

# VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 04/20/2020

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:02pm
2. ROLL CALL: Unexcused: Senator Von Seggern
3. FORUM OF CONCERNS:
  - a. VISA
    - i. However, there is one concern that I see which I would like to point out and request a revision from the senate. VISA's World Banquet is one of the biggest events on campus. It is an event that recognizes that, though we come from different cultural backgrounds, our differences should be celebrated. As VISA, we consider ourselves to be the representative of all the international students on campus. It is our duty to make sure that all the international students are well-represented and that Valpo understands that this diversity is what makes our campus special. It was an honor organizing this event and giving international students a platform to showcase their food and culture to Valpo. We need the full extent of our budget for World Banquet to make this possible. Last year we spent the full 11,000 that we were allocated and as you might have seen the event was a huge success and diversity at Valpo was celebrated. Therefore I would like to request the senate to revise our budget and give us the opportunity to repeat the same next year. For this we would like to request our World banquet budget to be \$11,000. We will make sure to fully utilize our budget and make the event special like we do every year. we understand and respect the decision to cut the budget for our other activities but please do consider our request for this special event to remain special to all the internationals at valpo.
  - b. AAPIC
    - i. Greetings, I would like to thank the members of the Student Senate for taking the time to review and create our budget for next year. AAPIC (Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition) is grateful for the current amount of money in many of our categories. We are requesting \$800 more in the Polynesian Festival entertainment line and \$100 more in the Polynesian Festival food/drinks line. Over the past two years, Polynesian Festival has been a huge hit in our university. We have invited performers from the Chicago area to showcase the diversity within Polynesia through song, dance, language lessons, and opportunities for attendees to learn different styles of dance. We also would like to prepare more dishes to serve to our attendees, so they are able to sample traditional dishes in the Polynesian islands. We have seen an increase in attendance for this event and by receiving more money in both the food and entertainment line, AAPIC will be able to invite performers to celebrate and educate the community about

Polynesian culture. We are requesting \$100 more in the Lunar New Year food/drinks line and \$100 more in the Drinks Around Asia food/drinks line. Lunar New Year is one of the well-attended events that AAPIC hosts for the Valparaiso community. Because we want to expand our event, we would like to cater not only from China House but other restaurants to serve a variety of dishes. We are requesting \$100 more in the Drinks Around Asia food/drinks line because AAPIC would like to purchase ingredients to make more beverages that are popular in Asia. By being able to make beverages from many countries in Asia, we are able to allow attendees to taste and appreciate the flavors of each drink, and the work that goes in making the beverage.

c. Alliance

- i. I understand that funding for student organizations has been cut, so as treasurer, I am requesting revisions for the programs that are most important to Alliance. First, we ask that \$200 be added to the conference line for a total of \$800. The \$600 given is not near enough to fund the conference, and other conference opportunities are limited. However, we still want to have the opportunity for professional development, so we would like to use the \$800 to bring in a speaker in place of a conference. We also want to add \$500 to the drag show line for a total of \$2750. This is necessary in order to pay performers a fair amount. Without the \$500, we will not be able to hire as many performers. The drag show is our most popular event, drawing in over 300 students in previous years.

d. WVUR

- i. I would like to begin by thanking the student senate for providing us with adequate funding for our sports broadcasting in this upcoming year... these productions are vital to our station and help provide the Valparaiso community with a way to listen to our university athletics live. Our first and most significant revision falls under the "Organization Dues, Subscriptions, and Licenses" category. It appears as though any that we have not yet paid for - IBS, IBA, IASB, BMI, Promo Only, and New Music Chart - were not funded for the next school year. These are all very critical to our functioning as a station, and have been for the past several years. Our business director is in the process of paying these entities, so we ask that we maintain the same funding for the following year since they are still in use by WVUR today. Our second revision comes in the form of funding for promotions / advertising. While funds are obviously reduced amidst everything that is going on, we worked hard and made various cuts to decrease our overall budget by a significant margin (approximately \$8,000) in the hopes that we would be able to get this line funded. On top of providing us with a means to promote the station throughout campus, we have hopes to get a series of radio jingles produced by a professional company. There are several reasons for this. The first is that going through a professional company is essentially the only option in producing these, as they are intricate and feature a multitude of instrumentation and vocal layers. Second, these would be produced to assist in our FCC-required top-of-hour call sign identification, provide a professional way to cut into regular programming in the event of

severe weather, breaking news, or safety updates, and aid in coming in and out of commercial breaks during our athletic broadcasts, as well as help to significantly strengthen our image in the university and Valparaiso community. To receive the package that would be necessary to achieve this, we would likely need somewhere in the ballpark of \$2000, and this amount is a one-time fee. Thus, we would be more than willing to concede our initial request of \$3000 if it means at least coming closer to meeting that goal. I would be more than happy to discuss this further if more clarification is needed! The third revision in our budget comes from the BEA (Broadcast Education Association) conference funding. We received a further cut of \$500 to this item for the upcoming school year. While we understand that funding is currently limited, VUTV received an increase in funding for the same conference. We are considered a broadcast entity in the same form as VUTV and would thus ask that the funding be allocated appropriately. In order to ensure that three members of our staff can attend this incredibly educational conference, we would ask to see additional funding in this category. Our last revision comes from Organization Sponsored Events. We received a rather significant funding decrease in this category. Our annual event "Sourcestock" is our largest public event contribution to the university, and the funding for performances and other logistics for this event come from this line. We would very much appreciate a reconsideration on our funding, and would be willing to concede our "Uniforms" line to help make that happen.

e. Dance Marathon

- i. After taking the opportunity to review the attached budget, I can see that our "Organization Sponsored Event Budget" has been cut by \$2,000 due to previous spending. It should be noted that our spending from year to year can vary by several thousand dollars due to our program being awarded grants, like the LOVES grant for instance. These grants are not guaranteed, though, and we cannot plan on receiving them every year to bolster our resources for our event. Without the proposed \$2,000 cut, we would be without our funds for catering meaning that our participants would not be guaranteed several meals, potentially. In addition, if Dance Marathon were to shift these funds around to purchase food, we could see some serious downgrading in quality for other aspects of our event as well, such as the lighting for our rave hour, for instance. All in all, this proposed cut puts our organization in a very difficult position especially as we attempt to grow and innovate.

f. UPC

- i. We want to say thank you for Student Senate's continued work during these uncertain times, and we can empathize with how challenging it can be to virtually lead teams. Our leadership team has reviewed the proposed budget allocation made by the Student Senate for the upcoming year and noticed we are slated to receive an overall reduction of \$2,295. Our organization consistently ensures that we spend over 80% of our allocated budget each term and works to provide the Senate with in-depth explanations of each of our lines, going into specific detail for many of our requests. Considering UPC is the central programming arm of our

university, our efforts are more necessary now than ever. With university life coming to a halt this spring, our community missed out on some of the best traditions Valpo has to offer: Valpo Vibes, Valpo After Dark, Breakfast After Dark, Songfest, food trucks, and more. These staples represent only a few of the 25 events that UPC had in store for the remainder of the semester. Considering these facts, we believe that Crusaders deserve an exceptional “welcome home” in the fall, and we are willing to give it to them. As students return to campus, we hope to be able to provide them with an exceptional Welcome Week experience, a Homecoming jam-packed with Valpo pride, and events that keep spirits high throughout the semester. UPC events welcome all students and celebrate the Valpo community that makes our university so special. In order to execute fun, engaging programs, we require an increase in funds. These experiences are not possible without adequate funding. Please consider increasing UPC’s programming budget for the benefit of our community.

g. SALT

i. SALT is requesting \$150 for our fall retreat. The fall retreat is an important time for the new SALT staff to plan the semester together as well as build community. Our retreats normally take place at either Rogers Lakewood Park or Beyond Boundaries, which cost a lot of money to rent. Last year, it cost us \$85 just for renting a space at the park, not including the cost of food and supplies for 10 people. Without this retreat money, next year’s SALT staff will not have the opportunity to leave campus to participate in team building exercises, something SALT greatly values so that our organization can function smoothly. We were given \$150 for this current year for our fall retreat, and we are willing to forgo our spring retreat budget in order to gain more funds for our fall retreat which we think is more important for our staff. SALT is requesting \$368 more for our 5K budget. To put on a successful Color Run 5K we need assistance from VUPD (\$150), a stage from Facilities Management (\$200), t-shirts (\$1131 -- in the description of the original budget it said 1000 but that was a typo & the total requested reflected this \$1131 figure), sunglasses to prevent color powder from getting in the eyes of participants (\$391.08), and color powder (\$696) for a total of \$2,568.08. Our e-board put in significant work to determine the minimum amount necessary and decreased our requested budget from last year’s \$5638. Additionally, we are willing to forgo our usual \$300 in advertising budget and get creative. Without this \$368, we would have to make a decision to sacrifice one of the crucial aspects of the Color Run.

h. Torch

i. Student Senators, First I want to thank you for working with The Torch this semester and allowing us to live stream your debate. We had a lot of fun and enjoy our partnership together. Second, we’re very appreciative of the increase in our weekly printing cost and our lodging for conferences. This will allow The Torch to print more in color and take more students to collegiate conferences that help make our organization so much better. We worked hard to cut our budget and felt we did a really

good job, as did you all! The only areas we ask to be improved are stipends due to equality in the workplace. For years now, our editors have not all been paid the same and they do the same amount of work. They come in each Thursday at 6 p.m. and have worked, the latest, until 6 a.m. with classes for some starting at 8 a.m. This is all for the love of journalism. While money is not the only reason these students continue to come back, we do feel like our editors need to be paid the same amount. Our opinions Editor can't be paid \$500 with the sports editor being \$800 because they each write their own articles, copy edit others work, come in on Thursdays and design the paper while also now starting to navigate online assignments as well and deliver the paper on Fridays. If there is any way the following positions can all make \$800, The Torch would be grateful. News Editor, Features Editor, AE Editor, Opinions Editor, Sports Editor, Photo Editor. We also want Business and AD to make the same, so please take away the \$25 from AD manager. The Torch has been working incredibly hard this semester. We've covered many breaking news stories, have remained an active organization while campus is shut down, and have continuously given the university a good representation of student journalists. We thank you for consideration.

i. Beacon

i. My name is Cruz Ibarra Jr., the new Editor-in-Chief of *The Beacon* yearbook. After reviewing the approved amounts for our budget, I have decided to petition for an appeal. Yearbook is a demanding publication that requires countless hours of strategic planning, high caliber journalism and photography skills, and innovative artistic abilities to bring content to life. Every page within *The Beacon* tells a story that was uniquely crafted by the hard-working hands of the yearbook staff; however, based on the approved budget, they will only receive \$3.75 per hour, which is significantly less than most paying jobs on campus and poses concern. In relation, when comparing *The Beacon's* staff stipend positions to other media organizations, there's a notable difference, thus creating an unfair playing field. I implore you to reconsider and understand the worth of *The Beacon*. Our mission is to document the significant events that take place, capture the priceless memories we experience over the years, and, ultimately, provide a detailed time capsule for future generations to appreciate and learn from our past. However, if funding continues to be reduced, the students and future students of this institution will be at a loss. The Beacon is a publication that has withstood the test of time and continues to evolve. The evolution is present in the aesthetic and quality of the yearbook cover's material and design, the use of computer software to produce trending layout graphics, and the quality content intricately displayed on all pages. Above all, I have faith that the right decision will be made to ensure The Beacon's best interest.

**Year Beacon-EIC WVUR-GM VUTV-ED Torch-EIC**

19-20 \$800.00 \$1,750.00 \$1,550.00 \$1,700.00

18-19 \$720.00 \$1,750.00 \$1,550.00 \$1,800.00

17-18 \$720.00 \$1,750.00 \$1,650.00 \$1,800.00

16-17 \$800.00 \$1,900.00 \$1,650.00 \$2,000.00

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

5. SENATORS' REPORTS:

6. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

a. Dr. DeGraw

i. Report from President Heckler:

1. Had meeting with President Brown & VP Young
2. Administration has had ongoing updates, 2 phone calls with Board of Trustees
  - a. Outline of COVID-19 response
  - b. Full Board meeting this Friday
  - c. Working on Contingency planning for the fall (classes, housing, athletics, when students return, etc.)
3. As soon as stay-at-home order is lifted, there is a phased plan to allow students to collect items left at the dorms
  - a. Goes by floor, mask requirements, no more than 3 people to assist move
  - b. May 7-May 21
  - c. More than 800 students need to collect items
4. Summer Housing information will be sent out later this week; limited this year due to less staff
5. Waiting until May 1 for decision about FOCUS
  - a. Important for students to be able to come to campus (30% of new enrolled students have never been to campus)

7. OFFICER REPORTS

a. PRESIDENT: Annika Brown

- i. Mark and I talked to President Heckler last Friday about the SR that was passed last Monday. Here are some notes from the meeting:
  1. The SR was shared with the executive management team that is making COVID-19 response decisions
  2. Discussions on refunds have been part of an ongoing conversation for around 5 weeks as the university was waiting to hear back on guidelines for funding provided by the federal government as well as how issuing refunds could impact other factors, such as financial aid. The university wanted to wait until an official decision could be made.
  3. An official decision is expected by the end of April. The decision will be made over ongoing discussions and meetings with the executive management council. The decision will not be determined in one meeting that a student can attend, however, Dr. DeGraw has been a great advocate for students in the process.
  4. The refund will not look like what is presented in the SR (prorated amounts) due to fixed costs, but President Heckler assured that the university is trying to free up what is possible to give to students.

5. Weekly updates on the university's response to the COVID-19 crisis will come from Dr. DeGraw to Student Senate for us to communicate to students. Important decisions or announcements will be communicated to all students, faculty, and staff.
  6. Vote to have COO David Phelps attend our next Senate meeting passes
    - ii. Great job to everyone for running impressive campaigns during the election! Congratulations to Kaitlyn and Ben on your positions for next year.
  - b. VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Young
  - c. PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mac Magiera
  - d. SECRETARY: Paige Mecsyste
    - i. No report
  - e. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
    - i. We did a great job promoting the election! Amazing turnout with 891 votes casted
      1. After hearing about previous year's numbers, it seems that online voting is more effective in getting student involvement
    - ii. I only got 1 video for the PR campaign I was hoping to start. Please consider making a video. I will attach the link to the document. It is essential that we still maintain a presence!
      1. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eZG4M93QggQ06vUj6y4Q4r5s\\_jneNsACIPA6do81QL0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eZG4M93QggQ06vUj6y4Q4r5s_jneNsACIPA6do81QL0/edit?usp=sharing)
  - f. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Kameron Ray
    - i. April 24th Encumbrance Requests Due
    - ii. May 8th Stipend Requests Due
    - iii. Please feel free to open the floor to me for questions or request for data relating to Tier 1 budgets
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- a. EXECUTIVE: Annika Brown
    - i. Our last Executive Committee will be this Wednesday at 5pm over Google Hangouts. If you would like to participate in the meeting, please let me know and I will include in the calendar invitation.
  - b. FINANCE: Jesse Hershberger
    - i. Trying to make an unrestricted budget fund for organizations who do not spend 80% or more of their budget
      1. Can access the funds through a process similar to the capital expenditure application
    - ii. Tier 1 budgeting
      1. Senator Zaki made a motion to move \$500 out of line 18 (Vex U World Championship Registration Fee) of VU Robotics' Budget into line 91 of Alliance's budget for Drag Show booking fees.
        - a. Senator Steinhiser seconded
        - b. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to vote
          - i. Senator Sedlar seconded
        - c. Motion passes 18-7-1
      2. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to move \$1800 from VU Robotics' budget (line 171- ongoing organization functions) to UPC's line 52 (Spring Concert).
        - a. Senator Zaki seconded
        - b. Senator Hershberger made a motion to vote
          - i. Senator Sedlar seconded
        - c. Motion fails 12-13-1

3. Senator Zaki made a motion to move \$300 out of line 18 (Vex U World Championship Registration Fee) of VU Robotics' Budget into Line 51 of SALT's Annual 5K
    - a. Senator Foor seconded
    - b. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to vote
      - i. Senator Pariso seconded
    - c. Motion passes 16-9-1
  4. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to move \$610 from Honor Council's Line 85 (Hearing Officers) to Dance Marathon's Line 58 (organization-sponsored events)
    - a. Senator Zaki seconded
    - b. Senator Steinhiser made an amendment: change \$610 to \$350
      - i. Senator Sedlar seconded
    - c. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to vote
      - i. Senator Zaki seconded
    - d. Motion passes 15-11-0
  5. Senator Zaki made a motion to move \$800 from the pot into line 121 of UPC's stipends & payroll (for 2 new executive board positions)
    - a. Senator Hijaz seconded
    - b. Senator Steinhiser made a friendly amendment to move into line 52 instead of 121
      - i. Senator Zaki accepted the friendly amendment
    - c. Senator Steinhiser made a motion to vote
      - i. Senator Hijaz seconded
    - d. Motion passes 17-8-1
  6. Senator Behnke made a motion to vote on the slate
    - a. Senator Maruyama seconded
    - b. Motion to approve the Tier 1 slate passes 24-1-1
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Eric Maruyama
  - d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Jolie Foor
  - e. SCREENING: Kurtis Monahan
    - i. Interviewed candidates for E-board. Recommendations:
      1. PRC: Chris Grimpe
        - a. Voted 3-0-0
      2. Secretary: Paige Mecyssine
        - a. Voted 3-0-0
      3. Assistant Treasurer: Mark Lorenz
        - a. Voted 3-0-0
      4. Senator Jacobs made a motion to vote as a slate
        - a. Senator Hijaz seconded
      5. Motion to approve Chris Grimpe, Paige Mecyssine, and Mark Lorenz for the 2020-21 academic year passes 25-0-0
  - f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Ben Jacobs
    - i. Continuing our work on the assignment Ryan gave us
    - ii. Began drafting SR002-SP20 and will hopefully have it done by Wednesday for Exec and perfected by next Monday 4/27 to be voted on. We are looking for co-sponsors or anyone interested in adding anything to the document! Let me know!
  - g. DINING SERVICES: Isis Zaki
  - h. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Brianna Ares
    - i. No report
  - i. DISCOUNT CARD: Craig Behnke
  - j. FOOD ACCESS: Allison Pariso



1. Working on survey for next fall (may be pushed if we don't attend school in the fall), working on figuring out graduate and commuter student food needs
  - k. ELECTIONS: Eric Maruyama
    - i. We had a great turn out in the election on Friday. Thanks to all who voted.
  - l. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT COMMITTEE: Paige Meczyssine & Josh Duensing
    - i. Waiting for the search committee to resume
  - m. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE: Kaitlyn Steinhiser
  - n. VUSSOLISA COMMITTEE: Gabby Rogers
9. POSTMORTEM: Congratulations on new executive members
10. ADJOURNMENT: 9:22pm