**Union Council Meeting**  
Minutes  
February 21, 2023

**Present:**

Lauren Damgaard

Saehin Kim

Jasmine Machhi

Brady Palzkill

Susan Dibbell

Mark Guthier

Heidi Lang

Jason Stephens

Christina Olstad

Reilly Coon

Sophie Salewske

Steve Schaffer

Doug Rosenberg

**Guests:**

Danielle Brzezinski

Ed Janairo

**Absent:**

Kevin Jacobson

Meeting called to order at 5:39 p.m.

Motion: Brady moved approval of the December 13, 2022, meeting minutes. Steve seconded the motion. December Meeting Minutes were approved.

Land Acknowledgement read by Lauren

Introductions

Welcomed new member Doug Rosenberg.

**Open Forum**

* **Open Forum-** no speakers.

**New Business**

* **Spring Semester Meeting Dates and times:**
  + March 7, 2023, 5:30-? Officer Selection Meeting. Expect meeting to go longer.
  + March 28, 2023, 5:30-7:30pm
  + April 11, 2023, 5:30-7:30pm
  + April 27 Transition Banquet, 6:30pm-8pm
* **Union Council Refresh**
  + Lauren went through a refresher on the purpose and role of Union Council. Details can be found in box for reference.

**Officer Reports**

* President- Lauren- WUD discussed the tragedy at Michigan State University and wanted to send a card to them. She is open to ideas of sending something from Union Council as well. The Union sent a gift to the MSU Union Director’s office. Lauren then reviewed the Officer Selection process, which will happen at the next meeting. The tentative schedule is:
  + Schedule on 3/7/23
    - 5:30 – 5:45pm Reception with light snacks
    - 5:45 – 6:05pm Prepared Statements
    - 6:10 – 8:30pm Individual Interviews (dinner available during this time)
    - 8:30 – 8:45pm Break: Council Refreshments & Nominating Committee Consultation
    - 8:45 – 9:00pm Nominating Committee Presentation
    - 9 - ? Deliberation
* VP of Internal Relations- Jasmine- they had two retreats in the past couple of months. They had some WUD alumni panels, that went really well. They are currently doing a resume drop for WUD students.
* VP of External Relations- Saehin- have been working on the officer application process. Distinguished Lecture Series is bringing in a great speaker in March, which will be announced soon.
* VP of Resources and Operations- Brady – he met with all the directors regarding their budgets and spending to date--everyone is within their budget. The Late Night grant has just about been used up for the year, supporting over 20 events.
* Secretary Update- Mark shared the sad new of Chancellor’s Blank’s passing and all the great things that she has been involved in at the Union over the years. Chancellor Mnookin had her first meeting with the UW System Board of Regents last week and that went well. The Provost search is wrapping up. Office of Admissions sent out their early to admit, hoping to keep the incoming class at around 8100.
* Treasurer Update- Susan shared that the financial statement is in box for December. The Union is not meeting its revenue targets. Union Commons opened up in January and is going well. Working on creating a one shop stop for Conferences, and hired a company to help design a web portal for scheduling. Working on surveys on dining to help find out what a meal plan could look like for the Union. The safety staff will be assessing buildings and determine how to be safe in the spaces.

**Union Advisory Boards- Administration**

* **Admin-** Jasmine and Ed gave an update on the budget process. At their last meeting they finalized the position description for the sustainability interim coordinator. They also had a brief description on a possible meal plan.
  + Ed shared that they had planned to present the budget today, but they are delaying it until the March 28th meeting. There is more work needed due to a significant deficit. The budgeting process was also impacted due to the addition of the Pyle & Fluno Centers. This is the first year adding them, so it’s just adding more time to the whole process. Since there are no institutional deadlines in March, it made it possible to delay.
  + Ed shared that they initially saw a 1-million-dollar gap in the next fiscal year. For the current year, looking at a 3 million dollar deficit. So we need to balance the budget for next year and try and repair the current year. The current year deficit is due in part to not being fully staffed last summer, increased wages that were not budgeted, increased number of staff working remotely and Housing’s new mandatory meal plan that reduces the ability to purchase meals at Union-run locations.
* **Dining & Hospitality- Saehin-** They are working on menu options that are more diverse. They met last week and discussed more cashless options in the dining areas. They also talked about using a food locker, where customers would order online and then pick up their food from a locker.
* **Facilities- Brady**- last semester they worked on a refresh for the reflection room, which is making progress. This Thursday they are meeting at Union Commons for a tour and to see how meetings could work there.
* **Social Education- Lauren-** Working on the WUD Associate Director Scholarship Proposal. It came from different ideas on how to compensate the Associate Directors. This will be moving forward and will come back once it’s complete.

**Updates**

* ASM & SSFC Update- Reilly shared some information from Kevin. If you know any students that want to run for ASM, the applications close this Friday and elections are in March. For SSFC, they are redoing their timeline and application process for GSF funded groups.
* SSFC Update- see above.
* Dean of Students – Christina shared that Student Affairs is working on a space study, and students are invited to listening sessions to give feedback. They noticed a trend in students accessing food programs increasing. Badger Fair is program that allows you to add money directly to the Wiscard, in the Fall they had done 377 of these, last year it was 61. Swipe Out Hunger program saw 960 people donate at the Union and Housing saw 2320 meals donated. Saw an increase in Open Seed food program as well.

Adjourned at 6:40pm