

ADDENDUM II.b TO THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

The Media Commission

The Media Commission shall be an advisory committee under the purview of the Operations Committee, found in [Addendum II](#) of the Bylaws of the Student Senate. The Media Commission, while not a standing committee, will have the authority to bring legislation through to the Operations Committee, and subsequently to the Student Senate General Assembly. The Media Commission shall have its own set of bylaws under Addendum II.b to solidify editorial freedom for Valparaíso University Media organizations.

ARTICLE I: Authorization

The student media organizations have been authorized by the Student Senate to serve the Valparaíso Community, and the Student Senate has empowered the Media Commission as an advisory committee under the Operations Committee of Student Senate to:

1. Advise campus media organizations and help shape campus media policy;
2. Select the Media Executives of campus media organizations;
3. Review the media organizations budget requests and make a final recommendation to the Student Senate;
4. Serve as a forum for discussion of campus media issues;
5. Censure or remove Media Executives from campus media organizations.
6. Recommend removal of Media Executives from campus media organizations to the Student Senate.

ARTICLE II: Membership

Section A: The Media Commission shall consist of the following members:

1. One (1) Student Senator serving as the Media delegate Chair who votes in the case of a tie
2. All Media Executives, or a representative proxy voter, from each Media organization

3. All professional advisors of each Media organization, *ex-officio*, non-voting
4. One (1) professional advisor from Student Senate, *ex-officio*, non-voting

Section B: The media organizations include:

1. The Torch Newspaper
2. The Beacon Yearbook
3. The Lighter Literary Magazine
4. WVUR-FM radio station with license held by the Lutheran University Association
5. VUTV on-campus, closed network television station and YouTube channel.

Section C: Quorum for the Media Commission shall be 4 of 5 voting members of the commission. If the Media Executive of a media organization cannot attend the meeting, they shall appoint a proxy voter from their organization in their place. Each organization shall only have one (1) voting representative at each formal meeting of the Commission.

ARTICLE III: Media Executives

Section A: Appointment

Clause 1: Within three weeks of Spring Break each year, the Media Executives for the following academic year shall be selected by the Media Commission.

Clause 2: Qualifications:

1. Must be a full-time student
2. Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5

Clause 3: Procedure:

1. The Media Executive application will be available in the myValpo portal no later than March 1 of each year.
2. An announcement to campus will be made once the application is available to all students.
3. Applications will be reviewed by the members of the Media Commission and the interview process will be outlined.

4. Announcement of the appointed Media Executives will be made at the conclusion of the selection process.

Clause 4: If a Media Executive is unable to continue their duties until the end of their term of appointment, selection of a replacement for the duration of the term shall be identified and reviewed by the Media Commission membership.

Section B: Role

Clause 1: The Media Executives are the chief officials of each organization.

Clause 2: The Media Executive has authority to select student staff members, and is fully responsible for their actions.

Clause 3: Media Executives may request that the University enter into a binding multi-year contracts affecting their publications only with the approval of the Commission.

Section C: Grievances

Clause 1: The Media Commission shall be responsible for hearing all formal complaints against a Media Executive.

Clause 2: When proceeding under this section any Media Executive(s) named in the grievance shall not participate in any voting or discussion, except to provide a statement to the Commission and field questions from the Commission.

Clause 3: The Media Commission shall have sole authority to censure and/or remove a Media Executive.

Section C: The actions of Media Executives regarding publications and/or broadcasts that do not comply with the codes of the Committee or with the organization's own approved codes shall be subject to questioning by the Commission.

Section D: The Commission may require the Media Executive to be responsible for the broadcast or printing of a correction, retraction, or apology if the Executive has flagrantly violated one of the responsibilities outlined in this code.

Section E: Refusal to broadcast or print a retraction must be justified to a meeting of the Committee in plenary session, which will then decide whether this refusal is grounds for initiating the grievance procedure.

Section F: An Executive who persistently or flagrantly violates this code may be removed from office by action of the Media Commission.

ARTICLE IV: Meetings

Section A: The Media Commission will meet four times a year with at least one meeting in the fall semester.

Section B: The spring meetings will focus on determining the schedule for Media Head selection and budget submissions.

ARTICLE V: Editorial Freedom and Responsibility

Section A: Editorial Freedom

Clause 1: Freedom of expression and debate by means of free student media is essential in an educational community and a democratic society. The Media Commission shall ensure that the freedoms of the student media organizations are not abridged by confiscation of print issues or of facilities; suspension of publication or broadcasting; academic, personal, or financial sanctions; arbitrary removal of staff members; or threats of these actions.

Clause 2: The executives of each media organization shall have full responsibility for
The policies and content of their media. No one outside of the student staff shall delete, dictate, or revise the content of the student media, except as specified in this code.

Section B: Editorial Responsibility

Clause 1: Each Media Executive shall recognize a responsibility to adhere to a Generally accepted code of ethics.

1. The Station Manager of WVUR-FM shall be familiar with and be responsible for compliance with the Code of the National Association of Broadcasters, the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission that apply to non-profit educational broadcast licensees, the Student Senate Bylaws and this code.
2. The Editors-in-Chief of the Beacon, Lighter, and Torch and the Executive Director of VUTV shall be familiar with and attempt to uphold professional standards of journalistic excellence as defined by those within the field, the Student Senate Bylaws and this code.

Clause 2: The executive of each organization shall be familiar with professional Standards for what constitutes obscenity and defamation. Each executive shall be responsible for reviewing definitions of what constitutes obscenity and defamation (listed within each organization's codes/constitution) with all management and staff members on at least an annual basis.

Clause 3: The executive of each media organization shall maintain the highest standards of accuracy and fairness, and shall respect the rights of all persons.

ARTICLE VI: Finances

Section A: The student media organizations shall be funded by the Student Senate budget, and may have additional income from advertising, from subscriptions and from other related fees approved by the Media Commission. The Media Commission Organizations shall receive 30% of the available Student Senate funding.

Section B: The budget proposal of each media organization shall be created by the MediaExecutive, the Business Manager (when applicable), and Advisor, and submitted within the deadlines provided by the Student Senate Treasurer.

Section C: The Media Commission membership will review all budget requests and determine final budget recommendations based on the standard percentage allotted each year by the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VIII: New Media Commission Recognized Organization

Section A: Recognition of a Media Organization

Clause 1: Individuals wishing to begin such a new media organization must submit a proposal to the Commission which specifies:

1. Mission and purpose of the new organization
2. Editorial/management staff structure and duties
3. Editorial policies and operations handbook
4. Obscenity policy
5. Frequency of broadcast/publication
6. Location of organization
7. Itemized budget
8. Proposed sources of revenue (advertising, subscription, etc.)
9. Other relevant information requested by the Committee

Clause 2: The Commission will review the materials at the next scheduled meeting to discuss the proposal with the individual(s) who submitted the request.

Clause 3: The proposed media organization may be approved as a probationary Media organization by majority vote of the Media Commission, subject to the approval of the Operations Committee of Student Senate and the Student Senate.