

# VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

General Assembly 11/7/2022

1. CALL TO ORDER:
2. OATH OF OFFICE:
  - a. Jacob Mack
3. ROLL CALL:
  - a. Present: 23
  - b. Excused: 3
  - c. Unexcused:0
4. SENATORS' REPORTS:
  - a. Music change in the Union to WVUR - any comments?
    - i. Many comments about it being different and not liking it, more distracting
    - ii. WVUR requested to be played in buildings on campus, the Union is the pilot program.
    - iii. This is meant to support a student org (WVUR). We can give them feedback.
    - iv. Email [thesource95@valpo.edu](mailto:thesource95@valpo.edu) with feedback.
5. OFFICER REPORTS:
  - a. PRESIDENT: Sophia Behrens
    - i. President Padilla coming Nov 28th
      1. Don't dress up
      2. Think of big-picture questions to ask him
    - ii. Remember to send Hannah photos!
  - b. VICE PRESIDENT: Ian Chenoweth
    - i. Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Lissa Yogan is joining us today to hear our concerns regarding students' workloads over Fall Break!
    - ii. Constituency Report Formatting and Expectations
      1. [Example for formatting](#)
      2. Please draft these in Google Docs so that you can collaborate and send them to me easily.
      3. Short summary paragraph in the beginning
      4. Key Topics of Discussion (Bullets) for EACH Senator in the constituency
        - a. Each Senator should have at least 2 Key Topics of Discussion, at least one of which must be something good and positive that is happening on campus.
        - b. If you are listing an issue or problem, try to accompany it with possible solutions or ways students would like to see the issues addressed
        - c. These reports do not have to be long, but they should be substantive
      5. Reports need to be shared with the [senate.vp@valpo.edu](mailto:senate.vp@valpo.edu) Google account by Thanksgiving break.
  - c. SECRETARY: Hannah Williamson
    - i. Please send pictures of yourselves at org events in your Senate shirts
  - d. PRESS SECRETARY: Nathan Harmon
    - i. New YouTube Handle ([youtube.com/@ValpoSenate](https://youtube.com/@ValpoSenate))
    - ii. Meet Senators Posters in progress
  - e. EXECUTIVE TREASURER: Allison Plachta

- i. No report

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. EXECUTIVE: Sophia Behrens
  - i. Thank you for participating in the Trick-or-Treat event!
- b. OPERATIONS: Mikayla Flanagan
  - i. No report
- c. STUDENT EXPERIENCE: Meshach Melton
  - i. Dining commission meeting with Parkhurst soon
  - ii. Voting on commission members in new business
- d. DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: Riley Sedlar
  - i. Town Hall Roundtable Loke Hall 6-8pm this Wednesday (attendance highly encouraged!)
    - 1. Four tables with different topics of discussion
    - 2. Please bring laptop to take notes and wear Senate shirt
  - ii. Generosity Week Blood Drive Volunteering- sign up for blood drive sent in email! Please sign up  Generosity Week Blood Drive FA22
- e. ELECTIONS & OUTREACH: Makenzie Ward
  - i. Voting in New Business

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. First Year Senator
  - i. [Lysandra Bahena](#)
  - ii. -Committee Vote 3-0-0
  - iii. Motion to vote (Flanagan), Second (Mandile)
  - iv. Approved 18-0-0
- b. Student Experience Commission
  - i. Annie Liemohn - Dining Commission
  - ii. Bella Pitman - Campus Safety and Parking Commission
  - iii. Motion to vote as a slate: (Hillebrand) Second (Mandile)
  - iv. Approved 18-0-0

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion on Fall Break workload
  - i. Assignments due over break
    - 1. Emphasize this as a time of rest to recharge
    - 2. Seems to vary by major
  - ii. Tests and exams the Monday after break
    - 1. Students who go home don't have the same study resources
    - 2. Maybe either finish things before the break or wait until Wednesday or Thursday after break
    - 3. Group projects - people who are procrastinating can give more stress, too.
    - 4. A real break makes students ready to jump back in
  - iii. All students receiving a midterm grade for every course
    - 1. Students are concerned about their standing in their courses. Midterms let students know how they are doing.
- b. Executive committee can come speak to the college deans about this issue - educational policy committee. Can make a proposal to the deans. Faculty senate might also be interested in hearing about these concerns.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. What is the school doing about the GM situation last night? What are we doing/what can we do to protect our students and make them feel safe?
  - i. (Dean Blevins): This is an egregious violation of trust for our student body. We are meeting with VUPD and directors to address further safety measures that we can do to protect students.
  - ii. Please report anything you see and be aware of safety precautions (don't hold doors open, lock bedrooms, etc.).
  - iii. We are working to do better and protect our students.
  - iv. We don't currently have cameras in the hallways because of privacy concerns. Looking into where we can have cameras without violating privacy in the dorms.
  - v. Keys to the bathrooms for residents?
  - vi. Possibly extend shower walls higher and lower
  - vii. Locking doors like Berg has?
  - viii. Cameras in the stairwells
  - ix. Higher shower partitions are good for tall students, too
- b. Oliver -
  - i. maps on campus are exactly the same on both sides - we need map of the whole campus
  - ii. At the Union there is nothing to look at. Big blank wall. Maybe put a mural or something like that there. Thoughtful and artistic. One of the stairwells has a beautiful quilt and the other has nothing. Plants in the stairwell might be nice. Lower level feels like... sad (not a dungeon, but not a happy place). Add some color or life down there. Make the Union a welcoming place everywhere.
  - iii. WVUR wants to become a radio station that is truly serving our student body.

10. ADVISORS' REPORTS:

- a. Generosity Week is November 12 - 18
- b. Quality of Life Survey

11. QUICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Senator Mikayla Flanagan - the Girls on the Run race is being held on campus this year! It is this Saturday, November 12, and Gamma Phi Beta is tabling 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday in the union if you want to buy a t-shirt for \$5 or sign up to be a volunteer!!

12. ADJOURNMENT: 9:33