

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE GENERAL BODY MINUTES

DATE: 4/6/2020

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:04pm
2. ROLL CALL:
 - a. Excused: Senators Von Seggern, Foor
 - b. Unexcused: Parliamentarian Mageria, Treasurer Sheputis, Senators Zaki, Rogers, Monahan, Vargas
3. FORUM OF CONCERNS:
 - a. VUDU
 - i. One thing we would like to update is the category "Food for on-campus shows" under Organization Sponsored Events. If we could change the 244 to 300, that would be great.
 - b. Alpha Psi Omega
 - i. -Wants line for Theater Banquet fulfilled -If not able to be funded, "Would the Senate be able to transfer funds from one line of this existing budget to another line? I just want to clarify. If that is the case, I would like to make such a request. If we could move \$1000 from American College Theatre Festival under 50430 to the Theatre Banquet, that would be ideal. It isn't strictly a Theater department event; it is more an event that APO and the Theater Department both contribute towards.
 - c. ACDA
 - i. The Executive Board of the American Choral Directors Association would like to request that we receive the full \$350 that was requested in our budget proposal for Organization Dues, Subscriptions and Licenses. Currently, the \$70 approved would only cover fees for two memberships (please see the ACDA website here: <https://acda.org/membership-central/individual-membership/>) If students are not members of the national organization, they will be unable to register to attend the national and local conferences. Despite our other elements of the budget being approved, if only two members are allocated funding to members, no one else could go. Traditionally, we send ten members to a conference every year.
 - d. PRSSA
 - i. Leadership rally is essential for the leaders in our organization to gain skills to help run the organization. Last year, we received \$400 to send one person. Now that leadership rally will allow for two representatives to go, we would like \$1,000 to send two members of the organization.
 - e. Cameron Nenn, Daniel Rochon, Kameron Ray, Jackson Sheputis
 - i. Frustrating concerns related to housing and campus infrastructure. Given the current circumstances, it is understandable how/who the University has allowed students back on campus. However, we would like the student senate to voice our concern and request a refund for half a semester's for: the general fee which funds the infrastructure/facilities (rec, tech, union, etc) on campus, fees for student housing and fees for student dining. One of us was initially barred from returning to campus until waiting out quarantine guidelines but is now not being allowed to

return to campus after waiting them out. Two of us have just been told that we have to leave campus because our jobs do not qualify us to continue staying on campus. We work at a restaurant that has been trying to accommodate the community during this time by providing meals and delivery services and being forced to go back home puts that restaurant and community under more hardship as well as taking away our income from these jobs. One of us lives in a rural community and has had a multitude of accessibility issues which a couple professors have been unwilling to accommodate with completing classwork as he only has access to limited internet at certain times of the day or none at all. His decision for being a resident student was primarily based around the infrastructure and resources the university provides and is otherwise unable to complete coursework without that infrastructure and those resources. Given state issued closures of libraries and restaurants in his hometown, he cannot go out and access alternative internet connections.

We find it drastically unfair and unacceptable to have paid for these services but we are now being barred or have to qualify under an extremely selective checklist in order to access them. We understand and agree with the University's decision to do such actions, but doing so without providing a refund is financially devastating and against the moral character of what our University stands for.

Like many students on campus, we take loans out to assist in paying for our education. Loans with principals which we would not have had to lend as much, or at all, had we only had to pay for half a semester of these resources. Regardless of the government's temporary 0% interest, we still have principal balances which we have to repay despite not receiving the full services its purpose was to pay for.

We paid for a full semester's worth of resources, but we are only being allowed to receive half. Please refund students the prorated amount, with the proration beginning March 15, for these services that are being selective, disrupted, and/or denied from us for which we have paid.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

a.

5. SENATORS' REPORTS:

- a. Senator Steinhiser: Several students have reached out and asked that Student Senate write a resolution addressing Faculty Senate's choice to maintain lettered grades. Most of them have said that all classes (regardless of major/non-major) should be allowed to be made pass/fail. If anyone wants to work on a resolution or has any strong opinions about this, please let me know.

6. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

a.

7. OFFICER REPORTS

a. PRESIDENT: Annika Brown

- i. Please share the S/U policy that Chris shared on our social media with your constituencies. This was in the original email sent out but many students missed it. It explains the rationale behind the university's decision to not select a universal pass/fail option.

- b. VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Young
 - i. Please look out for emails from me regarding our meeting on 04/13/2020
 - ii. Make sure to read reports on agenda
- c. PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mac Magiera
 - i. No report
- d. SECRETARY: Paige Mecyssine
 - i. No report
- e. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
 - i. Keep spreading the word about Senate actions!
 - ii. Twitter buzz:
 - 1. Students want an easier way for major/minor classes to be S/U
 - 2. Students want some form of refund (I have no clue if Student Senate can even make recommendations about that)
 - 3. Everyone misses Valpo :(I might want to put together a video of Senators expressing what they miss at Valpo.
- f. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Kameron Ray
 - i. I strongly recommend a vote to remove the current Tier 2 Slate and replace it with a revised version. Please see the email sent to senators for reasons detailing why.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. EXECUTIVE: Annika Brown
 - i. We will be meeting on Google Hangouts at 5pm again this week. If you are not an Executive Committee member, but would like to attend, message me and I'll include you on the invite.
- b. FINANCE: Jesse Hershberger
 - i. Tier 3 budgeting
 - 1. Senator Hershberger made a motion to vote on Tier 3 budgets as a slate
 - a. Senator Mears seconded
 - 2. Tier 3 slate is approved 21-0-0
 - ii. Senator Hershberger made a motion to table the current Tier 2 budget (and introduce a second version)
 - 1. Senator Maruyama seconded
 - 2. Motion passes 21-0-0
 - iii. New Tier 2 budget:
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M_TDo_D3Q2gKEtvRC0IkF4SSuWbQc0SBLnkI9yFEzoY/edit?usp=sharing
 - 1. Please keep in mind that it is vital that we keep as much as possible in the pot ("amount sent to unrestricted funds"). Our goal is to keep the full amount, at least \$12,000 to move to the unrestricted funds in the Student Senate budget. Please contact me or the treasurers if you have any questions.
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Eric Maruyama
 - i. No Admin report. Please share with constituents that the Student Body President and Vice President Election will be happening Friday April 17th from 8am-5pm Central time.
- d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Jolie Foor

- i.
- e. SCREENING: Kurt Monahan
 - i.
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Ben Jacobs
 - i. I am meeting with Ryan Blevins Thursday to resume discussion of visitation policy changes. Let me know of any concerns you have about visitation policy, or questions you have for Ryan concerning residence hall closures due to the coronavirus situation.
- g. DINING COMMITTEE: Isis Zaki
 - i.
- h. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE: Brianna Ares
 - i. No report.
- i. DISCOUNT CARD COMMITTEE: Craig Behnke
 - i. Committee has stood down.
- j. FOOD ACCESS COMMITTEE: Allison Pariso
 - i. Still working on the survey, nothing new at this time
- k. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT COMMITTEE: Paige Meczyssine & Joshua Duensing
 - i. Due to the presidential search being postponed, our deadlines are more flexible; we still aim to finish the report by next semester
- l. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE: Kaitlyn Steinhiser
- m. VUSSOLISA COMMITTEE: Gabrielle Rogers
- n. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: Eric Maruyama
 - i. Student body presidential candidates got all of their necessary signatures
 - ii. Election is Friday, April 17th (8pm-5pm central time)

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a.

11. FORUM OF CONCERNS:

- a.

12. POSTMORTEM:

- a.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. 8:16pm