

Union Council
November 13, 2018
Minutes

Present: Mark Guthier, Susan Dibbell, Mills Botham, Farhat Bhuiyan, Brennan Bahr, David O'Keeffe, Yogev Ben-Yitschak, Dan Grabois, Fernanda Martinez, Zaakir Abdul-Wahid, Argyle Wade

Absent: Sam Kodzick, Annika Chatterjee, Rachelle Stone

Guests: Edie Block, Shauna Breneman, Mary Cretney, Shelby Herring, Nimish Sarin, Amanda Fenton, Arielle Bordow, Pedro Enrique Koeler-Goulart, Lukas Duddleston

Mills called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Land Acknowledgement

Mills recognized that the university is located on Ho-Chunk land and read through a land acknowledgement.

Action Items

Minutes and Agenda

Yogev moved to approve the October Meeting Minutes as well as the agenda. Mark seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Hoofer Outing Club

Mary provided a brief summary of the club and their purpose. She then walked through their goals for the year, highlighting main categories of experience and logistics. She explained for experience she hopes to further develop exciting outdoor adventures, advance the club marketing and increase inclusivity. For logistic, she hopes to increase the club safety, measure the club's growth and activity and foster leadership.

WUD Alternative Breaks Committee

Shelby gave a brief synopsis on the Alternative Breaks Committee including who they are and what they do. Afterwards, she gave an outline of the committee's goals for the semester, emphasizing engagement, developing the site leader program and increasing the quality of trips.

Dan asked Shelby to provide an example of a trip that the committee is planning. She replied that they are currently working on a trip to Memphis, Tennessee to learn more about urban farming and to hopefully bring that knowledge back to Madison.

WUD Film Committee

Nimish provided the WUD Film Committee's goals, highlighting four core principles. They included increasing enthusiasm and engagement, outreach to other cultural student organizations, raising awareness of the committee as well as the Marquis and establish materials for the transition of leadership roles from year to year.

Per David's request, Nimish then provided the title of his favorite movie.

WUD Music Committee

Arielle provided a summary of the main ideas surrounding the Music Committee, highlighting scheduling shows for the Sett and the "Behind the Beat" jazz program. She explained that the committee's goals are to book shows with regards to genre, race and gender diversity, assuring that every member is adequately trained with the resources they have and making an effort to book with an educational perspective in mind.

Arielle was asked what opportunities there are for students to provide input for what they want to see. She responded that they would be able to send out a survey, however, when they did so in the past it did not prove to be fruitful.

Fernanda asked what the booking process looks like now. Arielle replied that members reach out to the agent for an act they wish to see and then the committee votes on it.

Hoofer Riding Club

Erin walked through a brief synopsis of the Hoofer Riding Club, including the history as well as their purpose. She explained that they have had many changes to the group, including their former advisor moving away. They hired a new coach and started implementing barn hours as well as a new instruction process. She emphasized that their main goal as a club is to make the group sustainable to be run by only students.

Dan asked how many students ride the horses. Erin explained that they have about 60 a month.

David asked if the group competes and Erin said they do. Mills asked how the team has been doing and she replied that they have been doing very well.

Zaakir asked what the general process for getting involved looks like. Erin explained that they hold trial lessons and allow potential new members to receive a tour of the barn before purchasing a membership.

Hoofer Ski and Snowboard Club

Amanda provided a summary of the Hoofer Ski and Snowboard Club and walked through the groups goals for the year, emphasizing a general theme of communication. She highlighted the following goals: increasing communication between executive members, holding general meetings for the whole group, focusing on inclusivity and trying to maintain connections with alumni.

Dan asked if there was a method of providing financial assistance to those who need it. Amanda replied that she was unaware of the barrier until recently, and that they recently passed a law where an individual can have their first lesson without membership fees. She added that they have a good relationship with different organizations and can potentially ask them for help.

Zaakir asked if the rental options are expensive and Amanda said it mainly depends on the rental organization as well as the location.

Hoofer SCUBA Club

Samantha provided goals for the Hoofer SCUBA Club. They included heightening safety, increasing general engagement, potentially implementing offering course credit and focusing on organization.

WUD Global Connections Committee

Pedro explained what Global Connections Committee does, emphasizing that their purpose is to bridge the gap between international and non-international students. He provided the group's goals which included member retention, forming new events and collaborations and increasing the organization and communication of leadership positions.

Dan asked if there was a unification of international students and a natural grouping depending on where students are from. Pedro explained that there is interaction between international students.

Hoofer Sailing Club

Lucas provided goals on behalf of the Hoofer Sailing Club. He highlighted finishing the construction of the Tong Family Marina, including fundraising for the project, increasing membership and engagement and heightening the new member experience. He also gave updates on the sailing team, explaining that they are doing exceedingly well.

Susan asked if people would be upset if they got rid of the Tech, a popular boat among the general student body. Lucas clarified that they would not be getting rid of the boat, but rather supplying new ones.

WUD Publications Committee

Fernanda provided background information on WUD Publications Committee as well as passed around various issues and spreads from all the different publications. She explained their goals, stating that they hope to restructure their support network, reconnect with the rest of WUD, revamp and establish new programming and increasing the efficiency of the budgeting process.

Dan asked where one would be able to find a copy of the publications' issues. Fernanda explained that they are available in physical form almost everywhere on campus.

Business

Social Justice Incubator

Mills provided updates on the Social Justice Incubator. He explained that WUD met and debated whether it should be set up as a separate committee and everyone decided that it should be established through the Union and implemented aside from WUD.

Spring Union Council Dates

Mills and Union Council determined the dates for Spring Semester's meetings. They include February 5, February 19, March 12 and April 16.

Budgeting

Mark explained that they recommended budget must be done by February 8, and suggested that Council meet before. He added that the next meeting for Union Council will be geared towards the Directorate budget.

Leadership Team Policies

Susan walked Council through the edits of policies WU3-2 and WU3-7 regarding membership status

Chris asked if the Identification rule includes active military or veterans as well. Shauna explained that one must be active in the military, but Susan said they could look into offering a similar service to veterans.

Susan moved to approve. Liz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Advisory Boards

Administration

Fernanda updated that Jacob came in and presented on the Union South Traffic Study and it was tabled to a later date to form a decision.

Dining and Hospitality

David updated that the primary focus of their meeting was to focus on sustainability, and they had a combined meeting with Facilities.

External Relations

Brennan updated that they worked and developed a Digital Sign Policy that addresses the actions and practices to follow. He added that they briefly budgeted it and people

were excited about the process. He also noted that Dawn came to the meeting and discussed how to promote Union Membership.

Facilities

Mills updated that they had their most recent meeting with Dining and Hospitality. He added that Ms. Neargard came in and spoke with them, and that he hopes to have action items at the next Union Council meeting.

Program and Leadership

Farhat updated that Jim met with them to discuss the Social Justice Incubator and that she hopes to address and define differences between the Distinguished Lecture Series, Society and Politics and the Social Justice Incubator.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Susan updated Council that Union staff assisted in the printing of Voter IDs for students voting in the midterm election. She added that there was an all staff meeting where Heidi, Jacob and Susan presented.

She then presented a snapshot of the budget, highlighting that they are ahead of their budget and there was a very strong conference season, however there is still work to be done in the restaurants. She also addressed that there are three positions with vacancies that will impact expenses.

Secretary

Mark updated that he plans to head into a series of meetings regarding organizational designs for the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. He also provided a brief overview of how the meetings had been structured, and prepared Council for the information that they will receive.

Vice President for Internal Relations

Farhat provided updates to Union Council regarding internal relations, highlighting that she is working on planning the Winter Retreat as well as future Wisconsin Idea Lunch events. She added that the first Wisconsin Idea Lunch event was very successful. She is also working on producing weekly budgets for WUD.

Vice President for External Relations

Brennan updated that he went to an ACUI meeting that was very informative. He added that he had a meeting with someone budgeting for marketing and determined that there is a surplus of money left over that they needed to spend. He is currently working on collaborations with other student organizations and formatting guidelines by which to structure these relationships.

He noted that he is working on the Late Night Grant as well as designing merchandise and they have an official meeting regarding the marketing for the Winter Carnival coming up.

Hoofers

David updated that Hoofers is in the group brainstorming stage and that each club should have goals presented. He added that they have had an unofficial committee meeting to discuss and focus on diversity and inclusion.

President

Mills explained that Lori Reesor started a cabinet of student leaders to discuss campus situations and occurrences and a lunch meeting is scheduled soon. He added that Winter Carnival is in the planning stages and they are off to a good start.

Brennan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Fernanda seconded and the motion was adjourned at 8:03pm.