

Union Council Meeting Minutes December 10, 2015

Present:

Juli Aulik, Alumni Rep
Jack Comeau, President
George Cutlip, Alumni Rep (WAA)
Susan Dibbell, Ex-Officio
Jessica Franco- Morales, ASM Representative
Mark Guthier, Secretary
Erin Harper, ASM Representative
Madison Laning, ASM Chair
William Lipske, Academic Staff
Mohan Mandali, WUD Representative
Jane Oberdorf, Acting Treasurer
Tyler O'Connell, VP- Development
Philip Ostrov, VP-Internal Relations
Khea Yashadhana, VP-External Relations

Absent:

Lori Berquam, ExOfficio
Peter Lipton, Faculty Representative
Brett Ducharme, ASM Representative

Guests:

Abigail Greenberg, Jacob Hahn, Heidi Lang, Alex Her, Kirbi Rogers, Anna Tolle

Call to Order

Jack Comeau called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Minutes

Susan Dibbell made corrections to the November 19, 2015 meeting minutes:

- Page 3"

The first two trips were to McAllen, Texas and Immokalee, Florida" McAllen, Texas should be changed to San Juan, Texas.

- Page 6"

Both revenue and expenses to day (July, August and September) were lower than in the past years." To day needs to be changed as "to date."

- "Expenses such as ha" Ha should be changed to Hay.

Mark Guthier moves to approve the amended minutes. Madison Laning seconded. None opposed. No abstentions.

Monthly Financial Update

Jane Oberdorf presented the financial report based off of the October snapshot:

- Current actual: 17 million dollars (almost 17.1)
- Expenses: 15.9, favorable by 1.1 (almost 2 million) to date.
- Projected 800 thousand dollars favorable to date. Therefore, ahead by 376 thousand last month.
- Possible to end the year in breakeven situation.
- Retail dining: strong terrace first couple months prior to start of project went well, even the month of September.

- Major repairs and buildings are roughly 144 thousand over budget due to move out of Memorial Union and timing relating to the construction.
- 366 thousand dollars favorable variance this month.
- December and January bring in the least revenue to Memorial Union.

Alt Breaks Study Recommendations

Alex Her, Director of Alternative Breaks, stated the purpose of the Alternative Breaks Study by Union Council :

- Purpose: to review current alternative breaks programs and practices. The subcommittee will specifically look at the outcomes of the program and its educational impacts on participants. The subcommittee will create a survey and review other alternative breaks programs to ensure that the program is in line with best practices.
- The subcommittee is composed of 8-10 people:
 - Alex Her, Alt Breaks director
 - Mary Larson, Alt Breaks Associate Director
 - Hannah Paulson, Alt Breaks Associate Director
 - Zach Hanley, WUD Rep
 - Jack Comeau, WUD executive member
 - Will Hoffman, Advisor
 - Susan Dibbel, Program & Leadership Rep
 - Jaclyn John Fisher, former WUD Rep
 - Megan Miller, Morgridge Center for Public Service Rep

Educational component and practices is the reason why Alt Breaks is under review.

- Review process:
 - met every week, 8 meetings, 1 hour each
 - discussed: trip planning, application/selection, trip cost, trip orientation, trip experience, post trip programs.
- Created a best practices survey which was sent to Alternative Break programmers at schools in the Big Ten, ACC, Big 12, PAC-12 and SEC as well as Association of American Universities and land grant institutions
Results: 45 different institutions responded7 plus other groups who program alt breaks on the UW-Madison campus.
- Overview of discussion:
 - Included best practices from the Break Away conference
 - Phone conference with Catherine Colyer, founder of WUD's Alt Breaks program, to discuss mission and gained historical perspective.

Recommendations Include:

- 1) Move trip planning to at least a semester out. Trip planning in the same semester limits the ability of the committee to market the trips, recruit applicants and develop appropriate orientations.
- 2) Limit number of trips planned for Spring 2016 through at least Winter 2017-18 to 7
- 3) Suspend Summer Breaks trips for at least 2016
- 4) Suspend international trips for at least the 2016-17 school year. Look for new opportunities
- 5) Review Cooperative Leadership Model positions to determine overall efficacy
- 6) All requirements be included in trip description to ensure there are not issues after participants have been selected
- 7) Include demographic session on applications
- 8) See ways to make trips more accessible for all students
- 9) Begin outreach to the Dean of Students Office to establish some form of academic and behavioral background check
- 10) Revisit scholarship process
- 11) Work with Office of Student Financial Aid to aid in awarding scholarships
- 12) Review trip deposit model

For 2016-17 specifically move to model with multiple orientations for each trip. No fewer than two and no more than four orientations. Also consider having trips be substance-free.

Union Council suggests changing the background check to “academic misconduct” or “conduct review” to make it more clear and less threatening.

Philip Ostrov moves to approve the recommendations as amended. Madison Laning seconds. None opposed. No abstentions. Alternative Breaks Recommendations approved unanimously.

Hoofers Study Recommendations

Philip Ostrov presented the Hoofers Study Recommendations.

Main Points of Recommendation:

- 1) Communication
- 2) Recognition
- 3) Student Leadership Development

Committee Members:

- Ronnie Pisano, Hooper Council President
- Philip Ostrov, VP-Internal Relations
- Jacob Hahn, Hooper Advisor & Outdoor UW Director
- Susan Dibbell, Program & Leadership Asst. Director
- Anna Tolle, Riding Club President
- Tim Prince, former Hooper member and MUBA member
- Ted Crabb, Director Emeritus

Study Goals:

- 1) To ensure that Hooper students are obtaining a leadership experience proportionate to their volunteer activity
- 2) To ensure that Hooper student leaders are appropriately recognized for their volunteer activity
- 3) To ensure effective communication between Hooper clubs, Hooper Council and Directorate
- 4) To ensure that the voice and scope of Hoopers is appropriately represented
- 5) To attain these four goals, we will explore possible structural changes to improve Hoopers student representation within both Directorate and the Wisconsin Union.

Mr. Ostrov reviewed past Hooper-WUD studies.

Recommendations:

Based on the Union’s constitution which states that “Four students in charge of Union House Committee or Club activities and elected as representative of Union committees and clubs on the Council as provided in the By-Laws the committee recommends adding the Hooper Council President as a permanent member of Union Council. Changes to the By-laws will be done by April 25. Hooper Council President will replace the Vice-President-Development.

Amend the Hooper Council Position Description to include responsibilities to Union Council.

Amend Hooper Club President position descriptions to include amended Policy PL 3-4 “Purpose and Expectations of WUD Committee Directors & Hooper Council President, Hooper Club Presidents and Sailing Commodore.” Also, to include monthly meetings with WUD and mandatory attendance the fall and spring leadership retreats.

Recommend Hooper Club President & Sailing Commodore receive the same stipend as WUD Directors and amend Benefits policy PL3-14

Revise Disciplinary Procedure PL3-12 to include Hooper Club Presidents

Evaluation will be drafted by the current Vice President-Internal Relations and the Hooper Council President but will be implemented by the incoming VP and President. Results of the evaluation will be presented to Union Council by December 2016

Mr. Ostrov states that Hoopers council has not submitted a collective comment on these recommendations.
Ms. Laning has concerns that students have to pay to join Hoopers and that leadership is not being paid for within Hoopers. The allocation of stipends needs to be addressed.

Ms. Aulik has concerns that not everyone has the opportunity to achieve these positions within Hoopers. In order to have this opportunity, it requires financial investments that not everyone has access to.

Mr. Guthrie believes that Hoopers Council needs to see these recommendations and make comments in order to move forward with Union Council voting on these recommendations.

Mr. Guthrie **made a motion** to postpone until Hoopers Council has commented. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion to postpone vote was passed.

Officer Position Descriptions

Mr. Comeau presented changes to the Union President description:
added: overseeing WUD budget, assuming VP of Development duty
added: monthly meetings with Hooper Club Presidents

Mr. Ostrov presented changes to the VP-Internal Relations description
Added: promote stewardship of endowment funds

Ms. Yashadhana announced that the VP-External Relations changes
Clarified involvement in officer and director selection process.

Mr. O'Connell's position, VP-Development will be dissolved in order to make room for Hoopers Council President.

Philip Ostrov makes a **motion** to approve the recommended officer position description revisions.. Jessica FrancoMorales **seconded** the motion.

Philip Ostrov makes another **motion** to approve the amendment that the VP-Internal Relations position state "Chair the Cooperative Program Committee (CPS) or select an appointee.
None opposed. no abstentions. Position descriptions passed.

Stable Proposal

Anna Tolle provided a Riding Club update:

- There have been monthly financial meetings.
- Riding Club can't continue to operate the same way as it has the past decade.
- 60,000 debt last year. Stables need to reduce expenses by spending less and putting off major purchases and repairs,
- Kirbi Rogers, Barn Manager, states that it is near impossible to cut expenses.
- It is unfair to ask the student positions to bring in 40% of revenue, too much pressure.

Current Financial Position:

- October: 6,000 profit, 12,000 for the year. During the winter time, no profit is being made.

Anna Tolle presented the proposal recommendations as a representative of Hoopers Council:

Option #1) Union would take complete financial oversight of Riding Stable and lesson programming. This would require two new staff positions:

- Riding Program Manager (full time position) to oversee curriculum, hiring of riding instructors and everything having to do with lesson programming.
- Instruction Supervisor: recent graduate, acts as internship, responsible for teaching lessons and covering shifts at barn and gaining manager experience.

Option #2)

Riding Club maintains financial oversight of program and stable but asks Union to cover salary of new riding club manager position.

Option #3)

If the Union decides not to support/fund either option, the Riding Club will vote to dissolve and begin liquidation plan which could take up to a year to complete. Hooper Council has voted to send these recommendations to Union Council but have not fully approved one option yet.

Ms. Aulik states that the longer we wait to make this decision, the longer Hooper Council will be in the hole. Ms. Aulik is not supportive of this coming to the Union. Rather, this moves the problem around and has no solution. Juli Aulik believes that option 3 is the most practical option. Ms. Aulik would like to see a best/worst case scenario in terms of numbers and probability to evaluate the decision.

Union Council asked for the following information prior to the next meeting:

- Club Membership
- Demographics of members
- How to generate \$55K to cover cost of additional staff
- Update on Hooper Retained Earnings
- Club Position Descriptions
- Student's role in the barn/club

Members also asked for materials ahead of the meetings to there is time to review the proposals.

Jack Comeau is aware that Hoopers Council needs to be time sensitive.

Council Meetings Next Semester

Jack Comeau states that meetings will be held on Monday nights and is as follows:

- January 25
- February 1
- February 22
- March 14
- April 11 or April 18

Jack Comeau will send final dates via email.

WUD Budget Allocation

Tyler O'Connell provided an overview to request:

- * Global Connections has outspent events already. Allocated 1,000.
- * 1.6% increase for reintroducing Rathskeller events.
- * FY17: \$ 749819, not including Hoopers stipends.

The committees spend second semester allocating specific line items.

Susan Dibbell suggested providing committee estimated actuals at the January meeting so it can be clearer who the committees use their funds.

Madison Laning does not feel comfortable voting on this budget plan because she can't see breakdown of where the money is coming from.

George Cutlip **makes a motion** to move the WUD budget allocation as presented. Madison Laning opposed. Motion approved.

Jack Comeau made **a motion to adjourn the meeting** . Philp Ostrov **Seconded. None Opposed** .

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:30pm.