



Wisconsin Union
D I R E C T O R A T E

Alternative Breaks

Committee Director

Overview

- This position is a volunteer, leadership position with the Wisconsin Union Directorate, student programming board.
- Each committee of the Wisconsin Union Directorate is committed to amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities through thoughtful and deliberate programming that targets societal issues. WUD leaders have an obligation to use the privilege of our organization and the power of our positions to continually educate ourselves and provide the same opportunities to our communities.
- Successful applicants for WUD Leadership positions will demonstrate a commitment to social justice during the interview process and, upon selection, commit to continually highlighting inequalities due to racial, environmental, societal, and any other type of discrimination that our campus, country, and global communities face through their committee processes and programming efforts.
- Given the significant time commitment of WUD Committee Director positions (20 – 25 hours, weekly), a stipend is provided to increase the likelihood these volunteer leadership positions are accessible to all students. An academic stipend includes 60% of yearly in-state tuition based on the prior year will be distributed at the beginning of each semester. Additionally, \$50/month is provided for 8 months in gratitude for each students' service, as is Lifetime Union Membership upon completion of their terms.
- WUD Committee Director Positions run May – May yearly and include one mandatory, two-day training in August.

Committee Purpose

The WUD Alternative Breaks program provides UW-Madison students with the opportunity to learn about issues affecting American society and then engage in hands-on work to address the negative impacts. The committee develops weeklong service immersion trips centered on social issues that send groups of students across the United States. The trips should bring students together to work side by side with their peers and the members of the communities they visit in strong direct service. In addition to the trips, the committee facilitates programming on-campus relating to the core issues being explored through their trips. Using education, service, and reflection, the Alternative Breaks Committee strives to create active citizens that expose pressing social justice issues to the campus community while supporting self-awareness, thoughtful dialogue, and the development of others. In pursuit of this goal, the committee follows the model of Break Away, a national organization focused on alternative breaks. Their model's components include emphasizing diversity, social justice, education, orientation, strong direct service, reorientation, and ongoing reflection throughout the experience. The Director facilitates all aspects of this mission through committee organization, trip planning, orientation, site-leader recruitment and development, and campus programming. This position works in partnership with a program advisor.

Director Committee Responsibilities

- Chair weekly meetings of the AB Committee and the AB leadership team, attend necessary weekly meetings including meeting with the AB advisor, hold general office hours (typically 10 hours per week) to make yourself available as a resource to committee members, and participate in cooperative WUD projects and activities.

- Responsible for the oversight, direction, development, content, and all administrative aspects of the alternative breaks program, including individual program budgets and the overall committee budget.
- Develop, working with the AB advisor, an understanding of the AB program and its procedures. Familiarize yourself with the resources, policies, and risk management policies of AB, the Wisconsin Union, and UW-Madison.
- Recruit, select, and train Associate Directors for your term of office.
- Facilitate conversations about inclusivity, racism, and equity and intentionality in planning programs. Acquaint committee members with resources and encourage them to utilize these materials to strengthen the program and ensure the continued development of the committee.
- Work with the AB leadership team, committee, and advisor to assess and establish goals, processes, and procedures for the committee and overall AB program. Review, revise, and continue to add new anti-racism action items.
- Oversee marketing and branding efforts for the committee and all AB sponsored trips and programs to ensure adequate promotion of all programs. Work with WUD Officers and the Wisconsin Union's Marketing Department to promote trips, campus/programming, and the committee.
- Foster growth and development of leadership team and committee members, which includes pursuing training, workshops, and other opportunities for personal and leadership development.
- Directly involve the general members in the planning of committee programs, and attempt to develop a sustained and growing committee membership.
- Build a sense of community within the committee by fostering an environment where all members can share and discuss their thoughts.
- Work with committee leadership, trip planners, and Site Leaders to develop and implement educational programming and orientations before and after the alternative break trips to supplement the volunteer experience. Build local programs pre- and post-trip to encourage active citizenship.
- Encourage the involvement of student populations that are historically underrepresented in the program and ensure that the trips are financially accessible to all students.
- Continue to review and assess best practices for alternative breaks programming, including exploration of opportunities outside of the university either through conferences or training programs. Per availability and funding, the Director has also attended a weeklong alternative breaks development seminar held in the summer.
- Be on-call for trip participants while all trips sponsored by WUD Alternative Breaks are active.
- In addition to the service immersion trips, the Director should facilitate programming on campus relating to the core issues the committee is exploring through their trips

Director General WUD Responsibilities

- Participate in weekly Directorate meetings, using officers and fellow directors as resources. Perform action items as required.
- Serve on a Union Council Advisory Board.
- Participate in annual WUD Fall Retreat (3 days in mid-August), facilitate AD training, and participate in additional leadership training as mandated by the officer team.
- Actively communicate with Union officers about needs and goals of committee.
- Increase campus presence by actively pursuing co-sponsorships within WUD and throughout the campus community.
- Promote Directorate committees and the organization at student fairs and other recruitment opportunities.
- Continue development and review of the Alternative Breaks Director transition materials as a mechanism for passing information to the incoming director that is relevant to the long-term policies, procedures, and mission of the Alternative Breaks Committee. Ensure that all digital materials are stored on the Union's shared drive.

Last Updated: December 2020