A Digital Business Process for Student Organization Recognition

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The Challenge
Valparaiso University (VU) Student Senate’s current conglomeration of paperwork and excel spreadsheets to maintain and manage a record of student-led organizations on-campus has proven to be highly inefficient and unhelpful. The original process was a google form that stored information in a spreadsheet that would then have to be manually manipulated and parsed by the Student Senate Committee.

Not only is it difficult for those on Student Senate to manage the annual recognition and re-recognition process, but the organizations themselves also have no access to their information once it has been submitted. The project entailed taking the forms and access points, as well as data storage points and converging them all into one place.

Our Approach
Our system employs a MySQL database that will maintain a record of all organizations with information on their officers, contact information, links to their constitutions, and final budget values, among other information. The interface will allow Student Senate and the organizations themselves to access the information for each organization using Python’s Flask framework. This framework also includes a web version of the form each organization is required to fill out and turn in as part of the recognition or re-recognition process, as well as forms to inform Student Senate of changes to an organization’s officers or advisors. The finished result has an emphasis on robust internal construction and longevity. Through this database, Student Senate will be able to manage and maintain a record of all on-campus, student-led organizations, both current and previous, as well as maintain records of their officers, contact information, final budget, etc.

Tools and Applications
- Python
- Flask
- MySQL
- Git
- JavaScript
- Jinja

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