

## **Union Council Minutes February 7, 2017**

Attendance: Susan Dibbell, Omar Jandal, Peter Lipton, Jessica Franco-Morales, Chris Verhaeghe, Caleb Foust, Heidi Lang, Mark Guthier, Deshawn McKinney, Lily Hansen, Carmen Gosey, Samuel Park, Adan Abu Hakmeh, Juli Aulik, Madison Laning, George Cutlip

Guests: Mason Muerhoff, Shauna Breneman, Jane Oberdorf

Absent: Peter Lipton and Lori Berquam

Deshawn called the meeting to order 6:05 p.m.

Minutes of the January 17 meeting were approved.

### **Officer Selection**

Deshawn reviewed the process for the February 21<sup>st</sup> officer selection meeting. Handouts provided with the agenda include Selection Criteria, Expectations for the Nominating Committee and Expectations for Union Council.

### **Financial Snapshot from December**

Jane Oberdorf reviewed the financial snapshot through December. \$224,000 favorable bottom line, but opening of the first floor restaurants and filling vacant positions will cut into positive bottom line.

### **2017-2018 Union Operating Budget**

Jane provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Union's FY'17-18 budget request. Summary sent with the agenda.

- First draft of the budget had the Union with a \$2 million deficit. Gap was closed by asking revenue units to generate more income, close Markets at School of Human Ecology and Nursing in the summer, book more catering events and add a modest price increase on limited item
- Proposed a 1% increase in Student Segregated Fees, or \$1.37 per student per semester
- Mark answered Adan's question on Alumni Park, stating that the opening date is still unknown. However revenue projections were

based on a an assumed fully accessible Alumni Park

- Deficits from FY17 and FY18 are absorbed by the Union, and the segregated fee increase will happen in FY18
- Lines 72-73 in the '16-17 budget column D were possibly switched
- Mark announced that UHS is asking for a 9 percent increase in segregated fees, and Rec Sports for 9 percent increase as well
- Discussion opened with goal to vote on a budget to send to SSFC
- Jessica expressed concern that the new State budget leaves a great deal of uncertainty in being able to pass a budget without compensating for the probability that students will opt out of funding for GSSFs
- Susan and Mark suggested a unified approach from the non allocable and allocable units to make a statement about the State budget
  - i. Deshawn, Madison, Juli and Omar agree and note that passing our budget and making a statement on the State budget are two different tasks
  - ii. Jessica reiterated that she would like Mark to reflect on directors of non-allocable units' request for a 9% increase
  - iii. Chris Verhaeghe motioned to approve the budget, Caleb seconded. The budget passed unanimously

## 2. Subcommittee Reports

- Adan stated that there have been no council members at Facilities meetings, reminded the group of the next meeting and agenda

## 3. Updates

- All members spoke about how to proceed with issuing a statement regarding the State budget
- Sense of the Council was taken, and the Council charged Mark and Deshawn to release a fact-based statement on the behalf of the Council describing the Union's budget process and how governance works at the Wisconsin Union
- Mark and Deshawn were also charged with drafting a statement to be sent to campus leadership about the State's proposed budget will harm student organizations as well as the institution
- Adan also recommended a statement be issued against the travel ban: charged Mark and Deshawn with creating a statement supporting students targeted by the travel ban, including signage in the Union. This statement to be done by Friday at 5pm. Union Council does not need to review.

Lily motioned to adjourn, Omar seconds, passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.