



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

**Society and Politics**

**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 Society and Politics (SoPo) Committee develops and implements informative programs that address contemporary issues and stimulate political and social discussions within the university community. This may be achieved through a variety of program formats including but not limited to lectures, debates, panels, forums, and discussion groups. The nonpartisan committee focuses on current social and political issues that have a campus, local, domestic, and/or international impact. Past programs have included political debates, candidate appearances, panel discussions, Spark (the Society & Politics podcast), weekly discussions, series programming, and film screenings. The committee director works in partnership with the program advisor.

**Director Committee Responsibilities**

- Chair weekly meetings of the SoPo Committee and the SoPo leadership team, attend necessary weekly meetings including meeting with the SoPo advisor, hold general office hours (typically 10 hours per week) to make yourself available to committee members, and participate in cooperative WUD projects and activities.
- It is recommended that committee meetings include program planning, some focus on discussion of current events, social programming, etc. as meets the needs of the committee.
- Recruit, select, and train Associate Directors for your term of office. Actively search for ways to help better the leadership skills of Associate Directors.
- Work with SoPo leadership team, committee, and advisor to establish goals and procedures for programming; develop, communicate, and hold committee to vision and mission of programs.

- Coordinate close collaborations with other WUD committees, student organizations, and community organizations in order to put together well-rounded and diverse programs regarding social and political current events and issues.
- Build a sense of community with the committee by fostering an environment where all members are able to share and discuss their thoughts.
- Actively recruit general members, directly involve them in the planning of committee programs (including Spark), facilitate conversations about inclusivity and intentionality in planning programs, and attempt to develop a sustained and growing committee membership.
- Responsible for the oversight, direction, development, content, and all administrative aspects of the SoPo program, including individual program budgets and the overall committee budget.
- Develop, working with the SoPo advisor, an understanding of the SoPo program and its procedures. Familiarize yourself with the resources, policies, and risk management policies of SoPo, the Wisconsin Union, and UW-Madison.
- Implement the Weisberg Forum and Wilke lecture series. Keep donors abreast of committee activities.
- Foster growth and development of committee members, which includes planning regular leadership training and other special opportunities for the committee to grow and develop.
- Communicate with the Wisconsin Union's public relations staff to discuss potential or current public response to SoPo programs.
- Develop and coordinate social media and promotion plans for the committee and its events, working with the Union's marketing department.
- Be responsive to communication from committee members, the advisor, and others.
- Additional Relationships Fostered:
  - Associated Students of Madison
  - Multicultural Student Center
  - UW Academic Departments
  - Campus Multicultural / International Organizations
  - WUD DLS
  - Campus Political Organizations (Dems, GOP, Greens, Election Research Center etc.)
  - Student Organization Office
  - Community Activist Group
  - Cap Times

#### **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.
- 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.
- Actively communicate with Union officers about the needs and goals of the committee.
- Create an adequate binder or digital file of information for the incoming director to understand the intricacies of running the Society & Politics Committee. Ensure that all digital materials are stored on the Union's shared drive.

**Last Updated:** December 2020