



Student Senate Response

Hello Students!

On February 11th Student Senate held a forum regarding the visitation policy as well as the current Dining Services. We put this forum together in order to gauge student opinions about the visitation policy and Dining Services. We wanted to thank everyone who came to the forum because a lot of great comments were made.

What a number of students have expressed is “what now?”. The Student Senate is promising that we will not let this conversation die. For the Dining Services side, we are working on making the Dining Services Committee a standing committee in the Student Senate. This will be done in order to continually address the issues that students bring up. Parkhurst has also expressed that this committee should be permanent so that they have a direct communication line between their chefs and managers to students.

Regarding visitation policy, this is a different approach because **policy changes are not an action that Student Senate can take**. However, the Student Senate is able to write up reports, called Senate Resolutions, that are recommendations to the university about policy changes or daily function changes. **Your Student Senators are the ones that start this process of trying to change a policy through these Senate Resolutions**. First, a few Senators will work on writing this report that will then be voted on by the full Student Senate. This report points out the issues or areas of concerns in a certain policy, then has recommendations for a change. Then, the Senate Resolution gets sent to the Faculty Senate to get their points of view on the issue. After the Faculty Senate votes on the Senate Resolution, if they voted to approve of the Senate Resolution, then it will get sent to the administration to actually decide on the change.

The Committee on Residence will also be working directly with the Residential Life office to devise possible visitation policy changes that benefit both the students and the University. In these meetings, we will be taking all the concerns we have received through our survey and the concerns that we have recorded from our forum into consideration when drafting changes to the current visitation policy. Any student feedback is still welcome, we want to be sure that every voice is heard in such a big decision such as this. We understand how this policy may negatively impact many students on campus, but we ask that you respect the process and allow your student

senators to continue doing their work to change this policy. If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see in a new policy, please email the Committee on Residence email below, and we will be certain to relay your concerns and opinions in any decisions regarding changes to this policy.

Student Senate hopes to get any Senate Resolution about the visitation policy voted on **by the first or second week after Spring Break.** While we wish that this process was faster, we at Student Senate want to make sure the proposal encompasses a lot of different topics and addresses every student concern.

Student Senate would again like to thank everyone for filling out surveys, emailing your Senators, and attending the forum. Each of these activities helped gauge student views on visitation policy and dining services. If you would like to express your concerns that you believe were not heard already, please email the chairs of Committee on Residence and Dining Services Committee. Their emails will be attached at the end of this statement. We would also like to encourage everyone to voice your concerns at the Student Senate General Meetings. These meetings take place every Monday at 8pm in room 224 of Neils Science Center. We do not want this conversation to end here.

Thank you,

Student Senate

With any questions regarding Student Senate's work with Residential Visitation Policy, contact senate.residence@valpo.edu or ben.jacobs@valpo.edu. With any questions regarding Student Senate's work with Dining Services, contact senate.dining@valpo.edu or isis.zaki@valpo.edu

With any questions regarding Student Senate in general, contact student.senate@valpo.edu or visit our website at <https://www.valpo.edu/student-senate/>

Student Senate
Harre Union, Suite 232
1509 Chapel Dr.
219.464.5525