

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE

Current version approved on April 3, 2023

We, the students of Valparaiso University, in order to provide a place to discuss issues and have a means to take action on these issues in a positive, effective fashion, do hereby adopt this, the Constitution of the Valparaiso University Student Senate, as a means and tool for governance.

ARTICLE I Valparaiso University Student Senate Membership

Section A Composition:

The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall consist of voting members chosen by the electors of their respective constituencies. Elections shall be carried out as set forth in Article VI.

Section B Qualifications:

1. All Student Senators must have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above and be an undergraduate student. Student Senators for the graduate seat must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above and be selected by the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC).
2. All Student Senators, with the exception of first-year seats, must also have completed at least twelve (12) credit hours at Valparaiso University.

Section C All Student Senators must be representative of their specific constituencies for the duration of the term of office. All Student Senators must be a member of the constituency that they represent.

Section D Duties:

Clause 1 All Student Senators must attend and participate in all meetings of the Valparaiso University Student Senate and any Standing Committees of which they are members.

Clause 2 All Senators shall prepare and submit a semesterly constituency report in a manner to be defined by the Vice President. This report will include, but not be limited to, the concerns of the Senator's constituency with responses to the current Valparaiso University issues involving the Student Senate.

Clause 3 All Student Senators shall serve on a University committee or Council as assigned by the Student Body President and report to the General Assembly about their committee as often as the committee or Council meets.

Clause 4 All Student Senators shall attend at least one student organization event or meeting, of which they are not already a member, per semester and notify the Executive Secretary of their attendance.

Clause 5 Impeachment:

If a Student Senator is charged with misconduct or negligence of duty, impeachment procedures shall be initiated as stated in Article VII.

Clause 6 Resignation:

A Student Senator who wishes to resign their respective position at any time may do so on two conditions:

1. The Student Senator submits a formal letter of resignation to the Student Body Vice President.
2. The Student Senator has informed the Screening, Elections & Outreach Committee of the vacancy that their resignation will make.

Section E No Senator shall simultaneously serve in any Executive role set forth in Article I or any Executive role set forth in the Bylaws. This shall not prevent Senators from properly serving on the Executive Committee. No Senator may simultaneously hold more than a single seat in the Student Senate. No Senator may ever serve in a capacity such that it would afford the Senator an ability to cast multiple votes in a

single meeting or in a meeting of a Student Senate standing committee.

ARTICLE II Executive Offices of the Student Body

Section A Student Body President

Clause 1 Qualifications:

At the beginning of the term of office, the Student Body President shall have at least the rank of Junior in the College in which they are enrolled. The President shall also have completed at least forty-five (45) credit hours at Valparaiso University and have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above. The President will also be an undergraduate student and may not hold any other salaried position funded by student activity fees. The President will not be enrolled in any graduate-level courses.

Clause 2 Duties:

1. The Student Body President will be mandated to have a minimum of one semester of Student Senate experience by the first day of the academic year in which the office will be held.
2. The Student Body President shall act in an executive and advisory capacity.
3. The Student Body President shall be a voting member of the University Council and shall inform the University Council about matters of student concern.
4. The Student Body President shall be the Chairperson of the Student Senate Executive Committee.
5. The Student Body President shall have veto power over the Student Senate within one week of any action approved by the Student Senate.
6. The Student Body President shall retain the services of, but not limited to the following: Executive Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Relations Coordinator.
7. The Student Body President shall have the power to appoint ad hoc committees.

8. The Student Body President shall have the power to appoint and remove executive aides.
9. The Student Body President shall have the power to call special meetings of the Student Senate, and must if requested by five Senators.
10. The Student Body President shall have the power to call Open Forum/Town Hall Meetings and must if requested by a majority vote of the Student Senate.
11. The Student Body President shall have the power to call a referendum and must if requested by a majority vote of the Student Senate. (Referendums asking for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall not be valid under this subsection).
12. The Student Body President shall fulfill the responsibilities granted by organizations and committees outside of Student Senate and appoint student officers to said organizations if requested.
13. The Student Body President shall have the power to appoint University Council alternates.
14. The Student Body President shall serve as an *ex-officio*, non-voting member of all standing committees of Student Senate.
15. The Student Body President shall hold and maintain at least two office hours per week in the Student Senate Office of the Harre Union.
16. The Student Body President shall submit a quarterly report to the Vice President of Student Life to be placed with the agenda materials for the Quarterly Report to the Board of Directors.
17. The Student Body President shall attend all meetings, alongside the Student Body Vice President, of the Campus Life Committee, or equivalent committee, of the Board of Directors of Valparaiso University.
18. The Student Body President shall attend all meetings of the President's Roundtable with the Office of Student Life and disseminate all information from these meetings to the Student Senate Executive Committee.

If the Student Body President is charged with misconduct or negligence of duty, impeachment procedures shall be initiated as stated in Article VII.

Section B Student Body Vice President

Clause 1 Qualifications:

At the beginning of the term of office, the Student Body Vice President shall have at least the rank of Junior in the College in which enrolled. The Vice President shall also have completed at least forty-five (45) credit hours at Valparaiso University and have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above. The Vice President will also be an undergraduate student and may not hold any other salaried position funded by student activity fees. The Vice President will not be enrolled in any graduate-level courses.

1. The Vice President will be mandated to have a minimum of one semester of Student Senate experience by the first day of the academic year in which the office will be held.
2. The one semester prerequisite for the Vice Presidential Office may be waived for a potential candidate with no Student Senate experience, if the candidate is brought before the Screening Committee to be granted the ability to run for Vice President. The Screening Committee must agree by simple majority that the potential candidate has sufficient knowledge about the Student Senate to enable adequate performance of the Vice President's duties, even though the candidate has not met the one semester prerequisite outlined in Article 1, Section B, Clause 1, Sub-point 1. A potential candidate who has no Student Senate experience is entitled to meet with the Screening Committee for the purpose of securing an exception but must schedule said meeting at least one week prior to the mandatory elections meeting.

Clause 3 Duties:

1. The Student Body Vice President shall act as the Chairperson of the Student Senate.

2. The Student Body Vice President shall be responsible for the internal operations of the Student Senate and will act in an Executive capacity to accomplish such tasks.
3. The Student Body Vice President shall be responsible for the proper execution of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Senate by its membership, though culpability for improper execution of those documents shall be the sole responsibility of the errant individual.
4. The Student Body Vice President shall call all regular meetings of the Student Senate.
5. The Student Body Vice President shall notify all members of the Student Senate of all regular and special meetings of the Student Senate, informing them of the time and place of such meetings.
6. The Student Body Vice President shall set the agenda for all meetings of the Student Senate subject to the approval of Student Senate.
7. The Student Body Vice President shall hold and maintain at least two office hours per week in the Student Senate Office of the Harre Union.
8. The Student Body Vice President shall attend at least two (2) meetings of each of the Operations Committee and of the Student Experience Committee and shall be required to attend a meeting of any other Standing Committee if notified by the Chair of that committee that an issue has arisen that requires the Vice President's attention.
9. The Student Body Vice President shall meet at least weekly with the Student Body President to discuss, in detail, occurrences within the Student Senate.
10. The Student Body Vice President shall be responsible for the management, repair, and control of all Student Senate property and shall keep a record of the location of all property at all times.
11. The Student Body Vice President shall attend all meetings, alongside the Student Body President, of the Campus Life Committee, or equivalent committee, of the Board of Directors of Valparaiso University.

Clause 3	<p>Impeachment:</p> <p>If the Student Body Vice President is charged with misconduct or negligence of duty, impeachment procedures shall be initiated as stated in Article VII.</p>
Section C	Executive Treasurer of the Student Senate
Clause 1	<p>Qualifications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the beginning of the term of office, the Executive Treasurer shall be a current student at Valparaiso University and have completed at least forty-five (45) credit hours at Valparaiso University with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5, and have completed and passed at least one course in either the Accounting or Finance departments at Valparaiso University. The Executive Treasurer shall hold no other stipend position within Student Senate or Student Senate recognized student organizations.
Clause 2	<p>Duties</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Executive Treasurer shall keep a full record of all incomes and expenditures of the Student Senate and shall be held accountable for all transactions. 2. The Executive Treasurer shall make no disbursements from the general treasury except as authorized by the Student Senate. 3. The Executive Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing a financial report, consisting of all allocated and remaining Special Appropriations funds and presenting it to the Student Senate on a semesterly basis. 4. The Executive Treasurer shall perform the duties outlined in Addendum VI. 5. The Executive Treasurer shall perform any other duties of a financial nature assigned by the Student Body President or Student Body Vice President. 6. The Executive Treasurer shall chair the Operations Committee in accordance with Addendum II.

7. The Executive Treasurer shall sign off on budgets prepared by the Operations Committee and Funding Commissions.
8. The outgoing Executive Treasurer shall transfer the duties of the office and the books during the last quarter of the academic year to the incoming Executive Treasurer.
9. The Executive Treasurer shall serve as a voting member of the Executive Committee.
10. The Executive Treasurer shall hold and maintain at least two office hours per week in the Student Senate Office of the Harre Union.

Clause 4 Impeachment:

If the Executive Treasurer of the Student Senate is charged with misconduct or negligence of duty, impeachment procedures shall be initiated as stated in Article VII.

Section D Executive Secretary of the Student Senate

Clause 1 Qualifications

1. At the beginning of the term of office, the Executive Secretary shall be a current student at Valparaiso University and have completed at least twenty-four (24) credit hours at Valparaiso University with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. The Executive Secretary shall hold no other stipend position within Student Senate or Student Senate recognized student organizations.

Clause 2 Duties

1. The Executive Secretary shall keep an accurate record and copy of the minutes and motions presented at all meetings of the Student Senate. The Executive Secretary shall also distribute said minutes to all members of the Student Senate and shall submit all minutes and motions to the Public Relations Coordinator of Student Senate for distribution to the Student Body.

2. The Executive Secretary shall keep an accurate record of attendance and inform any member of the Student Senate requesting such information.
3. The Executive Secretary shall keep the Student Senate archives, consisting of all past minutes of Student Senate meetings and other documents. Appropriate records should be distributed to the appropriate source.
4. The Executive Secretary shall conduct administrative tasks related to office organization, filing, photocopying, computer-related tasks appropriate to official record-keeping, and other office-related tasks, as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
5. The Executive Secretary shall serve as a voting member of the Student Senate Executive Committee.
6. The Executive Secretary shall hold and maintain at least two office hours per week in the Student Senate Office of the Harre Union.
7. The Executive Secretary shall advise the Student Senate on the correct operating procedures according to Robert's Rules of Order and those documents which govern the operation of Student Senate.
8. The Executive Secretary shall be available to lend assistance to members of the Student Senate wishing to discuss points of parliamentary procedure.

Clause 4

Impeachment:

If the Executive Secretary of the Student Senate is charged with misconduct or negligence of duty, impeachment procedures shall be initiated as stated in Article VII.

Section E

Public Relations Coordinator of the Student Senate

Clause 1

Qualifications

1. At the beginning of the term of office, the Public Relations Coordinator shall be a current student at Valparaíso University and have completed at least twenty-four (24) credit hours at

Valparaiso University, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. The Public Relations Coordinator shall hold no other stipend position within Student Senate or Student Senate recognized student organizations.

Clause 2

Duties

1. The Public Relations Coordinator shall disseminate information to the Student Body to inform them of Student Senate actions, events, policies, and anything else that may satisfy the Student Body's concerns.
2. The Public Relations Coordinator shall be responsible for drafting and distributing Student Senate Statements and Press Releases. Any committee in the Student Senate can coordinate with the Public Relations Coordinator to create a statement. These statements must be approved by the Student Body President before being released.
3. The Public Relations Coordinator shall maintain and manage all Student Senate social media accounts.
4. The Public Relations Coordinator shall be responsible for updating, maintaining, and adding new content to the Student Senate website and the Student Senate Google Calendar as needed throughout the academic year.
5. The Public Relations Coordinator shall hold and maintain at least two office hours per week in the Student Senate Office of the Harre Union.
6. The Public Relations Coordinator shall serve as a voting member of the Student Senate Executive Committee.
7. The Public Relations Coordinator shall perform any other duties assigned by the Student Body President or Student Body Vice President, subject to the authority of the Student Body President.
8. The Public Relations Coordinator shall upload all motions and minutes of Student Senate on the Senate website.

Clause 4

Impeachment:

If the Public Relations Coordinator of the Student Senate is charged with misconduct or negligence of duty, impeachment procedures shall be initiated as stated in Article VII.

ARTICLE III Powers of the Valparaiso University Student Senate

- Section A The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall have the power to regulate, coordinate, and discipline the functioning of any activity, organization or concern delegated to the Student Body in Article III of the Instrument for Internal Governance of Valparaiso University.
- Section B The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall have the power to establish and maintain committees and organizations in order to best serve the needs and interests of the Student Body of the University.
- Section C The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall have the power to draft proposals and make recommendations that are out of its specific jurisdiction. The Student Body President shall present such proposals to the University Council or appropriate body.
- Section D The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall have the power to propose or recommend the specific action or general principle to any member of the University community. Such proposals shall be sent through the President of the University.
- Section E The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall have the power to override a veto of the Student Body President by a $\frac{2}{3}$ (two-thirds) affirmative vote of the entire Student Senate.
- Section F The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall have the power to make and amend its own Constitution, Bylaws, and accompanying Addendums.
- Section G The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall, in the course of the execution of all functions, operations, and activities, follow any and

all applicable guidelines as stated within University policy and governing documents, including but not limited to:

- Nondiscrimination and Equality of Opportunity Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Valparaiso University Student Handbook

ARTICLE IV Meetings of the Valparaiso University Student Senate

Section A The Valparaiso University Student Senate shall hold regular meetings, at least biweekly, throughout the academic year. Such meetings shall be open to all members of the Student Body. If it is deemed necessary to close a regular meeting of the Valparaiso University Student Senate, it may be closed by a proper motion and a $\frac{2}{3}$ (two-thirds) vote.

Section B At least fifty-one (51) percent of all voting members and the Chair must be present to constitute a quorum at a meeting during the academic year. Voting membership does not include the Chair. Quorum must be maintained for the extent of any meeting.

Section C At least $\frac{2}{3}$ (two-thirds) of all voting members must be present to constitute a quorum at a special meeting, which is called by the Student Body President. Voting membership does not include the Chair. Quorum must be maintained for the extent of any meeting.

Section D Voting

Clause 1 Voting members are defined in Article II, Section A. The Chair shall serve as a non-voting member of the committee, except in the case of a tie.

Clause 2 Majority

1. Voting is defined among the voting members present as the explicit definition of “yea” or “nay,” and thereby excludes abstentions of those voting members present and the explicit input of those voting members not present.

2. A simple majority is defined upon the explicit agreement of more than 50% of those voting, which does not include those abstaining from the vote.
3. A $\frac{2}{3}$ (two-thirds) majority is defined upon the explicit agreement of more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of those voting, which does not include those abstaining from the vote.
4. In like form, therefore, all other majority definitions are defined accordingly.

Section E The Student Senate term for each academic year shall last from the first General Assembly meeting, outlined in Section F of this Article, until the Student Senate adjourns *sine die* in the spring semester. First-Year senator terms shall last from the first fall General Assembly meeting until the Student Senate adjourns *sine die* in the spring semester. The Student Senate will be divided into two sessions, one for the fall semester (beginning on or after the fall organizational meeting and lasting until the final day of the fall semester), and one for the spring semester (beginning on or after the spring organizational meeting and lasting until the Student Senate adjourns *sine die* in the spring semester).

Section F “Adjournment *Sine Die*” Procedure

Clause 1 Immediately following the adjournment of the last General Assembly meeting of the academic year in the spring semester, the newly elected senators, including the President- and Vice President-elect and selected Executive Board members, shall call an abbreviated General Assembly meeting to order for all members to take their oath of office. This shall usher in the next legislative session.

Clause 2 Immediately following the swearing in of all senators and new Executive Board members, the new Student Body Vice President shall lead the newly-sworn in General Assembly in the election of Standing Committee Chairs. Committees outlined in Article VII shall be the standing committees that must have a chair elected. Elected Chairs must meet qualifications outlined in Addendums [II](#), [III](#), [IV](#), and [V](#). Procedure must follow that of Article VII. The Executive

Committee Chair shall be the Student Body President.

Clause 3 The Executive Board shall maintain full authority of the Student Senate during the periods outside of the academic year. All procedures and decisions shall be made by the Executive Board but have to be approved by the General Assembly at the first formal meeting of the General Assembly in the fall.

Section G Please refer to [Addendum VIII](#) to see a current list of procedures and Robert's Rules of Order used by the Student Senate General Assembly.

ARTICLE V Finances of the Valparaiso University Student Senate

Section A The Student Senate is authorized by the University's Board of Directors to collect the Student Activities (Student Senate) portion of the general fee at 1% of the College of Arts and Sciences tuition up to a maximum of \$19,000 tuition and .6% (six/tenths of 1%) above \$19,000 per student. The University will cap the amount of money Student Senate receives from the Student Activities (Student Senate) portion of the general fee at \$622,455, which represents the amount transferred for fiscal year 2009. If any additional fees are collected by the University related to the Student Activities (Student Senate) portion of the general fee, said funds shall be used to reimburse the University for any funds it pays to the City of Valparaiso for the V-Line bus service. If sufficient fees are collected relating to the V-Line bus service, the additional fees will be transferred to the Student Senate.

Section B The accounts of the Student Senate shall be in the name of Valparaiso University Student Senate and monies shall be deposited only to the accounts of the Student Senate.

Section C The Chapel of the Resurrection shall transfer a percentage of their offerings only for the use of Chapel affiliated student organizations. These dollars are to be used following the same guidelines other Student Senate funded organizations follow. Should these groups

have unused dollars at the end of the fiscal year, those dollars shall be kept in the Student Senate account for discretionary funds.

Section D The budget of Student Senate shall be formulated for each academic year during the preceding spring semester based on projected student fees. The budget must also be ratified during the spring semester. Modifications to the budget due to the actual amount of student fees will be made in the fall semester of the budgeted academic year.

Section E The Student Senate financial policies with regard to recognized organizations will be determined in the Bylaws pertaining to said policies enacted by the Student Senate.

Section F The Operations Committee of the Student Senate shall review the status and amount of the Student Activity Fee every four years. Changes in policy must receive final approval from the University's Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI Elections of the Valparaiso University Student Senate

Section A The elections of the Student Senate shall be run and regulated in the manner set forth in the Bylaw named "Student Senate Elections." Amendments to the Bylaw named "Student Senate Elections" shall follow the procedure outlined in Article IX of the Constitution of the Valparaiso University Student Senate.

Section B The Student Senate shall appoint the Reapportionment Committee whenever the Body deems necessary to review the existing districts and representation in the Student Senate in the fall semester of the commissioned year. Refer to [Addendum V](#) for more information regarding the Reapportionment Committee.

Section C Any vacated office, with the exception of the Office of the Student Body President and the Office of the Student Body Vice President, shall be filled following the procedure outlined in the Duties of the Screening Committee.

Section D In the case of a vacancy of an Executive Officer of the Student Body, the office shall be filled in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VIII of the Constitution of the Valparaíso University Student Senate.

ARTICLE VII Impeachment

Section A Definition:

Clause 1 If a voting member of the Student Senate feels that one of the Executive Officers or Student Senators is guilty of misconduct or negligence of duty, that member shall initiate the impeachment procedures outlined in the following section of the Constitution of the Valparaíso University Student Senate.

Clause 2 For all Senators and Executive Officers, negligence includes, but is not limited to, three (3) absences per semester from regular Student Senate General Assembly meetings, excessive absences from Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, Senate Retreats, Senate Summits, or abuse of power of one's office.

Clause 3 For the office of Student Body President, negligence shall include all offenses listed in Clause 2 in addition to excessive absences from University Council meetings.

Section B Procedure

Clause 1 In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws, The Grievance Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over grievance proceedings.

Clause 2 A formal grievance, which may only be filed by a Senator or Executive Board member, must be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary who shall then serve as the Chair of the Grievance Committee.

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- Clause 3 Once the grievance is filed, the Executive Secretary must notify the Student Body Vice President within twenty-four (24) hours. The Student Body Vice President is then given forty-eight (48) hours to inform the accused of the nature of the charges and supply a written copy of the grievance to the accused with the name/signature of the accuser expunged.
- Clause 4 After the grievance has been filed, and the accused individual notified, The Student Body Vice President shall read the filed grievance to the General Assembly and notify the Student Senate that the Grievance Committee has been convened.
- Clause 5 The Grievance Committee shall first meet for one (1) closed session. This meeting is intended to allow the committee members to gather facts and evidence. Quorum is all voting members and the Chair.
- Clause 6 The accused will have the opportunity to meet with the Grievance Committee after the Grievance Committee's initial, closed meeting. This meeting must also occur after the Grievance Committee has collected the necessary evidence, but before the grievance resolution is formally voted upon in the General Assembly. If the accused desires to be, the Committee must allow for their presence to be included in the Committee's final meeting.
- Clause 7 The Grievance Committee must submit a formal decision in a resolution to the Senate within seven (7) academic days from the first formal reading. At the forthcoming General Assembly meeting, a formal reading of the grievance resolution containing the Grievance Committee's formal decision must then be presented to the Senate. The accused is afforded the right to present a formal defense to the Senate at that same General Assembly meeting. Voting must occur immediately following this formal defense and subsequent discussion.
- Clause 8 All impeachment procedures shall be conducted in closed sessions of the General Assembly meeting.

Clause 9 The Grievance Committee shall, in their proposed decision, upon majority vote, have the explicit discretion to recommend sanctions on Student Senators or Executive Officers in violation of the Student Senate Constitution and Bylaws.

Clause 10 A 3/4 (three-fourths) affirmative vote of the entire voting membership of the Student Senate shall be necessary to adopt any Grievance Committee decision.

Clause 11 If the accused is a voting member of the Senate, that individual must abstain from voting on their pending case.

Section C Impeachment Outcomes

Clause 1 If a member of the Student Senate is impeached, they shall be ineligible to run for any Student Senate position and student offices on University Council in the future. An impeached salaried member of the Senate shall be removed from office and shall forfeit all forthcoming salary at the time of removal from office.

Clause 2 If the Student Body Vice President is the recipient of the charges, then the Grievance Committee Chair shall perform the Vice President's grievance related duties as outlined in Article VII, Section B, Clause 3 in accordance with the procedure outlined in Article VII, Section B.

Clause 3 If the Student Body Vice President is accused of misconduct or negligence of duty, the line of succession applies as outlined in Article VIII of the Constitution of the Valparaiso University Student Senate. The Student Senate shall elect a Senator or Executive Committee member to serve as the Chairperson at all subsequent meetings concerning the impeachment.

ARTICLE VIII Succession of Powers

- Section A In the event that the Student Body President is determined to be unfit for office per Article I, Section A, Clause 1, or Article VII of the Constitution of the Valparaíso University Student Senate or resigns from office, the duties shall be assumed by the Student Body Vice President.
- Section B In the event of the absence of the Student Body Vice President due to assumption of the Presidential duties or if determined to be unfit for office per Article I, Section B, Clause 1 or Article VII of the Constitution of the Valparaíso University Student Senate, or resignation, a member of the voting body of the Student Senate Executive Committee shall be elected Student Senate Chair *Pro Tempore* of the Student Senate.
- Section C In the event of the absence of the Student Body Vice President due to illness or other excusable reason, the Executive Secretary of the Student Senate shall serve as Student Senate Chair *Pro Tempore*. In the additional event of the absence of the Executive Secretary of the Student Senate for any reason, the Student Body President shall have the power to order a regular meeting of the Student Senate and call for an election of a Student Senate Chair *Pro Tempore*. Nominees must be a voting member of the Student Senate Executive Committee and cannot be the Student Body President.
- Section D Any remaining duties of the Vice President shall be assumed by the Student Senate Executive Committee per [Addendum I](#), Section B, Clause 5.
- Section E In the event that both the Office of the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President are vacant because of the events described in Article VIII, an emergency meeting of the Student Senate Executive Committee shall be called by the Executive Secretary of the Student Senate where members of the committee will do the following:
1. Elect a temporary Chair to conduct the emergency meeting. This person cannot be a nominee to fill the offices of the President or Vice President. The Chair shall not have a vote.

2. Nominate any Senator or Executive Officer of the Student Senate who meets the requirements to be the Student Body President as outlined in Article I, Section A, Clause 1.
3. Nominate any Senator or Executive Officer of the Student Senate who meets the requirements to be the Student Body Vice President as outlined in Article I, Section B, Clause 1.
4. Once all nominations have been made and have been deemed eligible to hold the office they are nominated for the floor shall be closed to nominations.
5. A vote shall then be held to fill the Office of Student Body President. Voting shall be conducted in accordance with Addendum I, Section B, Clause 8 and with the procedures set in Robert's Rules of Order.
6. The nominee who received a majority vote of the Student Senate Executive Committee shall thereby become the Student Body President for the remainder of the unexpired term of that office. Should no nominee receive a majority vote of the committee the nominee with the least amount of votes shall be eliminated from consideration and another vote shall be held until one nominee receives a majority vote of the committee.
7. A vote shall then be held to fill the Office of Student Body Vice President. Voting shall be conducted in accordance with Addendum I, Section B, Clause 8 and with the procedures set in Robert's Rules of Order.
8. The nominee who receives a majority vote of the Student Senate Executive Committee shall thereby become the Student Body Vice President for the remainder of the unexpired term of that office. Should no nominee receive a majority vote of the committee the nominee with the least amount of votes shall be eliminated from consideration and another vote shall be held until one nominee receives a majority vote of the committee.
9. The committee shall then adjourn and the President-designate and Vice President-designate shall be sworn in at the beginning of the next meeting of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE IX Amendments to the Constitution

Section A A $\frac{7}{8}$ (seven-eighths) affirmative vote in a single meeting is required to approve amendments to the Constitution of the Valparaiso University Student Senate. Student Senators must be given at least seven (7) days written notice prior to voting on proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Valparaiso University Student Senate, and the proposed amendments must be presented and read aloud to Student Senate at least seven (7) days prior to be voted on.

Section B Amendments can also be made by a majority of affirmative votes cast by at least $\frac{1}{3}$ (one-third) of the Student Body in a referendum called by the Student Body President upon receipt of a petition bearing at least one-sixth of the Student Body.

Section C All amendments shall be validated when ratified by the Provost of the University.

Section D All amendments to the Constitution, once ratified by the Provost of the University, shall take effect in the following academic year.

ARTICLE X Non-Discrimination Policy

Section A The Valparaiso University Student Senate, consistent with its efforts to foster an environment of respect for the dignity and worth of all members of the University student community, prohibits unlawful discrimination and harassment by all students. The Valparaiso University Student Senate reaffirms its commitment to maintaining an academic and working environment, which is fair, respectful, and free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. To these ends the following policy has been adopted: It is the policy of the Valparaiso University Student Senate to prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, age, sexual orientation or national origin in administering its various programs and policies.

ARTICLE XI Adoption

Section A This Constitution shall become operative immediately upon ratification by the Valparaiso University Student Senate and the signatures of the following persons, each representing their appropriate source of power.

Sophia Behrens, Student Body President

Lucas Lennen, Student Body Vice President

Steven Janowiak, Vice President for Student Life