

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 04/04/2022

1. FORMAL CALL TO ORDER: 8:30pm
2. ROLL CALL: Unexcused absences: Sen. Bhatta. Tardy: Sen. Ghimire. Excused absences: Assist. Treasurer Doyle, Sen. Dollison, Sen. Hernandez-Garrity, Sen. Maldonado.
3. GUEST SPEAKER: Mark Volpatti - Vice President of Finance & Chief Financial Officer
 - a. First day at the university was January 10th.
 - b. Worked at Indiana University satellite campuses in the finance department for the last 19 years.
 - c. Earned doctorate in education.
 - d. Received CPA license at 45 years old. It's never too late to go back to school!
 - e. Questions/Comments/Concerns:
 - i. There is a lack of financial transparency from the university administration and students would like to have more information.
 1. One of my initiatives is financial transparency.
 - ii. The opportunity to get involved outside of our majors, due to the variety of student organizations, is an asset that Valpo has.
 - iii. There is uncertainty when it comes to registering for classes, not knowing what will be offered.
 - iv. There is a lot of uncertainty about if more programs or majors will be cut.
 - v. Valpo is a very strong community that comes together for organizations. Valpo also offers great study abroad programs.
 - vi. Although tuition has been frozen, there is a concern about an increase of housing or meal plan costs.
 - vii. There are buildings on campus that are still not ADA compliant.
 - viii. Students would like an explanation on the breakdown of funds, why have athletics received more funding than the nursing building in the past, for example?
 - ix. Parking is still a big issue on campus.
 - x. There are several buildings on campus that are vacant and bring down the look of campus.
 - xi. Will the professors who are retiring going to be replaced, and if so, how will we know the quality of those replacements?
 - xii. The university has made investments to campus without asking students what they would like to see improved.
 - xiii. Despite Valpo being a small community, there are still many students who don't feel that they belong here and are transferring.
 - xiv. The demographics of our faculty do not reflect the diversity of our students. We need more diversity moving forward.
 - xv. The size of Valpo allows the professors to be more accessible to students. I appreciate being on a first name basis with my professors.
 - f. For the next month or so, we are continuing to work on the new strategic plan which will be shared with the students soon.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT:
 - a. None

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
 - a. Motion to approve: Sen. Flanagan
 - b. Second: Sen. Pariso

6. SENATORS' REPORTS:
 - a. Sen. Sedlar
 - i. Chi Omega is holding Swishes for Wishes this Sunday from 12:00-4:30pm to help fund a Wish Kid's Wish.
 - b. VP Jacobs
 - i. Tomorrow from 1:00-6:00pm is a graduation party in the union for seniors to pick up their caps and gowns.

7. ADVISORS' REPORTS:
 - a. VP Janowiak
 - i. We still have great COVID-19 numbers on campus. We currently have 0 student cases on campus and 2 faculty cases. The COVID team continues to meet every 3 weeks.
 - ii. I support the vote on the student organization that will be happening tonight.

8. OFFICER REPORTS:
 - a. PRESIDENT: Jolie Foor
 - i. Currently, the University is conducting a light study on campus to address what areas need more lighting. This data will guide the University next semester as they add more campus lighting and emergency blue lights.
 1. If you or your constituents have specific concerns about certain areas of campus that you believe need more lighting, please contact me!
 - ii. [SR002-SP22](#) has been addressed by the Campus Space and Planning Committee. Construction for the sidewalk by the ASB and Mueller has been approved and will be implemented this summer. The committee is currently looking into a crosswalk between Parking Lot 20 and the crosswalk between Lot 21 and Linwood House.
 - iii. VP Jacobs and I have a meeting with President Padilla next Monday morning. If you have any specific topics you would like us to discuss with him, please email senate.president@valpo.edu
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Jacobs
 - i. [Student Organization Award Nomination Form](#) closes this Thursday, April 7th
 1. Individuals, Programs, and Organizations
 - ii. I hope to see most of you at tomorrow's Elections Meeting!
 - iii. Update on work in CCPC
 1. Meeting with President Padilla this Friday
 - iv. Constituency Report for the end of the year
 - v. 4 more meetings after today
 - vi. April 18th is the last executive board meeting for SRs to be voted on.
 - vii. Songfest is April 24th from 1:00-3:00pm. Please be there to watch President Foor and I do a duet!!
 - c. SECRETARY: Katelyn Shouse
 - i. No report
 - d. PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Chris Grimpe
 - i. No report
 - e. EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT TREASURER: Mark Lorenz/Owen Doyle
 - i. No Report
 - f. WEBMASTER: Nathan Harmon
 - i. No report

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. EXECUTIVE: Jolie Foor
 - i. No report.
- b. FINANCE: Allison Pariso
 - i. Special interest budgets were due today at 5 p.m. and the finance committee has begun working through them
 - ii. April 11th is when the commission budgets are due
 - iii. April 18th budgets will be presented
 - iv. April 25th budgets will be voted on
 - v. Orgs can contact me with questions
- c. ADMINISTRATION: Mikayla Flanagan
 - i. Recognition of Association of Aspiring Healthcare Professionals
 - 1. Admin Vote: 5-0-0
 - ii. Chi Epsilon Pi move from honorary distinction to the Special Interest Commission
 - 1. Admin vote: 4-0-0
 - iii. Motion to vote as a slate: Sen. Lennen
 - iv. Second: Sen. Sedlar
 - v. Passes: 22-0-0
- d. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA: Hannah Williamson
 - i. Interviews and voting completed for new heads of media organizations:
 - 1. The Torch, Editor-in-Chief - Caitlynn Shipe (8-0-0)
 - 2. The Lighter, Editor-in-Chief - Kayla Smith (8-0-0)
 - 3. The Beacon, Editor-in-Chief - Evan Stock (8-0-0)
 - 4. WVUR, General Manager - Zach Collins (8-0-0)
 - 5. VUTV, Executive Director - Daniel Murphy (7-0-1)Note: Daniel Murphy is a voting member of the committee and abstained on that vote.
 - ii. Now that the new media heads are announced, we will be scheduling a committee retreat before the end of the semester.
- e. SCREENING: Emily Bakri
 - i. If you have not done a retention meeting with me yet, please come to the senate office after this meeting.
- f. COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCE: Tasha Abraham
 - i. No report
- g. DINING SERVICES: Dianne Dollison
 - i. No report
- h. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Allison Howard
 - i. The committee meeting is this Friday (April 8th) at 8:30pm in the GKC Conference Room
- i. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: Nathan Robb
 - i. No report
- j. ELECTIONS: Jolie Foor
 - i. Another email went out to students today with information regarding the Senate Elections meeting tomorrow at 7pm in the Board of Directors room. If anyone needs the Zoom link for the meeting, please contact senate.elections@valpo.edu

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. None

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. None

13. POSTMORTEM:

- a. Do not forget to attend the elections meeting tomorrow, or send a representative in your place.

14. ADJOURNMENT: 9:08 pm