

**Union Council Meeting
March 14, 2017
Minutes**

In Attendance: Susan Dibbell, Omar Jandal, Juli Aulik, Samuel Park, George Cutlip, Peter Lipton, Caleb Foust, Heidi Lang, Deshawn McKinney, Mark Guthier, Adan Abu-Hakmeh, Lily Hansen, Chris Verhaeghe

Guests: Shauna Breneman, Brooke Evans, Carl Korz, Joe Webb, Courtney Medick, Iffat Bhuiyan

6:01pm Meeting called to order

Deshawn moved to approve minutes from the February 7 and February 21 meetings. Adan seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

Deshawn motions to move into closed session for Director and Summer Coordinator selection. Mark seconds. The motion passes unanimously, and the meeting is closed.

2017-18 Director Selection

Iffat and Courtney presented the recommendations of the Nominating committee for Director and Summer Coordinator positions.

The following Directors were approved by Union Council:

Alternative Breaks	Rebecca Penn
Art	Francesca Passarelli
Cuisine	Sydney Weiser
DLS	Ziyad Sultan
Global Connections	Farhat Bhuiyan
Film	Sarah Sapiro
Music	Laura Oberwetter
Society & Politics	Adam Yeazel
Publications	Malik Anderson
Performing Arts	Marilyn Feldner

The following Summer Coordinators were approved by Union Council:

Film	Taylor Pritzl
Classic Music	Yanzel Rivera-Otero
Art	Micaela Nordeen

6:26pm Meeting is reopened.

Vice Present – Internal Relations Update

Deshawn proposed a plan approved by Council Exec to fill the VP Internal position vacancy. Council Exec recommends appointing a new nominating committee to interview candidates and recommend to Council Exec a candidate by March 31st.

Peter moved approval, Caleb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chris Verhaeghe and Madison Laning volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. They will join Heidi and Deshawn.

Action Items

Policy PL4-8 Donations Policy for Programs that are Free to Attend

Lily motioned to approve the changes as described and George seconds. The changes pass unanimously. Policy with tracked changes are on file. Policy needed to be revised as the Morgridge Center is no longer a part of the Union.

Policy PL4-9 Fundraising Policy for Programs that there is a Cost to Attend

Adan motioned to approve the changes as described. Lily seconded the motion and the amended policy passed unanimously. Tracked changes are on file.

Policy FR1-4 Food and Beverages on Union Premises

Caleb presented the changes. Tracked changes are on file. Omar motioned to approve changes to FR1-4 with amendments to change Tripp Hall to Trip Commons and to add Varsity Hall to the list of locations where outside pizza vendors are not allowed. Caleb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Council Business Updates

Allocable Fees Letter

Council suggested changes to the letter, including but not limited to:

- Purpose of letter needs to be clearer
- Need thesis and call to action—ask recipients to stand with student organizations
- Remove Union's motto
- Mention students' ability to allocate money responsibly
- Students' competence on Union Council,
- Double check which seg fee supported student organizations the Union partners with,

A revised letter will be sent to Laurent Heller, Lori Berquam and Charles Hoslet.

Publication Committee Study

Deshawn informed the Council that the Publication Committee study charged by Union Council has not occurred yet. Deshawn asked for an extension until May 1st of

2018. Amendment proposed to extend the deadline to the last business meeting of the 2017-2018 year.

Caleb motioned to approve the motion as amended, and Peter seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Food Stamp Accessibility

Deshawn introduced Brooke Evans and turned the floor over to her for the presentation.

Brooke provided a brief background on her work on campus related to food accessibility. Brooke also presented a Resolution on Food Stamp Accessibility (on file with minutes). Brooke described UW Housing's willingness to make the switch to SNAP accessibility.

Brooke charged the Council with accepting her resolution and transitioning to SNAP accessibility by Spring 2018.

Carl Korz, Dining Services Director, provided an overview on the work done by the Union on making the Union SNAP accessible. He said they are trying to understand the requirements of the USDA. Given their current understanding it is likely the Badger Markets could be eligible. He still wants to understand the audit and oversight requirements.

Council members expressed their desire to make the Union food stamp accessible. Omar suggested Council embrace the uncertainty and move with Housing. George agreed and added that students should be able to eat with dignity and privacy. The Union should work toward accessibility.

George, Peter, and Caleb commented on implementation, and possibly working through the Dining committee to iron out the details on what food units qualify for SNAP.

Mark asked for a sense of Council and all agreed that the body is philosophically behind accepting SNAP.

Madison suggested that the Council vote on Brooke's resolution, and call on the Dining committee to investigate how to move forward.

Adan suggested making a resolution recognizing Brooke's resolution, then charging the Dining committee with developing the Council's own resolution in language applicable to the Union.

Deshawn asked what the Council thought would be best course of action: vote on Brooke's resolution as is, or develop language that fits with the Union's structure.

Chris Verhaeghe thanked Brooke and the other co-authors of the motion then moved to charge the Dining committee to investigate the process of transitioning to SNAP accessibility which includes gathering data to present to the Council at the meeting in April. Caleb seconded Chris' motion.

Debate continued. Mark noted that the Union has yet to see ASM's resolution referenced in the resolution sent to Council. He argued that the Council can't vote on something they've not seen. He urged Council to use existing processes and work through the Dining Committee.

Madison expressed concern over making empty promises, no solid action being taken. She suggested Council make a commitment at the present meeting to make the change.

Adan noted that the language wasn't applicable to the Unions procedures or policies, and recognizing a commitment and afterwards advising the policy was the best way to move forward.

Brooke recommended that the Council amend the existing document, but expressed her concern that something needed to be in writing.

Peter proposed an amendment to Chris' motion that would create a preface to the motion stating Council's promise to continue the work of moving to SNAP accessibility.

Madison asked what the motion would bring back in April, and Adan responded by saying that the Dining committee would bring back their research on the transition strategy.

Madison stated her disagreement, saying that Peter's proposed preface would not commit the Council to a transition to SNAP benefits.

Mark addressed Madison's concern by stating that the amendment would commit the Union to the transition, and would help the Council move forward.

Carl noted that the commitment was thoroughly expressed, and the work would be easier with more information. Brooke told the Council that she wishes to be included in all of the research and policy development, and Council agreed, noting that committee meetings are open spaces.

Heidi noted that the future VP and President were in attendance, and that they were absorbing the information to carry with them into their terms.

Chris reiterated that the motion would produce a report of opportunities, barriers and costs to moving forward, in transitioning to SNAP accessibility

Madison said again that the Council did not need to know any specifics regarding SNAP accessibility implementation, and that they only needed to commit to enter the process.

Deshawn reminded the Council that the amendment to the motion is a Union commitment to the transition. A vote was initiated to approve Peter's amendment. The vote passed unanimously.

The Council then voted to approve Chris' motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Union Council favors making the Union food stamp accessible and to begin investigation as to the process for doing so which includes costs, barriers, applications, etc.

The Dining Services committee meets 5pm on April 6th.

Riding Club Update

Caleb provide Council with an update on the Riding Club. He reminded the group that the club moved to a new facility in summer and now is looking to move again because the current facility is violating their contract. The club is financially sound but the current stable is not meeting the club's needs. The club wants to be able to expand.

Financial Snapshot

Susan informed the Council that we are now seeing a change in the bottom line since January, although finances are still better than anticipated.

Subcommittee Reports/Updates

Facilities

Adan informed the Council that a procedure will be coming forward about gender neutral bathrooms at Union South.

Program & Leadership

Lily informed the Council that she will be bringing some suggestions on how the Art Committee can compensate artists.

Administration

Recommended changes to Council structure were shared with the Council (on file). Recommendation is to add a student employee and university staff representative and reduce alumni appointees.

Deshawn announced that he met with Matt Merrill regarding the proposed changes in Council membership. The Chancellor wants to keep the two alumni positions. He

also heard that University Staff are not interested in taking a seat away from anyone. Deshawn does not want to increase the size of Union Council.

Mark reminded Council that the constitution would need to be amended. The student body would need to vote, the faculty senate would also need to vote and the Board of Regents would have final approval.

Deshawn added that all the perspectives should be gathered and utilized to find out potential solutions moving forward recognizing each positions importance, and inviting SEAG to conversations. The Amin Committee is meeting April 10th to discuss the issue. One option might be to have University staff serve as ex-officio.

No other updates

9:10 p.m. Union Council votes to adjourn the meeting.