

# VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

## STUDENT SENATE GENERAL BODY MINUTES

DATE: 02/17/2020

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:04pm
2. ROLL CALL:
  - a. Excused: Senators von Seggern & Scheer
  - b. Unexcused: Senator Sedlar
3. OPENING DEVOTION:
  - a. Senator Hijaz- word game
  - b. Volunteer for next week: Senator Hershberger
4. FORUM OF CONCERNS:
  - a. None
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
  - a. Motion: Senator McMillan
  - b. Second: Senator Steinhiser
6. PRESENTATION: Susan Scroggins, SVP for Finance
  - a. Financial overview
    - i. Assets: \$600 Million (Most in investments and plant assets)
    - ii. Debt: \$125 Million
  - b. Primary sources of revenue
    - i. Tuition, fee, room & board revenues: \$81.5 million
    - ii. Total operating expenses: \$126.5 million
    - iii. Gap: \$45 million
      1. Ways to cover: endowment spending, annual gifts and grants, other smaller sources (e.g. facilities rentals)
  - c. Enrollment (Full-time equivalent)
    - i. Undergrad
      1. 2014: 3,194.67
      2. 2015: 3,212.59
      3. 2016: 3,140.25
      4. 2017: 3,267.75
      5. 2018: 3,213.38
      6. 2019: 3,176.59
    - ii. Graduate
      1. 2014: 589.83
      2. 2015: 610.05
      3. 2016: 734.61
      4. 2017: 584.28
      5. 2018: 425.33

- 6. 2019: 380.11
- iii. Law school
  - 1. 2014: 519.54
  - 2. 2015: 470.75
  - 3. 2016: 435.75
  - 4. 2017: 233.5
  - 5. 2018: 101.83
  - 6. 2019: 16
- d. Operating expense categories
  - i. 45.3% Salaries; 14.7% Benefits; 14.7% Facilities and Depreciation; 21.4% Supplies and services; 3.9% other
  - ii. Alternate view: 36.6% Unfunded financial aid; 28.7% salaries; 9.3% Benefits; 3.0% Utilities and repairs; 6.3% depreciation 13.6% supplies and services; 2.5% all other
- e. Key points:
  - i. Strong balance sheet/overall wealth, underpinned by endowment growth and facility/program investments.
  - ii. Operating pressures: teach out of law school; decline in graduate enrollment; demographic challenges (national/midwest trend data); family income and affordability; investments in new programs; investments in marketing initiatives; attract and retain talented faculty and staff
- f. Questions
  - i. Would the financial state of the university affect professors getting tenure?
    - 1. No trend in that so far
  - ii. Is the University going to be in good shape in 5 years?
    - 1. If enrollment remains steady, yes
  - iii. Tour guides were told that graduate/law school finances would not affect undergrad; is this true?
    - 1. Not true; all one university with the same finances
  - iv. Was there ever a positive "gap"?
    - 1. 2014- broke even
    - 2. Always very close to breaking even
  - v. Has endowment spending gone up each year?
    - 1. The past 3 years, yes
    - 2. Grew 4% last year even with additional spend
  - vi. How can we increase transparency?
    - 1. Every year, required to public finances on EMMA Bond Disclosure; will see the data. Public information
    - 2. Present to faculty and staff every month
  - vii. Ideas: an email, a forum
  - viii. Are stricter residency requirements (increase to 6 semesters) trying to get money out of students for room & board?
    - 1. Yes
  - ix. Cutting December Commencement Ceremony- a financial decision?
    - 1. Yes
  - x. Endowment investments? Sustainability?
    - 1. Invest through the Common Fund
    - 2. Contact Climate Investment committee

- xi. If free public college was passed, has the University discussed our plan as a private school?
  - 1. It's been a conversation among the Board of Directors

## 7. SENATORS' REPORTS:

- a. Senator Steinhiser
  - i. Forum with Dr. Farney (Presidential Candidate)
  - ii. Conflict of Interest between Board of Directors and Dr. Farney
    - 1. On the board for Thrivent Board of Directors. Two people on the Valpo Board of Directors (Chair & Vice Chair) and one person serving on the Presidential Search Committee are also on the Thrivent Board of Directors. Shouldn't have a personal connection with a candidate
    - 2. All 3 donate money to the same political action committee to pursue legislation
    - 3. Donated to 22 members of Congress who voted against the Equality Act
- b. Senator Hershberger
  - i. CCPC Report: continuing to evaluate whether the University should continue to hold the December Commencement
  - ii. Please talk to constituents about opinions on December Commencement
- c. Senator Zaki
  - i. There is a google doc with a petition about the presidential candidate presented today
  - ii. This decision affects our legacy as students
  - iii. Meeting with the Multicultural Office- want to bring more questions from students

## 8. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

- a. Dr. DeGraw
  - i. Thank you for going to the forum, but please fill out the form
  - ii. Picked students for the luncheon from each area of student affairs from recommendations from staff
  - iii. Got a \$15 million grant for scholarships!

## 9. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. PRESIDENT: Annika Brown
  - i. Thank you for coming to the student forum
  - ii. Will send out link for the presidential candidate survey
  - iii. Please join the Slack channel for the Presidential Report Committee if you are interested in helping write the report
  - iv. Grievance Committee is fully formed; will create a Slack channel and select a chair through there
- b. VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Young
  - i. Student Senate's vote on shortening finals week to 4 days helped push the campus policy
- c. PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mac Magiera
  - i. Handed out Robert's Rules cheat sheet

- d. SECRETARY: Paige Mecyssine
  - i. No report
- e. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
  - i. Senator Jacobs, Senator Zaki & I have been working on creating a statement on the Res Life/Dining forum outcome
- f. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Kameron Ray
  - i. No report

#### 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. EXECUTIVE: Annika Brown
  - i. An at-large senator should send in a report for this week
- b. FINANCE: Jesse Hershberger
  - i. Budgets are due Thursday
  - ii. Will get another reminder email
  - iii. Please forward any emails to the Finance Committee or Treasurers
  - iv. Budget presentations start March 23rd (Tier 3)
    - 1. Tier 3 voted on March 30th, present Tier 2, etc.
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Eric Maruyama
  - i. No report
- d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Jolie Foor
  - i. Held interviews for executive positions for media organizations
    - 1. WVUR- Blake Harms (6-0-1)
    - 2. The Torch- Becca Wireman (7-0-0)
    - 3. The Beacon- Cruz Ibarra Jr (7-0-0)
    - 4. The Lighter- Rebecca Stockham (7-0-0)
    - 5. VUTV- Heather Bricca (7-0-0)
  - ii. Senator Jacobs made a motion to vote as a slate
    - 1. Senator Hershberger seconded
  - iii. Motion to approve passes 19-0-1
- e. SCREENING: Kurt Monahan
  - i. Interviewing this week
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Ben Jacobs
  - i. Had a meeting tonight; only 2 residence halls came
    - 1. Went over the results of the forum
    - 2. Will try and get an SR passed by the beginning of April
    - 3. Will go over results with Ryan Blevins and compare with other institutions
    - 4. Tunnel of Oppression will occur March 24th & 25th
    - 5. Lankenau & Alumni are getting renovations- will happen over the summer
- g. DINING COMMITTEE: Isis Zaki
  - i. Meeting with Lee and Eric on Friday
- h. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE: Brianna Ares
  - i. Working on a meeting this week
- i. DISCOUNT CARD COMMITTEE: Craig Behnke
  - i. Working with company to finalize payment
- j. FOOD ACCESS COMMITTEE: Allison Pariso
  - i. Met with Dr. Capaldi

1. Working on getting a survey for the fall (whether we need food pantry on campus)
  2. Cafe Manna Senate bonding event? Please like the Slack message if interested
- k. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: Eric Maruyama
- i. Spring election timeline:
    1. Must submit paperwork and signatures
      - a. Informational meeting will be March 16th at 4:00pm in SOS
      - b. Candidate packets due Friday March 20th 3:30pm
    2. Presidential & VP Official Campaign period March 23-April 3rd
      - a. Election April 3rd 8am-5pm
    3. Senate Campaign period April 6th-April 10th
      - a. Election April 10th 8am-5pm

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None

12. OLD BUSINESS

- a. None

13. FORUM OF CONCERNS:

- a. None

14. POSTMORTEM:

- a. Thank you

15. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion: Senator Hershberger
- b. Second: Senator Steinhiser
- c. Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm