about the students and faculty better, help students understand their financial aid awards, find ways to access populations that don't typically go to college, and become a more transfer friendly school.
 - ii. How can we help with retention?
 1. Why are so many programs being cut? We need more discussions.
 2. Directly reach out to students for an honest dialogue on ideas for improvement.
 3. For students of color and underrepresented students, more transparency on why these students aren't staying at Valpo.
 - a. More communication and updates would be helpful.
 4. Mingle more directly with students who are in informal groups around campus.
 - a. Contact Vice President O'Rourke to grab lunch and discuss some of the problems you have been having.
 5. Create a Google form for students to fill out with their feedback.
 6. Outreach to people of color specifically by attending events or general body meetings held by OMP and other multicultural student orgs.
 - a. The administration has acknowledged that they would like to be more involved with the everyday aspects of campus life.

- b. There is a lot of conversation about becoming more involved in this way.
 - 7. Has the university rebounded from the faculty and staff cuts that happened when COVID-19 was at its peak?
 - a. The university made those decisions in order to strengthen the university for the future.
 - b. The retention committee is evaluating the consequences of those decisions and being intentional about the future of those positions.
 - 8. Give updates on how the university is working on the concerns of students.
 - a. Help us prioritize so we, as an administration, can respond to the most important concerns first.
 - b. Student feedback helps the administration prioritize which concerns are impacting the most people.
 - 9. Can there be an inter-faculty dialogue to help determine what concerns are most important?
 - a. There are some gaps that occur after administrations leave their meetings that can be bridged.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
- a. Motion: Sen. Henandez-Garrity
 - b. Second: Sen. Westphal
6. SENATORS' REPORTS:
- a. Sen. Pariso
 - i. You have been sent a link to fill out if you would like to help table for the food drive. Please email me with any questions or concerns.
 - b. College of Business
 - i. Hosting a laid-back style meeting discussing the impact of the COP26 Glasgow conference after Thanksgiving break. Please email georgia.martin@valpo.edu if you are interested in being involved.
7. ADVISORS' REPORTS:
- a. No report
8. OFFICER REPORTS:
- a. PRESIDENT: Jolie Foor
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Jacobs
 - i. Headshots plan
 - ii. Constituent Town Hall plan
 - 1. Will most-likely take place next semester
 - iii. Holiday decorations in the office
 - 1. Holiday party?
 - a. Potluck after general assembly on Dec. 6th
 - iv. Provost Johnson will be at next week's meeting, please have questions prepared.
 - c. SECRETARY: Katelyn Shouse
 - i. No report
 - d. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
 - i. No report
 - e. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Mark Lorenz/Owen Doyle

i. No report

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. EXECUTIVE: Jolie Foor
 - i. Saturday's Exec Retreat
 - 1. Made a lot of progress on the plan for how the senate will be run for the next few years.
- b. FINANCE: Allison Pariso
 - i. Presenting budgets next week
 - 1. Please look over the slate ahead of time and have motions prepared.
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Ian Chenoweth
 - i. VU Students for Life Recognition
 - 1. Admin voted: 5-0-0
 - a. Motion to discuss: Sen. Behrens
 - b. Second: Sen. Pariso
 - c. Motion to vote: Sen. Henandez-Garrity
 - d. Second: Sen. Behrens
 - e. Vote: Passes 21-0-0
- d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Sophia Behrens
 - i. CoM meeting next Thursday
- e. SCREENING: Emily Bakri
 - i. No report
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Tasha Abraham
 - i. No report
- g. DINING SERVICES: Dianne Dollison
 - i. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.
- h. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Allison Howard
 - i. Committee Meeting is this Wednesday
- i. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: Nathan Robb
 - i. 5 of the 11 applications are moving on to interviews, currently working to schedule them
 - ii. Hoping to vote on and bring approved applications to full senate next week

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. None

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. None

13. POSTMORTEM:

- a. Thank you for a great discussion with Vice President O'Rourke. Please bring that dialogue for Provost Johnson next week.
- b. Constituency reports are due Nov. 29th.

14. ADJOURNMENT: 9:26pm