

Wisconsin Union 2017-2018
February 7, 2018
Industry Room, Union South

Present: Iffat Bhuiyan, Lori Berquam, Katrina Morrison, Nick Munce, Omar Jandal, Sydney Weiser, George Cutlip, Max Goldfarb, Susan Dibbell, Dan Grabois, Heidi Lang, Chris Verhaeghe, Liz Preston, Sam Park

Guests: Jane Oberdorf, Lori DeMeuse, Mary Russell, Shauna Breneman

Absent: Forrest Koslowski, Courtney Byelich

6:00pm Iffat called the meeting to order.

WUD Committees

Nick reported that Nyle DiMarco spoke for the Distinguished Lecture Series last week, they are in the midst of the Winter Carnival and they had a field trip to Workshop Architects last week.

Action Items

Minutes

Omar motioned to approve the December meeting's minutes. Sam seconded and the motion passed.

Officer Applications

Nick provided an overview of the officer applications explaining that the nominating committee will be conducting interviews and he hopes to narrow the number down to six to eight candidates.

Open Forum

Omar asked if there were any updates on the minimum spending policy for dining halls. Mark said that there is a Task Force organized by the VCFA that will meet on February 26th.

Union Budget

Jane Oberdorf, Assistant Director for Administration walked through the budget for 2018-2019. She emphasized the following points:

- Mission and Vision
- Timeline

- Sources of Funding
- Operating Revenue
- Operating Segregated Fees
- Segregated Fees
- Other Revenue
- 2018-2019

Max asked about depreciation. Jane replied that it was on line 72 on the income statement. She added that it was a differential bond refund and the differential grew.

Max asked why they are projecting a 50 percent revenue increase and she explained that it is based on the campus investments and the interest rate provided by them.

Chris asked whether the increase in students will result in the building project being paid off sooner. Mark affirmed that it would be sooner – about two years' time.

Max asked why the Union was giving the building project \$250,000. Mark explained that the debt service three sources: 62 percent student fees, private support and operating revenue.

Liz motioned to approve budget as presented. Omar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Updates

Admin

Iffat updated that they had the first meeting of the semester last week and they reviewed the budget.

Facilities

Nick reported for Forrest. The committee modified a policy for late entrance to the building.

Program and Leadership

Nick reported that the Publications Study will have their first meeting soon. After the meeting on February 22, he said they will bring recommendations to the Union Council meeting in March.

Dining

Sydney updated that the Badger Market in Union South is approved for SNAP benefits and they had a press release that went out announcing the approval.

She added that at their upcoming meeting they will discuss the potential food selections at Badger Market.

External Relations

Susan provided updates for the external relations committee explaining that at their next meeting they plan to discuss the student employment survey. She also talked about the Voice of Customer survey in Union South and how they need space for Student Organization signage.

Then she updated that they are discussing the 90th Anniversary and how they might celebrate it.

Iffat added that if anyone needed to change subcommittees they should email her.

Reports

Director

Mark explained that the full time VCFA Staff EID survey is currently underway.

He added that the Student Employee WiGrow Conference is coming up, and they are focusing on transferable skills and resume writing.

He said that they are currently looking for a new Outdoor UW Director and the Memorial Union production kitchen is scheduled to move back over spring break.

He concluded that the Paul Bunyan Room will likely open within the next couple of weeks without murals reinstalled.

Inclusion Study

Susan explained that they want to make sure their open spaces are welcoming for everyone, and explore comments that they are not welcoming to everyone. In December a request for proposal went out to hire consultants to conduct a study. The focus is on students to find their thoughts on Union's spaces.

She added that they are having a team come in the following week consisting of architects and faculty from three universities. She also said they are spending all day Tuesday working with students and faculty.

They will provide a written report with recommendations in May.

Sydney asked what the process is for inviting students and Susan explained that she is reaching out to student organizations.

Traffic Study at Union South

Nick provided updates on the Traffic Study conducted at Union South to determine the cause of the decrease in foot traffic. He explained that the level of foot traffic dropped from spring 2016 to 2017, and a massive drop occurred after the class of 2016 graduated. He said that they have been looking at initiatives for the shoulder period, and suggested a “Happy Hour” at the Sett.

Employment Study

Susan explained the employment study, saying that it is a confidential Qualtrics Study for student employees. It is meant to provide feedback on hiring, the onboarding process and pay. She said the survey is strong and she will provide results when they are compiled.

Max asked if they talked with other UW departments. Susan replied that there is a campus group that is coming together and in the Union some areas are struggling more than others.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Update

Heidi and Susan provided updates on the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. They explained that they are meeting a couple times a month and the goal is to make a smooth transition and that the new Vice Chancellor is set up for success. They are also discussing how they can make sure there is synergy and foster students’ Wisconsin experience.

They added that they will brief Union Council monthly and they are still looking for students to serve on the transition team.

ASM Update

Katrina gave updates on ASM, reporting that the leadership conference is going to be held on February 10 from 4-8pm.

She added that students are able to declare candidacy until February 12 and elections will take place in March.

She also noted a small constitutional change that will change the session date to start on April 24 coinciding with the calendar year.

Omar moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm. Sam seconded and the meeting was adjourned.