

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE GENERAL BODY MINUTES

DATE: 4/27/2020

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:02pm
2. ROLL CALL:
 - a. Excused:
 - b. Unexcused: Senator Von Seggern
3. FORUM OF CONCERNS:
 - a. None
4. PRESENTATION: COO David Phelps, COVID-19 Response
 - a. Q: Why has the COVID-19 crisis put our University in such a bad place financially?
 - i. COVID-19 impacted costs;
 1. Collect tuition at different times of years
 - a. How many people will do summer school? How many will enroll next semester? (Students may not be able to afford)
 2. Furlough actions were defensive; not layoffs, still paying for their benefits
 3. Took advantage of some government money
 - b. Q: When will students find out about refunds? Any details?
 - i. Will find out before the end of the month with details on how they're financed
 - ii. CARES package- helps institutions and students. Valpo received \$3 Million
 1. Half will go to students
 - iii. All students will receive something out of CARES package (besides those excluded from the law; Title IV (international students and DACA students))
 1. University will address needs of international and DACA students
 2. Refund is not needs-based, CARES money is needs-based
 - c. Q: You said about half of the CARES money goes to students; how is the University using the other half?
 - i. Some is used for excluded students
 - ii. Some is used to offset other expenses (ie housing, dining, contracts, heating/AC)
 - d. Q: Lack of student communication/transparency?
 - i. Apologies for lack of communication
 - ii. Check the website
 - iii. Difficult to communicate with parents & family
 - e. Q: Why haven't you shared information about international students on a more public platform before coming to Student Senate?
 - i. Some information was just recently decided
 - ii. Hard to distribute information without causing panic

- f. Q: What role do Student Senators have in sharing this information, and can we distribute this information before Friday?
 - i. Email may come sooner than Friday
 - ii. Want it all to come out in one email/communication
- g. Decision making:
 - i. Presidents Council (all VPs sit on it) meets weekly
- h. Q: Will there be a difference in refunds for commuters and residents?
 - i. No
- i. Q: If students have a balance on their account, will they still be refunded?
 - i. Refund will go through student account to pay for the balance, then you would receive the extra
 - ii. CARES money would be received in another way, not through student account

5. SENATORS' REPORTS:

a.

6. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

a. Dr. DeGraw-

- i. Reached out to the President for more communication beyond Dr. DeGraw's report
- ii. Starting this Thursday, all students will get an email copy of the Chronicle
- iii. COVID-19 Update will be at the top
 - 1. Details will still be on the Website
- iv. Students can send in recommendations to be included in the Chronicle that might be more student-facing
- v. Updated communication should be sent out by Friday
- vi. Still figuring out if we can reopen campus after the Governor's stay-at-home orders end this Friday
 - 1. Governor's decision to re-open K-12 education won't be made until mid-May

7. OFFICER REPORTS

a. PRESIDENT: Annika Brown

- i. Thank you all for an incredible year! It was truly an honor to serve as your president, and I am so excited for what this group will achieve next year.
- ii. After feedback from student senators and the Executive Committee, I followed up on the initial request from SR001-SP20 to have a weekly COVID-19 update from the administration
 - 1. Students will now be included on the weekly newsletter, *The Chronicle* that is emailed to faculty and staff. The newsletter will include a summary of COVID-19 response and additional resources for students
 - 2. Dr.DeGraw will continue to provide a weekly update to Student Senate and the Executive Committee over the summer
- iii. University Council: President Heckler gave a detailed update last Wednesday. You can read the full report in the minutes [here](#).

1. There are 4 funding components for students in response to COVID-19
 - a. The Valpo grant program (requires application due May 1st)
 - b. The distribution of emergency funds granted by the Department of Education
 - c. VU's refund in response to stay-at-home order(decision to be announced by the end of April)
 - d. Grant program for international students
- b. VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Young
 - i.
- c. PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mac Magiera
 - i.
- d. SECRETARY: Paige Mecyssine
 - i. No report
- e. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
 - i. Have a great summer and thanks for allowing me to serve again!
 - ii. Since we are now being included with the newsletter, I will discuss with President Steinhiser about further COVID-19 correspondence with students.
 - iii. Please make sure you tell your constituents to check the meeting minutes on the website!!!!
 - iv. Ideas I will ponder over summer
 1. Live tweeting during general meetings next year?
 2. Consistent town halls and forums?
- f. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Kameron Ray
 - i. Stipend Requests due May 8th

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. EXECUTIVE: Annika Brown
 - i. No report
- b. FINANCE: Jesse Hershberger
 - i. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your finance chair this year!
 - ii. Any questions about finances over the summer should go to the treasurers
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Eric Maruyama
 - i. Spoke with student attempting to create Valpo Swim Club- interviewed through email
 1. Admin voted 6-0-0
 2. Senator Zaki made a motion to vote
 - a. Senator Hijaz seconded
 3. Motion passes 25-0-1
- d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Jolie Foor
 - i.
- e. SCREENING: Kurt Monahan
 - i. Parliamentarian Position recommendation: Isis Zaki
 1. Senator Behnke made a motion to vote
 - a. Senator Hijaz seconded
 2. Motion passes 23-0-2
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Ben Jacobs

- i. Will be discussing SR002-SP20 in New Business
- g. DINING COMMITTEE: Isis Zaki
 - i. No report
- h. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE: Brianna Ares
 - i. No report
- i. DISCOUNT CARD COMMITTEE: Craig Behnke
 - i.
- j. FOOD ACCESS COMMITTEE: Allison Pariso
 - i. Continue survey work, hopefully it goes out in the fall, if we go back.
Thanks to my committee for their hard work, dedication, and a great first year of the committee!
- k. VUSSOLISA COMMITTEE: Gabby Rogers
 - i.
- l. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT COMMITTEE: Paige Mecyssine & Josh Duensing
 - i. Will wait to see if the Search Committee resumes
- m. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE: Kaitlyn Steinhiser
 - i.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. SR002-SP20
 - i. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to move SR002-SP20 to old business
 - 1. Senator Hershberger seconded
 - ii. Motion passes

10. OLD BUSINESS: SR002-SP20

- a. Senator Hershberger made a motion to vote
 - i. Senator Sedlar seconded
- b. Motion to pass SR002-SP20 passes 22-2-1

11. SENATE SUPERLATIVES:

- a. MVP: Eric Maruyama
- b. Outstanding new members: Dr. DeGraw, Duaa Hijaz, Chris Grimpe
- c. Greatest amount of growth shown: Ben Jacobs & Allison Pariso
- d. Most likely to rule the world: Isis Zaki
- e. Most likely to call a point of order/information: Kaitlyn Steinhiser
- f. Most likely to be found in the SS Office: Jesse Hershberger, Kameron Ray, Jackson Sheputis
- g. Most friendly: Jolie Foor and Brianna Ares
- h. Greatest volunteer & participation: Paige Mecyssine
- i. Outstanding Senate Spirit: Sophia Behrens
- j. Most likely to forget the gavel: Mark Young
- k. Most likely to offer the historical perspective: Dean Jenkins
- l. Best opening devotion: Andrew Johnson-Levine
- m. Most likely to be late to a general assembly meeting: Admin Committee

12. OATH OF OFFICE:

13. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a.

14. FORUM OF CONCERNS:

a. None

15. POSTMORTEM:

a. By Vice President Jacobs

16. ADJOURNMENT:

a. Senator Hershberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting

i. Senator Sedlar seconded

b. Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm