

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 04/13/2020

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:02pm
2. ROLL CALL:
 - a. Excused: Senator Von Seggern
 - b. Unexcused: Senator Duensing, Parliamentarian Magiera
3. FORUM OF CONCERNS:
 - a. ACDA
 - i. The Executive Board of the American Choral Directors Association at Valparaiso University would like to restate our request that our organization receives the full \$350 that was requested in our budget proposal for Organization Dues, Subscriptions, and Licenses. With only \$70 approved, ACDA Valpo will not be able to cover more than two membership fees for our members (please see the ACDA website here: <https://acda.org/membership-central/individual-membership/>). This funding is imperative: students who are not members of the national organization are unable to register to attend national and local conferences. Despite the other related elements of our budget being approved, if only two members are allocated funding in our budget, no other members could go. Traditionally, we send ten members to a conference every year
 - b. Athena Society
 - i. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, Athena Society recognizes the stress Student Senate must be currently under and applauds their efforts to create a fair budget for every organization. Unfortunately, Athena Society's budget for the 2020-21 academic school year was reduced due to past spending habits. Athena Society accepts this revised budget but cautions any further reduction. Without proper funding, Athena society couldn't put on events like the Denim Day Fashion Show, send two students every year to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C., or pay dues for Athena Society to be a recognized chapter of AAUW. This campus needs Athena Society to give students on campus an active voice for promoting women's rights and equality for all. Athena Society hopes Student Senate agrees with this statement and will accept the revised budget for the 2020-21 academic year.
 - c. Chi Epsilon Pi
 - i. Chi-Epsilon Pi's concern is regarding the funds for Conferences and Sponsored Retreats. As the Meteorology Honors society, Chi-Epsilon Pi is dedicated to preparing meteorology students for what comes after Valpo. The American Meteorological Society's annual meeting is an opportunity like none other, as it is the largest meteorology conference

in the world. It allows students to network with potential graduate school advisors and employers, spark interest in topics they have not heard of, and gain leadership experience. This is the only opportunity many of the students will get to attend and/or present at a professional conference off campus. In such a small field, building connections beyond the university is extremely valuable prior to searching for a career. With a larger junior and senior meteorology class than years past, Chi-Epsilon Pi anticipates more student interest in the conference than previous years. Additionally, due to the pandemic, it is likely that fewer students will be able to afford to travel to AMS without the help of the organization. Chi-ep would like to help as many students as possible get the opportunity they deserve. Thank you for your time.

d. Earthtones

- i. Earthtones' concerns regard the funding for Organization Sponsored Events. As the Earthtones Environmental Conference continues to grow, so does speaker interest. Potential speakers have already contacted the organization asking to present at the 2021 conference. Inclusion is a priority of Earthtones and it's important that we help individuals attend the conference who could not otherwise afford the transportation costs. This includes speakers from afar, but also those in the broader northwest Indiana region who are discouraged from attending because of transportation costs. Last year a potential speaker from Chicago did not attend the conference due to the cost of transportation. The Earthtones conference invites individuals to attend regardless of location and economic status. Such an invitation is worthless if we cannot assist them in getting to Valpo. Although we were unable to have this year's conference in person, when planning for the event it became clear that the allotted \$500 for lunches meant that we would have to pick and choose who got fed and who did not. The lunch was intended to give student attendees the opportunity to network with the professionals, but the current budget only allows for select students to share this experience. Thank you.

e. PRSSA

- i. From reviewing our new budget proposed, it is my understanding that Public Relations Student Society of America will be receiving \$400 less in the categories of promotions/advertising and organization/sponsored events, in addition to not being offered any money for the leadership rally that PRSSA has attended for years. We have grown significantly as a group over the last four years, and we are passionate about the benefits and professional development this group offers our campus. Without these events, the group would consist of only meetings where we discuss professional development, but no hands-on experience. Based on last year's spending, which you can find in the attached budget, we used all but \$131 of the \$3.985 awarded to us last year. If this is your premise for reducing our budget, we ask that you award us \$200 of the cut funds back on promotions/advertising and organization/sponsored events, so we can resume activities as usual and not have to strip students of the on hands learning opportunities.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

5. SENATORS' REPORTS:

6. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

a. Dr. DrGraw

- i. Furlough- difficult decision to make, but needed because of financial instability & COVID-19. No guarantee for furlough employees
- ii. This Thursday-end of July
- iii. Intention is to bring everyone back
- iv. Some did voluntary furlough
- v. Employees are taking salary cuts (2-10%, VPs taking 20% and President 30%)
- vi. Phase 3 takes place after July 31

7. OFFICER REPORTS

a. PRESIDENT: Annika Brown

- i. Great job to all of the President and Vice President candidates on the debate tonight!

b. VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Young

c. PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mac Magiera

d. SECRETARY: Paige Mecsyste

- i. Please be sure to email me an excuse with a report if you need to miss either a General meeting or E-board meetings! Attendance is still important & required.

e. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe

- i. Please check my email about the videos I want Senators to make
- ii. Spread the word about elections this Friday - I shared posters in the general Slack

f. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Kameron Ray

- i. For financial history/input from Treasurer on the Forum of Concerns for Tier 2 Budgeting see "Motions for Tier 2 Budgeting" Google Spreadsheet.
- ii. Please open the floor to me if you need financial input for a motion on Tier 2 budgeting or need any sort of explanation.
- iii. Remind constituents that April 24th is the deadline for encumbrance requests. (that's 10 days from now)

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. EXECUTIVE: Annika Brown

- i. We're meeting over Google Hangouts at 5pm on Wednesday as usual. Please let me know if you would like to join, and I'm happy to include you on the invite.

- b. FINANCE: Jesse Hershberger
 - i. Voting on Tier 2--final versions of Tier 2&3 budgets will be sent to orgs tomorrow or Wednesday
 - 1. Senator Behnke made a motion to approve the Tier 2 budget
 - 2. Senator Hijaz seconded the motion
 - 3. Motion to approve Tier 2 budget passes 24-0-0
 - ii. Presentation of Tier 1 Slate--will be sent to orgs tonight
 - 1. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IDW3BTd4qRxOqRnlpX2MmcO8Sg4BtPO_sL8exykMvGA/edit?usp=sharing
 - iii. Please talk to me if you have any questions regarding the slate or how decisions were made by the committee. Jackson, Kameron, or I are more than willing to talk to any organization that has questions as well, just send them our way.
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Eric Maruyama
- d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Jolie Foor
 - i. Met with the committee today to give updates on media orgs.
 - ii. Torch is publishing everything online, and is going to print some sort of archive of corona reports next semester to be distributed to alumni during Homecoming.
 - iii. VUTV is doing well, currently having a bit trouble hiring eboard staff but are working on sending the applications to communications students. They also had a senior win a national award!
 - iv. Beacon agreed on a theme for the yearbook and intend to publish. They are trying to figure out where to store the printed books over the summer, since they have to distribute next semester.
 - v. Lighter is on track to print their finished book and have a full eboard for next year.
 - vi. WVUR is struggling with license renewal, mostly on the legal/paperwork side of things. They are also working on staff transitions.
- e. SCREENING: Kurtis Monahan
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Ben Jacobs
 - i. Met with Ryan Blevins last week! He gave me the next steps for our look into visitation policy changes. We will be developing a list of our hopes of the new policy and marking up the current policy to make it language that is both what the students want and what we believe the Administration would accept. Talks are still going through as planned!
 - ii. Roughly 100 students are still on campus. About half of those students are international students that cannot go home at this time.
- g. DINING SERVICES: Isis Zaki
- h. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Brianna Ares

- i. No report!
- i. DISCOUNT CARD: Craig Behnke
- j. FOOD ACCESS: Allison Pariso-
 - i. still working on the survey coming out this fall hopefully
- k. ELECTIONS: Eric Maruyama
 - i. Email went out to student body this morning with links to debate and the election (this Friday, 4/17/2020)
 - ii. Please share images/fliers
 - iii. Google form ballot will be sent out through email
- l. VUSSOLISA: Gabby Rogers
- m. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT: Paige Meczyssine & Joshua Duensing
 - i. Temporary pause/relaxed deadlines due to the Presidential Search being postponed
- n. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: Kaitlyn Steinhiser

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. SR001-SP20 (Senator Steinhiser) Housing, parking, dining, general fee refund due to COVID-19
 - i. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to move SR001-SP20 to Old Business
 - 1. Senator Jacobs seconded
 - ii. Motion passes

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. SR001-SP2020 (Senator Steinhiser) Housing, parking, dining, general fee refund due to COVID-19
 - i. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to vote on SR001-SP2020
 - 1. Senator Hijaz seconded
 - ii. Motion to approve SR001-SP2020 passes 24-0-0

11. FORUM OF CONCERNS:

12. POSTMORTEM:

- a. Please review Tier 1 budgets for next week & post motions for next week

13. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. 8:38pm