

## **Union Council October 25, 2017 Minutes**

In Attendance: Nick Munce, Liz Preston, Omar Jandal, Mark Guthier, Iffat Bhuiyan, Forrest Koslowski, Chris Verhaeghe, Sydney Weiser, Heidi Lang, Max Goldfarb, George Cutlip, Courtney Medick, Lori Berquam (Ex-Officio), Susan Dibbell, Billy Welsh

Guests: Adam Yeazel, Mills Botham, Mark Strayer, Edie Block, Shauna Breneman, Mary Russell, Farhat Bhuiyan

Absent: Samuel Park

5:30 pm Welcome & Dinner

5:55 pm The Union Officers and Council Members gathered to take a Union Council Photo.

6:04 pm Meeting called to Order

Max motioned to approve the minutes from September 27, 2017. Omar seconded and the motion passed.

### **Open Forum**

Iffat opened the floor for an open forum, but no one addressed anything at this time. She then introduced Billy Welsh, who will attend meetings for Katrina to represent Associated Students of Madison.

### **Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD) Goals**

Courtney listed the goals for WUD 2017-18: 1) invest in internal student development, 2) recognize the continuum of student-staff partnership and 3) increasing campus awareness and understanding of WUD's programming and leadership. She then provided examples for each and Nick said that at each meeting he will provide new examples for how they are working to achieve these goals.

Mark moved to approve the WUD Goals. Max seconded and the motion passed.

### **Marina Project**

Mark provided historic context for the Marina Project. He explained that the Union did not want students to have to pay for new piers due to how expensive they were, and instead viewed them as a gift-funded opportunity.

Mills walked through the updates on the Marina Project. He said that the footings on the piers are rusting away, and over the past couple of years he and others have been working to find funding to replace it entirely. They are hoping for five new piers, new upgrades and an entirely new system, which will come out to about \$2.5 million. He also revealed that they discovered that the sea wall along the lakefront is not embedded deep enough due to erosion, which provides safety issues and causes the cost to increase to about \$3.5 million.

Mills explained that the new pier system would be safer and more efficient because it will be easier to place them in the water and take them out, and will be easier to clean and maintain. He also stated that they are planning on installing a new davit crane which would mean there would be no need to rent cranes in the future, ultimately saving about \$6,000/year.

He stated that they hope to have the concrete set by Fall 2018, and build the piers by Spring 2019. To do this, they will have to close the season earlier, which will lose them money, but he reassured that they would lose less than if they had to build during the spring season. He then opened the floor for any questions or concerns.

George asked where the piers would be built and Mills replied that they would be built off-site and then brought back.

Max asked how they arrived to the first number for the cost and Mills answered that he was not sure, but suggested that it was probably what the Union's initial estimate and Mark confirmed that as a fair assessment.

Liz asked what kind of impact the project will have on boat rentals and he replied that they will inevitably lose money because the project will interrupt the fall season, but that would be better than interrupting the spring season because that one is generally more profitable. Liz then asked if there was an environmental impact on the pier project, and Mills said that they held numerous community meetings to address and concerns but none were brought up.

Sydney asked if this will disrupt Memorial Union and Mills explained that it will not.

Max asked if the project would be funded by students' segregated fees, and Mills assured that it would be funded by gifts.

Omar asked if putting in a new dock would clear out space and mitigate risk in the area. Mills explained that two of the boats (the Badger Techs and the 420s) will be kept out permanently on the "T" dock and for purpose of what they do, will rig them to dock. He said that right now they have ramp system which is very difficult and tedious, and the new "T" dock has a back end that sits low enough to sit and pull out straight into the water.

Forrest added that lots of community members use the piers, and the project supports community and mitigates any risk so it is a major upgrade. Mills added that it upgrades the aesthetic.

Liz moves to accept the Marina Project. Omar seconds and the motion passes.

## **WUD Committee Directors**

### WUD Society and Politics

Adam started off on behalf of WUD Society and Politics, stating that they upped attendance by 40-50 percent thus far and described that he hopes to increase member retention and maintain diversity, especially in the ideological context. One way they are attempting to increase this is through the use of ads that are still underway. He also said that he would like to respond to events more immediately and increase the quality of these events.

### WUD Global Connections

Farhat provided the goals for WUD Global Connections which included:

- fostering awareness of global issues and perspectives;
- building friendships and initiating dialogue;
- encouraging creativity and leadership;
- bridging the gap between domestic and international students;
- striving to generate international interest and increase knowledge and understanding of people around the world; and
- increasing membership.

She explained that their membership is lower than other groups and they hope to improve on this front.

### Hoofers Clubs

Forrest described updates and goals for the Hoofers Clubs, starting with Hooper's monetary support. He explained that funds from memberships typically go towards the council, but recently discovered they have more money than they anticipated. They hope to put this towards wilderness trainings, quality first aid kits, improving the winter carnival and ultimately creating a delegated system for getting money. He also stated that he hopes to unify marketing across the Hoofers Clubs, especially increasing the consistency of the webpages. He also said that he hopes to get more involved with WUD and foster those relationships.

Mark Strayer then provided updates on the Outing Club. He explained that he hopes to transfer the climbing program to the mountaineering program and improve the safety codes for the group. He also hopes to find alternative ways to fund the training for leaders in the group and keep the programs going and become self-sustaining. He added that he wishes to associate with other WUD. He explained that they began budgeting for

next year due to the fact that their current treasurer will be studying abroad in the spring. He then added that the group is making progress with expanding the club's services, including backpacking which was not around two years ago. He also raised the concern of making the club more diverse.

Mills explained that he hopes to complete the pier fundraising, redo the club's website, expand on the educational side of sailing as well as the winter education series programming, develop a new marketing strategy and reestablish the Snowball Dance. He explained that they lost one of their instructors, Yu Chen, and they set up a fund in his memory which is doing very well. He said they are working to improve what he started.

Omar asked Mills if there were any new safety precautions and regulations in response to the event. He replied that the event that occurred is outside of what Hoofers typically does and it was not believed to be the fault of their group. After this event, however Mills said he hopes to make windsurfers more noticeable and see the UW Lifesaving Station and establish how they can work with them, in addition to making a Safety and Continuous Improvement Committee.

### Cuisine

Sydney explained that a major goal for the Cuisine Committee is getting their name out there and making sure people are aware of their existence. She said they hope to be a platform for people to engage with cuisine from a political and environmental perspective, making sure that the number of social events are balanced with the number of environmental events. She also said she hopes to do independent programming that the group can be known for and additionally she explained that they want to make sure leadership team is aware that everyone's physicality is different. She emphasized that different bodies can do different kitchen-related activities and that she hopes to reach out to occupational therapy to make this happen. Overall she said they want to be a place for different people to interact with different foods.

### **Building Project Presentation**

Mark Guthier walked through a presentation on the building project called "Our Ten Year Journey." He provided the history and the scope of the project at both of the Unions from 2003 to the present.

Then he launched into the goals of the project. First, he addressed the goals for infrastructure improvements. He addressed that there had been deterioration resulting from age, the building was out of date and students are holding higher expectations. Second, he addressed the space constraints due to student programming, the demand for meeting rooms, requirements of modern food service delivery and adequate production storage. Third he explained the mission enhancements with hopes to serve

the entire campus better, re-educate everyone about the role of student leadership and re-enhance the Union's status as a membership organization.

Following this, he moved on to the design process and principles, starting with the explanation of the design committee and their duties, as well as the design principles of the buildings themselves.

Then he provided a diagram regarding the project budget and funding sources and walked through where the money came from and where it went. He also addressed that there are ongoing operations for the Union to make every day an event, honor the guest's perspective, be green and build community.

Finally he provided comparisons between 2006 and the present and the milestones that they have achieved. Then he concluded with what they plan to do next in the future.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

### Administration

Iffat began the subcommittee updates by addressing the budget. She then discussed their concern on retaining employees at the Union, explaining the pros and cons in recruitment. She also added that they hope to make it so that students may use their Wiscard as a voter ID when registering to vote.

### Facilities

Forrest then provided updates on Facilities, including that they wish to have a better experience out of the reflection room, adding more proper tools and other items to the room to ensure higher quality. He also explained that outdated room policies are being updated and that rooms need designation for use. He added that the ASM Building Bill of Rights will be moved to the next meeting.

### Dining Services

Sydney updated the council on Dining, explaining that in their first meeting they discussed how the Union purchases food items and discussed what counts as local. She said she hopes to have a day of transparency where they can address the discrepancy in access to the food markets, enhance the Badger Market to make it more reflective of the student body and assist in making sure students have food security.

### External Relations

For External Relations, Courtney addressed the potential opportunities for Registered Student Organization advertising and where to find a location for that. She also explained the use of sponsorships, how they work and how they can affect the Union.

### Program and Leadership Development

Nick provided updates on Program and Leadership Development, including what the process for the artist honorarium should look like and the Publications Committee's study.

## **Reports**

Mark gave a report on the plumbing problems at Memorial Union, explaining that the ultimate issue is some combination of low-flow toilets, the use of adult wipes and whether or not there is a design flaw. He stated that it is an expensive problem and they do not want it to happen again.

## Financial

Susan explained that there is no financial report because the September financial statements were not to be released until Friday. She said that financially the Union is looking more positive due to managing expenses more efficiently, and she added that the \$243,000 for the building projects goes up 2.5 percent every year.

Max asked where the losses resulted from and Susan explained that it was due to poor management of expenses and revenue being below what was budgeted.

## Strategic Planning

The Susan went into the strategic planning updates, starting by addressing the compiled strategic initiatives. She said staff were asked to write the. She gave some examples including: provide quality programs/events; make international students feel more comfortable; work with Porchlight; analyze data and make use of that information; and, emphasize the importance of being a member of the Union.

## Ad Hoc Committee

Heidi provided updates on Ad Hoc Committee, referencing the student organizations called "KKK," and emphasizing that there are many spaces named after members of the club. Omar asked if this is just regarding the Union or if it was campus wide and Heidi said it is the latter.

## Porchlight Partnership

Mary then discussed the progress of the Porchlight Partnership, explaining that they are establishing an internship through the Jones Leadership Center (JLC) that will be funded through American Family. She said they hope to get someone in place in the spring and Iffat added that they are trying to bring Porchlight into the Farmer's Market space.

## Hoofers

Forrest provided the reported update including there will be a winter break trip for the Ski and Snowboard Club, Riding Club is wrapping up with their summer programming and continuing on with the building and their new space. For Outing Club, Mark said they are focusing on leadership and building a diverse group of students. The Mountaineering Club added a climbing team, SCUBA Club is focusing on how to move forward after Austin graduates in December.

Nick added that in the future he will provide an outline for various events that WUD will hold. Sydney said that recently her group had a tour of Babcock Dairy and was planning on having an event regarding grilling safety.

Nick provided updates and hopes for progress on inter-WUD events and activities to help foster a relationship between groups. To progress towards their goals, he said they are looking to a student leadership process involving advisers and assigned mentors.

Courtney added that she hopes they will bring more visibility to their groups and highlight WUD and student leaders.

### **Associated Students of Madison (ASM) Update**

Billy provided updates on ASM, listing the major campaigns: legislative campaigns, sustainability committee, equity inclusion, college affordability, restroom menstrual products, pilot program with online textbooks and Voterpalooza.

At 7:59pm, Max moved to adjourn the meeting. Forrest seconded and the meeting was adjourned.