

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 02/28/2022

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:30 pm
2. OATH OF OFFICE: Subhanga Ghimire
3. ROLL CALL: Excused absences: Assistant Treasure Doyle, Sen. Dollison, and Sen. Hertzberg
4. GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Michael Chikeleze - Strategic Plan
 - a. The university strategic plan focuses on 4 areas: Unparalleled experience, Uncommon relationships, Unmistakable value, and Distinctly Valpo. The strategic planning committee will be holding open office hours from 4:00-5:00 pm in BB's on March 1st.
 - b. Unparalleled experience
 - i. 4 main themes: being prepared to lead, high-impact practices that affect learning, enhancing a sense of belonging and inclusion, and improving experience overall.
 - ii. What things need to be enhanced to make the overall experience better?
 1. Student groups had ideas for the library to improve collaborative space.
 2. Other student groups focused on space for recreational activities for students.
 3. Sen. Bakri: Tuition has been a concern for students—how is it being used and why? Is there a plan for empty buildings on campus? More transparency around the efforts to bring more students of color and their retention rates.
 4. Sen. Abraham: Transparency about where our money is. ADA compliance in all buildings is very important. Some of the older buildings need to be more accessible. Commuter students need to be supported more. The ARC needs to be updated.
 5. Sen. Wilcoxson: Expand tutoring so that you can have a tutor for a 300 level class.
 6. Sen. Flanagan: Diversify the staff on campus. More diversity will reflect the students we want to bring into the community on campus.
 7. Sen. Sedlar: More diverse students, regarding disability, have been coming for tours and the accessibility situation on campus is a big concern. Improving staff accessibility without tokenizing them is important.
 8. Sen. Robb: Valpo does not have a good transgender/LGBTQ+ on campus living policy. Some other universities have better plans for it. Engineering students especially, have an over expectation put on them by professors about the amount of work they should be doing for their classes.
 9. Sen. Howard: Diversify the class offerings we have. There are some diverse classes that haven't been offered in several years. The amount of workload makes it difficult for students to ever take a break.
 10. Sen. Bhatta: More hours for the Health Center. Also, inform international students of who the international recruiter is.
 11. Sen. Williamson: Make clear that we want to be an inclusive and diverse community, especially for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Provide

additional options for course requirements. There is a lack of career support from the University, especially for internships. I have had difficulty having my transfer credits accepted. I had a professor who posted 2-3 hours of homework each day, including Sunday.

12. Sen. Westphal: The ARC needs updated and that will bring in more athletes.
 13. Sen. Velasquez: The sorority complex is not accessible. Additionally, improving the fitness center would be beneficial.
 14. Sen. Lennen: There needs to be improved safety on campus—more of the blue safety poles and lighting on campus. This is especially needed on the way to Prom and the freshman lot.
 15. Sen. Ghimire: More companies need to come to career fairs. As a computer science major, there were very few companies at the career fair for students with my degree.
 16. Sen. Neiman: With the increase in commuters, there needs to be more events held on campus—take advantage of BB's to keep students from leaving for the weekend. I have also heard a lot of concerns about the health center.
 17. Sen. Cavinder: Outside of FSL, there are not many service opportunities. There is a big advertisement that Valpo has these opportunities but professors never mention it.
- iii. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on the unparalleled experience and improvements we can make.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. None

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- a. Motion to approve: Sen. Westphal
- b. Second: Sen. Lennen

7. SENATORS' REPORTS:

- a. Sen. Pariso
 - i. Seniors are concerned about the diversity of Valpo and believe it is important to attract more diverse students to campus.
 - ii. The lack of clearing of the sidewalks on the outer edges of campus has caused students to slip on the ice. They would appreciate additional salt applied to the sidewalks along with more consistent plowing.

8. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

- a. Vice President Janowiak
 - i. We are finishing up the final touches on BB's and are working on an official alcohol policy.
 1. We are working on incorporating fun and responsible activities during athletic events.
 - ii. We are moving quickly towards our "endemic" phase. We have a higher vaccination rate than other universities who are making masks optional. We are hoping to continue to open things up this spring as we come back from spring break.

9. OFFICER REPORTS:

- a. PRESIDENT: Jolie Foor

- i. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Moonball Tournament yesterday, and to everyone who attended the Black History Month Dinner!
 - ii. If you were not able to attend a Black History Month event (and are not a brand new senator) please attend at least one BSO event or meeting this semester. Secretary Shouse will be in contact with those who did not email her or PRC Grimpe.
 - iii. VP Jacobs and I met with President Padilla last Friday and we had productive conversations about potential Student Senate resolutions and future plans of the University.
 - iv. Recommendations for a student for University Council?
 - 1. Sen. Bakri
 - 2. Philip Bolton
- b. VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Jacobs
 - i. New Senators - you will be getting headshots taken before the March 21st meeting. I will remind you all before the next meeting.
 - ii. New Constitution, Bylaws and Addendums in New Business! The big day is next meeting, March 21st. Campus media will be in attendance.
 - iii. Associate Provost Lissa Yogan will be attending next meeting
- c. SECRETARY: Katelyn Shouse
 - i. No report.
- d. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
 - i. Tomorrow, Student Life is starting a new initiative for events. We will be deciding on tentative dates for Senate events for the next year.
- e. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Mark Lorenz/Owen Doyle
 - i. The financial model was presented at the president's round table today.
 - ii. Stipend submissions were due today and those will be processed shortly.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. EXECUTIVE: Jolie Foor
 - i. Thank you to everyone on the Executive Committee who worked so hard on the revised Constitution, Bylaws, and Addendums!
- b. FINANCE: Allison Pariso
 - i. As a reminder budgets will be due early April. This information was presented today at the President's Round Table Meeting. More information about this process will be explained at the March 21st student senate meeting.
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Mikayla Flanagan
 - i. No report
- d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Hannah Williamson
 - i. VP Jacobs and Dr. Whittier attended the CoM meeting last week to share information about the proposed Constitution and Bylaws
 - ii. Applications for the new media executives are in; we will be conducting interviews after Spring Break.
- e. SCREENING: Emily Bakri
 - i. College of Arts and Sciences senator
 - 1. Meshach Melton
 - a. 3-0-0
 - ii. Commuter Senator
 - 1. Caleb Mandile
 - a. 3-0-0
 - iii. Webmaster
 - 1. Nathan Harmon
 - a. 3-0-0
 - iv. Motion to vote as a slate: Sen. Sedlar
 - v. Second: Sen. Pariso

- vi. Passes 20-0-0
- vii. If you know anyone who is interested in the junior senator seat please let me know!
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Tasha Abraham
 - i. No report
- g. DINING SERVICES: Dianne Dollison
 - i. Dining meetings open to students start 3/23 and and 4/13 at 3:30 in the Alumni room, all are welcome to come!
- h. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Allison Howard
 - i. We have a new committee meeting day and time! We will meet bi-weekly on Fridays at 8:30pm. I will have the list of those dates and the location after spring break for anyone who wants to attend.
- i. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: Nathan Robb
 - i. No report

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Motion to suspend Robert's Rules: Sen. Robb
- b. Second: Sen. Pariso
 - i. Passes 20-0-0
- c. [SR002-SP20](#)
- d. [New Constitution of Student Senate](#)
- e. [New Bylaws of the Student Senate](#)
 - i. [Addendum I](#)
 - ii. [Addendum II](#)
 - 1. [Addendum II.a](#)
 - 2. [Addendum II.b](#)
 - 3. [Addendum II.c](#)
 - iii. [Addendum III](#)
 - iv. [Addendum IV](#)
 - v. [Addendum V](#)
 - vi. [Addendum VI](#)
 - vii. [Addendum VII](#)
 - viii. [Addendum VIII](#)
- f. Grievance committee does not count as ad hoc because it is a procedure that must be done in accordance with our bylaws, which means it is necessary for information regarding that committee to be solidified there.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

13. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. None

14. POSTMORTEM:

- a. Thank you for all of your hard work on the constitution and bylaws. I am looking forward to seeing it come into fruition when we vote next week.

15. ADJOURNMENT: 9:52 pm