

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 11/15/2021

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:30pm
2. ROLL CALL: Excused absences: Senator Hertzberg, Senator Gautum, Senator Martin
3. GUEST SPEAKER: Provost Eric W. Johnson
 - a. Electrical engineering alumni from '87, Provost since last February
 - b. Currently searching for Deans for the college of engineering this fall and Christ College in the spring
 - c. All deans, student life department, and study abroad department reports to the Provost's office.
 - d. Main focus right now is increasing enrollment for both undergraduate and graduate students
 - i. Working on increase the number of online graduate students
 - e. Questions:
 - i. What is your vision for where the university is in 5 years with enrollment and programs?
 1. At least 3,000-3,500 undergraduate students and 700-750 graduate students. Currently, we are at 2,500 undergraduate students.
 2. Improved branding of our student activities and our campus.
 3. Students and student life is the focus.
 4. Additional facilities would be repurposed or established accordingly.
 - ii. How do you plan to rebrand programs when we have had several be cut in the last few years?
 1. We need to do a better job of marketing the program packages we can offer. For example, a meteorology major with a communications minor.
 2. Offer students on visits specific program combinations that fit with their career goals.
 - iii. How will tuition be impacted with an increase in enrollment?
 1. An increase in student enrollment does not mean an increase in tuition cost.
 2. Ideally, 500 more students paying the current tuition would be great.
 - iv. How are you working to address issues of accreditation when it comes to specific programs, such as bioengineering?
 1. The issue of accreditation will not be an issue in the future as it is currently being worked on.
 2. There is not a possibility of retroactive accreditation.
 - v. How is the enrollment of international students?
 1. The enrollment went down with COVID-19. We have had an increase in Indian students. We are going to work on marketing to international students better.
 - vi. What does the process for recruiting and maintaining faculty of color look like?
 1. There is a process set up to get a more diverse group of applicants and to eliminate biases.
 2. We do not currently have a lot of open positions but we are encouraging departments to increase the number of adjunct faculty of color that they have.

- vii. Do you have a plan for attracting more transfer and non-traditional students?
 - 1. I have visited 4-5 community colleges this fall. We are not very transfer friendly at this point.
 - 2. We are looking at degree completion opportunities and offering more night classes for non-traditional students.
- viii. What programs are you hoping to have the 500-1000 students additional students study?
 - 1. Currently the breakdown is 52% nursing, engineering, and business, and 48% arts and sciences.
 - 2. We don't have a preference for what programs.
- ix. How do you plan to attract more students?
 - 1. The biggest change is that we are planning on sending our acceptance letters out with our merit scholarships. We have several other policy shifts that impact visit days, how we do tours, etc. to get as many students on campus as possible.
- x. What do you think student senate can do?
 - 1. Continue to advocate for students and bring the issues that are important to students to the president and provost's office.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. None

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- a. Motion: Sen. Chenoweth
- b. Second: Sen. Dollison

6. SENATORS' REPORTS:


- a. Sen. Behrens
 - i. Thanksgiving dinner for students staying on campus:
 - 1. November 25th, 2:15-6:15pm, Helge multipurpose room
 - 2. Hosted by Dahliah Wilkes (dahliah.wilkes@valpo.edu)
 - 3. Fill out [this google form](#) if you are interested in attending (RSVPS are due Nov. 18th at 5pm and space is limited!)
- b. Sen. Bakri
 - i. The Senate and APO food drive is going on this week. Tabling is everyday from 9am-3pm in the Union.
- c. Sen. Chenoweth:
 - i. If you need any help with ideas or formatting on SRs, please reach out to me or another returning senator.

7. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

- a. Vice President Janowiak
 - i. Thank you for your hard work during the senate retreat. Your plans for the coming years are looking excellent.
 - ii. Don't forget to recharge over break so you can finish these last few weeks strong.

8. OFFICER REPORTS:

- a. PRESIDENT: Jolie Foor
 - i. The Executive Board has continued to work on a new structure for Student Senate. We will continue working on this at our executive meetings and as soon as we have a proposal, we will share all the details with the rest of Senate.

- ii. We need 6 senators to come to the We Matter Town Hall Follow Up Workshop on Wednesday from 7-9pm in Ballroom B & C. This event is specifically for BSO members.
 - 1. Sen. Howard
 - 2. Sen. Chenoweth
 - 3. Sen. Abraham
 - 4. Sen. Flanagan
 - 5. Sen. Wilcoxson
 - 6. Sen. Lennen
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Jacobs
 - i. Constituency Reports are due to me (senate.vp@valpo.edu) on/by Nov. 29th.
 - ii. Headshots will take place before our Nov. 29th meeting. Senate Beacon Yearbook photos will take place on the same day.
 - iii. Please make sure you are letting the Screening Committee know if you will not be here next semester so they can begin looking for people to fill your position.
 - c. SECRETARY: Katelyn Shouse
 - i. No report
 - d. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
 - i. [Constituency Report template](#)
 - ii. [SR/BP/CA template](#)
 - iii. Senators, feel free to bring any holiday decorations!
 - 1. Ornaments are a great way to add to the decorations!
 - iv. We were highlighted in a study by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville for our adaptability during the COVID-19 pandemic. Feel free to read more about it [here](#) - we are highlighted specifically on page 9
 - v. If you are not in the Student Senate GroupMe, please email me your cell phone number or tell me after the meeting
 - vi. Continue to add songs to the [Senate Playlist](#)
 - e. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Mark Lorenz/Owen Doyle
 - i. The last day to submit expenditure requests for the semester will be Friday December 10th at 5pm.
 - 1. Anything submitted after the deadline will not be processed.
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- a. EXECUTIVE: Jolie Foor
 - i. No report
 - b. FINANCE: Allison Pariso
 - i. Presentation of Tier Three Budgets:  Spring 2022 Tier 3 Budget Requests
 - ii. We have approximately \$350 in the pot
 - iii. Please look over the slate and come ready to make motions
 - iv. We vote on Nov. 29th
 - c. ADMINISTRATION: Ian Chenoweth
 - i. No report
 - d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Sophia Behrens
 - i. No report
 - e. SCREENING: Emily Bakri
 - i. Getting email responses has been difficult. Will push emails over break and have nominations for the next meeting.
 - f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Tasha Abraham
 - i. Meeting on Thursday
 - g. DINING SERVICES: Dianne Dollison
 - i. Founders has cards displayed on the table that allows you to scan them and submit any feedback or problems that you have.

- ii. I will be asking for more cards to be posted since there are currently only a few.
- h. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Allison Howard
 - i. The committee meeting last Wednesday went well.
 - ii. Spoke with Chuck Garber to possibly create a ongoing initiative that bridges the relationship between students of color on campus and VUPD
 - iii. Spoke with Amber Mosley at the Counseling Center to get resources/ ideas about a possible program where students within the different organizations within the OMP can become peer "counselors". These students would be able to host safe space discussions and become an in-house support system which would hopefully promote the discussion surrounding mental health within communities of color and other underrepresented communities here on campus.
 - iv. My committee is also looking into gathering a list of financial resources/scholarships that can help underrepresented students afford Valpo as well and possibly teach financial literacy.
- i. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: Nathan Robb
 - i. 4 Proposals passed totaling \$32,700 of our \$100,000 budget
 - ii. Motion to discuss: Sen. Howard
 - iii. Second: Sen. Behrens
 - iv. Motion to vote as a slate: Sen. Wilcoxson
 - v. Second: Sen. Behrens
 - vi. Passes 20-0-1
 - 1. Volleyball pit updates - \$20,000
 - a. Will level and add edge to volleyball courts at GM to prevent sand loss
 - b. DFC voted 4-0-0
 - c. Finance voted 5-0-0
 - 2. Power outlets to lawns - \$7,250
 - a. Will add power outlets to light poles in west lawn, east lawn, and east quad
 - b. DFC voted 4-0-0
 - c. Finance voted 5-0-0
 - 3. Tables for ARC 110 - \$5,000
 - a. Will purchase new tables for ARC 110, current ones are missing wheels and are not level
 - b. DFC voted 4-0-0
 - c. Finance voted 5-0-0
 - 4. New games for Library - \$450
 - a. Will purchase updated board and card games for the library as part of a larger mental health initiative
 - b. DFC voted 4-0-0
 - c. Finance voted 5-0-0

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. None

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. None

13. POSTMORTEM:

- a. Congratulations to Senator Bakri for her part in the college tour video. Please watch and share the video for more potential students to see it.
- b. If you, or other students, would like to bring holiday decorations from home for the senate office, please do so.
- c. Have a relaxing and safe Thanksgiving break!

14. ADJOURNMENT: Adjourned at 9:26pm