

Union Council Minutes 2017-2018
April 25, 2018
Governance Room, Union South (2nd Floor)

Present: Iffat Bhuiyan, Mark Guthier, Susan Dibbell, Nick Munce, Courtney Medick, Liz Preston, Chris Verhaeghe, Forrest Koslowski, Heidi Lang, Lori Berquam, Sam Park, Sydney Weiser

Guests: Jacob Hahn, Laura Oberwetter, Farhat Bhuiyan, Mills Botham, Shauna Breneman, Edie Block, Meredith McGlone

Absent: Omar Jandal, Dan Grabois, Max Goldfarb, Jordan Pasbrig

6:01 pm Iffat called the meeting to order.

Action Items

Minutes

George moved to approve the April 11th meeting minutes. Nick seconded and the motion passed.

Facilities Gender Neutral Bathroom Recommendation Update

Forrest explained that they do not have all their data yet, but they are still progressing and currently working on a campaign.

Employment Survey

Jacob Hahn provided a high level overview on the Student Employee Survey results. He explained that they sent out about 1,500 surveys and about 570 responded. He added that the results were very reliable and there was a very small margin of error. He concluded that the responses were very positive.

Liz asked whether or not there were questions that gauged whether the students were feeling overwhelmed. Jacob explained that the responses did not suggest that students are feeling overwhelmed integrating work with the rest of their lives.

Sam asked if there are any efforts to reach out to people who have left their job at the Union. Jacob replied that they have not reached out, but people have explained in the survey why they might leave in the future.

George asked if the Union conducts an exit interview for student employees, and Jacob explained that they do not, however, they could be implemented in the future.

Union South Traffic Study

Jacob Hahn provided an overview on the recent study of why pedestrian traffic has been decreasing in Union South. He explained that they are researching what they can do to provide a solution and they are currently working with a consultant. He added that they conducted various focus groups and mined Wiscard data to find information on the student traffic.

He said that his findings suggested that people viewed Union South as a more transactional building, meaning that people do not go there if they have no direct purpose or reason.

Chris asked if there was any information suggesting a decrease in traffic from faculty and staff. Jacob said that the decrease is occurring in shoulder periods during weekdays, therefore it is likely students.

Dining Demonstration Kitchen Policy PL-14

Sydney provided an updated version of the Dining Demonstration Kitchen Policy. She explained that it addresses who can use the space and why. She added that Leadership Team approved the policy.

Heidi clarified that the last document was a combination between policy and procedure, so they split it up.

Mark moved to approve Policy PL-14. Sam seconded and the motion passed.

Open Forum

Named Spaces

Laura Oberwetter, Music Committee Director, briefly explained her experience trying to book shows with WUD Music Committee at the Fredric March Play Circle. She explained that there was an instance where someone tweeted at a comedian who was to perform there disclosing the history behind the name and as a result, the comedian said he wished they would remove the name before he arrived. She added that WUD Music's purpose is to promote diverse and meaningful artists and that the name comes between the committee and its mission.

Named Spaces

Iffat provided an overview about what the subcommittee for this matter had been doing and had everyone read through the document. She then went over the resolution regarding Names Spaces at the Memorial Union, emphasizing that they need to make sure they are providing a space to have the conversation and that they are hearing from as many student voices as they can. She explained that in the document there are seven points that need to be discussed and that she hopes they can take action on them. She then opened the floor for any questions or points of clarification.

Nick made a point of clarification and explained that he was a member on the subcommittee and stressed his thought that anything less than obstruction of the names would seem disingenuous. He proceeded to read through various documents that were brought up in the subcommittee meeting, concluding that it was hard for him to believe that the individuals were unaware that their group's name was linked to the negative national organization.

Sydney suggested adding to number four that staff must also undergo a regular special training to address this.

Mark moved to put the resolution on the table. Forrest seconded and the resolution was put on the table.

Liz moved to accept the following clarifications:

- Adding more staff initiative to point 7;
- Creating a point number 9 that calls for the development of separate WUD programming and displays in the Union related to the history project;
- Adding to number 2 that any marketing of spaces will use the generic name of the places until the decision is made;
- Adding another point that charges the 2018-2019 Union Council to make a definitive decision to the Named Spaces Issue by the end of first semester 2018.

Nick moved to amend to strike point 2 and reconstruct it to say "We will cover the Porter Butts Gallery and Fredric March Play Circle names by the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year while the process moves forward as outlined in this document until a decision is made by the end of the first semester of 2018. We ask Union marketing staff to work with members of Union Council this spring to create informative and educational signage with a mechanism to create feedback for the entrances to the gallery and the play circle."

Discussion regarding the motion ensued.

Iffat moved the Council to a vote. Five voted in favor of the amendment and five voted in opposition.

Nick made a motion to recess. Forrest seconded and Iffat declared a five-minute recess at 8:20pm. The Council reconvened at 8:25pm.

The motion to amend to strike point number 2 and reconstruct it passed.

Sam moved to approve point number 2. Sydney moved to amend number 2 to add that the coverage of the names will occur before the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year. Nick seconded and the motion passed.

Iffat opened the floor for any more debate.

Heidi suggested to strike, “with the intent that the incubator can be used by any student to explore a social justice issue,” from point number 5. Liz suggested to include, “with potential collaborators within the Division of Student Life,” in point number 5.

Iffat called for a vote to approve the resolution. The motion to approve passed.

Iffat then closed the floor for private discussion.

Reports

Director

Mark reported that the Union Trustees are here for the Trustee Meeting.

VCSA

Susan explained that there will be a show and tell event coming up in Memorial Union and this summer each of the units will host a lunch and learn to help folks get to know each other.

Financial Report

Susan provided a preliminary financial statement and an overview of the snapshot. She added that the Terrace would be opening soon which will have a positive impact financially.

Marina Report

Mills Botham provided an update on the Marina Renderings. He explained that they are continuously updating the designs and working with the engineering firm to go over the details regarding how it will function. He then showed the current master rendering.

He added that they secured more fundraising and that he stepped down from Commodore of the Hooper Sailing Club, passing the projects down to Alise Mintz, for whom he provided a transition document.

Sydney asked if the JBM Memorial will be touched by the renderings and whether or not the family knew of it. Mills explained that the design does not interfere with the memorial and that he will ensure that the family is contacted.

WUD Goals Update

Nick reviewed the WUD goals and how they made strides toward achieving them. He added that they had a great, WUD-centric event with the placing of the Terrace chairs.

Forrest updated that Hooper Council had three goals: to support the clubs more efficiently, increase marketing and communication and repair relationships with WUD.

Everyone proceeded to thank Iffat for her work as president for the year. They also thanked George and Lori for serving the Council, as this was their last year.

Forrest motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sam seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.