

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 10/19/2020

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:33pm
2. ROLL CALL: All present
3. OATH OF OFFICE:
 - a. Senator Brown
4. FORUM OF CONCERNS:
 - a. Justin McClain: Student Senate - thank you for all the work you have done so far this year. You all should be proud of the changes that have been made to better the campus community. With SR001-FA20 being voted on today, I wanted to take a moment and implore you to pass the SR. Not only does the SR impact the campus community, it also impacts the Valpo community as students continue to go to restaurants, bars, and events off campus, and it will impact our families when we go home at the end of the semester. The status of COVID-19 on campus does not just stay on campus. It bleeds into the surrounding areas and our hometowns, and we all deserve more data. Passing the SR will address concerns of over 500 campus members and hopefully quell some of the rumors and anxieties that students, and the nation thanks to the New York Times, have. Vice President AmRhein told me that the petition itself did not warrant a response or change because it was "too easy to sign" and "the cool thing to do." Yes, he said those actual words to a student. The only way for the dashboard to be improved and the voices of students to be heard is through the passing of SR001-FA20. Most of the policies and guidelines in place for COVID-19 have not changed since they were first announced to us, but Indiana and the United States are getting worse, setting new records for new COVID-19 cases and breaking those records the very next day. While some changes to the policies and guidelines would require money or measures that I am sure the University is not ready for, improving the dashboard is free, simple, and an easy way to show that the email about improving trust and transparency sent by Interim Provost Gillman was not just for show. Take a stand as campus leaders and pass the SR tonight. Thank you.
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
 - a. Motion: Senator Zaki
 - b. Second: Senator McMillan
6. SENATORS' REPORTS:
 - a. None
7. ADVISORS' REPORTS:
 - a. Advisor Ryan Blevins:
 - i. We were all surprised by Dr. DeGraw's leave; it is not appropriate or fair for us to speculate on the circumstances around her departure. I and our interim vice president are still very committed to success for students; will still be here to help move forward the student agenda. We are always available.
8. OFFICER REPORTS:
 - a. PRESIDENT: Kaitlyn Steinhiser

- i. I respect the decision that the University made and look forward to working with Steve. We will still move forward and uphold values of students.
 - ii. The Educational Policy Committee voted to discontinue Secondary Education, Chinese Language Minor, Chinese and Japanese Studies, and Greek and Roman Studies. Voted not to discontinue Theatre, French, Social Work, and Elementary Education.
 - 1. EPC is a committee within Faculty Senate; the decision will move to Faculty Senate, then to President's Council for the final vote
 - iii. At the Board meeting on Friday, will ask for ex-officio seats on the Campus Life committee
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Jacobs
 - i. Board of Directors meeting this Friday going over the potential change to the Guest and Escort policy
 - ii. Let me know if you still do not have access to the Senate office, OneCard office has been slow
 - iii. Will call a meeting on Nov 23rd (right before break) because we got a late start
 - 1. New vice-president will be sworn in
 - c. PARLIAMENTARIAN: Danielle LeGrand
 - i. No Report
 - d. SECRETARY: Paige Meczyssine
 - i. No report
 - e. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
 - i. Website Updates by Webmaster
 - 1. Excited to start working with Macy
 - 2. Any website updates, please send them to both Macy and I (macy.siegfried@valpo.edu)
 - ii. Student Buzz
 - 1. VU Social Work is doing a lot of events and activities to save their department
 - f. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Jackson Sheputis/Mark Lorenz
 - i. No report
- 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - a. EXECUTIVE: Kaitlyn Steinhiser
 - i. At-large Senators: Chris is going to talk to you about making a schedule.
 - b. FINANCE: Allison Pariso
 - i. Budgets were due yesterday. The finance committee is working through them. They will be presented to the full senate body next week and voted on November 2nd just to give you guys a heads up.
 - ii. Once budgets are presented I will send the orgs their proposed budgets once they are presented to senate so that they may participate in forum of concerns if they so wish.
 - iii. The total pot for tier three this semester is \$9,500. This will be divided between all of the orgs that submitted a budget.
 - c. ADMINISTRATION: Isis Zaki
 - i. Will ask organizations to look at non-discrimination policies
 - d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Jolie Foor
 - i. No report
 - e. SCREENING: Brianna Ares
 - i. Will be looking for new Sophomore Senators
 - ii. We are nominating:
 - 1. Sophomore Senator: Travis Biancardi
 - a. Screening voted 3-0-0
 - b. Senator Zaki made a motion to vote

- c. Senator Robinson seconded
 - d. Motion to approve Travis Biancardi as sophomore senator passes 25-0-0
 - iii. Working on timeline for VP
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Aidan Byrnes
 - i. No report
- g. DINING SERVICES: Billy Robinson
 - i. Positive feedback from Gelly's Grab & Go Ceremony
 - ii. Working with Lee to enhance the experience for student athletes and address some of the concerns they have had
 - iii. Working on enlarging the committee to be better represented as a whole (Let me know if you know of anyone who would be interested)
- h. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Kendall Runnels
 - i. Committee had first meeting last Thursday
 - 1. Main issue: Getting people to come out and interact, especially freshmen; disconnect with them
- i. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: Gwyneth Hoeksema
 - i. Career Center "Career Closet" Proposal (\$23,000)
 - 1. Each student could go to Career Center and get professional interview clothing (to keep; not a rental)
 - 2. DFC approved it
 - 3. Motion to vote: Senator Zaki
 - 4. Second: Senator Raimondi
 - a. Motion to approve the Career Center Proposal passes 25-0-0
 - ii. Athletic Department Equipment Upgrade Proposal (\$5,310.63)
 - 1. Motion to vote: Senator Zaki
 - a. Second: Senator McMillan
 - b. Motion to approve the Athletic Department equipment upgrade passes 25-0-0
- j. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT: Paige Meczyssine
 - i. Reports were due today; still need reports from some people. Please send ASAP

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Nominations for open DFC position(s) (One senator and one non-senator)
 - i. Maggie Beard
 - ii. Gabrielle Wilcoxson
 - iii. Senator Zaki
 - 1. Motion to move to old business: Senator Ares
 - a. Second: Senator Raimondi

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. SR001-FA20
 - i. Senator Zaki: Motion to discuss
 - 1. Senator McMillan: Second
 - ii. Senator Zaki: motion to vote
 - 1. Senator McMillan: Second
 - 2. Motion to approve SR001-FA20 passes 24-0-1
- b. Vote on Senator Zaki for DFC position
 - i. Motion to vote: Senator McMillan
 - 1. Second: Senator Schneider
 - ii. Motion to approve Senator Zaki for DFC passes 24-0-1

12. FORUM OF CONCERNS:

- a. None

13. POSTMORTEM:

- a. None

14. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn: Senator Ares
 - i. Second: Senator Raimondi
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm