

Union Council September 27, 2017 Minutes

In Attendance: Lori Berquam (Ex-Officio), Iffat Bhuiyan, George Cutlip, Susan Dibbell, Max Goldfarb, Mark Guthier, Forrest Koslowski, Heidi Lang (Ex-Officio), Courtney Medick, Katrina Morrison, Nick Munce, Samuel Park, Liz Preston, Chris Verhaeghe and Sydney Weiser.

Absent: Omar Jandal and faculty appointment

5:30pm The Union Officers provided a tour of the newly opened east and central wings of Memorial Union.

Dinner

6:15pm Meeting called to Order

Forrest moved to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2017 Council Meeting. Max seconded and the motion passed.

Open Forum

Iffat opened the floor for an open forum, but no one addressed anything at this time.

Hoofers Update

Forrest provided a general update on the Hooper's side of Wisconsin Union Directorate. The SCUBA president position was recently filled by Austin Albert, the Sailing Club is working on raising money for new piers, Riding Club is doing well in its new facility, the Mountaineering Club is forming a mountaineering team and Ski & Snowboard is planning their winter trip to Steamboat. He also mentioned that the Hooper All-Club Extravaganza was later that evening, marking a new beginning for prospective members.

Union Council Training

Materials

Mark walked the Council through the notebook and materials, all of which can be found online in the Box folder. Notebooks include information on the Role of the College Union, WU structure and overview, the Union's constitution and bylaws, shared governance overview, policy index, financial report and an overview on parliamentary procedure.

Expectations

Iffat shared a handout with expectations for Council members and announced that meeting materials will be placed in Box by 4pm on the Monday before meetings.

Subcommittees

Iffat reminded the Council that each member is expected to sit on a Council committee. Information and instructions on signing up can be found in Box.

Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD) Update

Nick reported that the officers and directors have been participating in the three-day WUD retreat as well as organizing two large all-campus events—Sunburst Festival and Sunset Slam. Over 6,000 students attended the Welcome Week events and additionally, WUD is one of the sponsors of the Student Org Fair. Committees are getting ready for fall kickoff meetings and recently a WUD social was held with the Riding Club.

Nick shared three goals for the year:

1. Invest time and energy in student development leadership framework;
2. Recognize the continuum of the student-staff partnership;
3. Increase knowledge of WUD programs especially among groups that don't traditionally use WU facilities.

Associated Students of Madison (ASM) Update

Katrina provided updates for ASM and addressed that the First Networking Night for ASM students and university administrators went well, and expressed their hope to have another come January. She also explained that they are working on changing classifications for segregated fees and have a new WSUM radio show called "State of the University" that will broadcast on Fridays at 11am.

ASM passed legislation on a pilot for a Textbook Affordability Project and have been working on a Building Bill of Rights for all new building projects. Additionally they have been exploring the creation of a Student Legal Services Center and touching on the Campus Free Speech Bill and the Permitless Carry Bill in the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Badger Fare Update

Sydney provided an update on the Union becoming SNAP accessible. SNAP benefits cannot be accepted in Union restaurants but the Badger Markets are an option and the next step in the process is for the Union to be audited.

Sydney also reported that the Department of Continuing Studies now has \$25 gift cards for students who run low on food, a program known as Badger Fare. These cards can be used at the Union and no documentation is required. They are available in various offices.

She noted that the Dining Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month and their goal this year is to bring in more international food and look at prices. Second semester they are considering a program focusing on food from Black and Brown farms with the intention to educate access to markets.

Porchlight Partnership Updates

Iffat stated she is working with staff on creating goals for a partnership between the Union and Porchlight with intent to create real world experiences for students. She is currently focusing on a structure and timeline and Samuel suggested working with the Morgridge Center.

Reports

Mark reported that Memorial Union is open, but staff are creating a list of things to be done. Originally, the second floor was to open in June and floors three and four in September. The project will come in under budget.

He also announced that Alumni Park will open October 6 and mentioned that he is serving on the search committee for the University Health Services Executive Director.

Susan provided a brief overview of the Union's 2016-17 Annual Report. An executive summary is in Box and a full report will be coming. Additionally, she provided an update on the Union's strategic thinking process and the final report will be published by early November, but the document will be updated and revised as needed.

Susan gave instructions on how to read the Union's financial reports and explained that every month she will provide a financial update. She reported that the Union's previous fiscal year (June 30) ended better than anticipated but that the new fiscal year (July 1) is off to a rough start due to being short-staffed and not bringing in the revenue expected in our dining units. A question was asked about the Union's commitment to the building project and Susan explained that the number will be brought up in the next meeting.

Iffat reported that this summer she served on the Chancellor's Study Group to examine services for students. Their charge was to look at enhancing the student experience and themes emerged in the process—Belongingness, Resources and Activation. There are opportunities for the Union within the Resources theme—we provide numerous opportunities for students to venture and explore. There are also opportunities for the Union to work more closely with groups like the Center for Leadership & Involvement. The report was made to the Chancellor.

Samuel asked about student involvement in the KKK. Mark responded that the Union will have a representative on the Chancellor's study team.

At 7:55pm Max moved to adjourn the meeting. Samuel seconded and the meeting was adjourned.