

## **Union Council Minutes 2018-2019**

**September 27th, 2018**

**Memorial Union – Beefeaters (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

Present: Brennan Bahr, Mills Botham, Mark Guthier, Heidi Lang, Farhat Bhuiyan, Chris Verhaeghe, Fernanda Martinez, Susan Dibbell, Dan Grabois, Argyle Wade, David O’Keeffe, Liz Preston, Yogev Ben-Yitschak

Absent: Zaakir Abdul-Wahid, Anika Chatterjee, Sam Kodzick, Rachelle Stone

Guests: Edie Block, Shauna Breneman

6:04pm Mills called the meeting to order.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Mills recognized that the UW is located on ancestral Ho-Chunk land and read the land acknowledgment.

### **Open Forum**

There were no items presented during the open forum.

### **Minutes**

Susan moved to approve the minutes from August’s meeting. Mark seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Union Council Training**

Susan and Mark reviewed the Council handbook including the role of the college union, the Wisconsin Union’s history and organizational structure, the Union’s bylaws and constitution, State Statute 36.09.5 on shared governance, the Council’s advisory boards, as well as the policy & procedure manual index and the process used for making decisions at meetings.

Susan then walked the group through the annual report, including a brief synopsis, the challenges they faced, the new strategic plan and the goals.

### **Advisory Boards**

Mills described the five advisory boards and their role with Council. The committees mirror the operating areas of the Union. He also announced the committee chairs and staff facilitators and reminded Council members that they are to serve on one of the Council’s advisory boards.

### **Summary of Summer Council Meetings**

Mills and Mark provided a brief synopsis of the summer meetings as well as the final resolution. They reviewed meeting agendas and actions and reminded the board of the Open Forums held in July, videos of the forums are still available online. The resolution passed at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was approved by Chancellor Blank on August 16. Porter Butts' and Fredric March's names were removed from the spaces this summer and signage was posted providing information on the change.

They also provided a summary regarding the decision-making process, which included research, gathering feedback from stakeholders and following our shared governance process. Finally, we have to recognize that there will always be missing information. Mark then read Council's August resolution and provided an update on what has been accomplished.

Fernanda asked what happened to the possibility of renaming the spaces. Mark responded that there is a committee that will examine future naming.

Liz asked what the follow up was regarding the hate and bias report. Mark explained that the hate and bias complaint is considered through the university's process not Union Council.

Dan asked how the student body feels about the process thus far. Brennan responded that the students booking the spaces have felt a lot more comfortable. Yogev said that people are happy about it and thankful. Many of them signed the hate and bias petition. Mills added that The Weekly along with other news vehicles included an article about what happened.

Liz asked if the students who signed the petition got the information that they wanted. Susan responded that she emailed the student who led the petition about Council's actions.

Liz also expressed concern that the Council seems to be keeping students' voices at a distance instead of inviting them to be a part of the process. She stated that she believes moving forward they should try to reach out and include them in the process.

Heidi noted that the Association of College Unions International (the Union's professional organization) was waiting to see how the named spaces situation would be resolved because the Union has a lot of influence in this field.

Fernanda also added that there has been positive feedback, but the general student body remains uninformed on the full story, so she suggested that they have more lines of communication. Brennan noted that it will be addressed by WUD in upcoming meetings and Mills said that the future informational kiosk will help.

Mark, as requested, reviewed the Union Council resolution from 2007 and what was done on this same issue.

## **Reports**

## Treasurer

Susan went over how to read a financial report and shared where the organization ended up in the 2017-18 fiscal year. She explained what she felt was favorable and positive, and then discussed what they needed to work on as well as other goals they had. She also added that she will be sharing a financial snapshot at every meeting.

David asked if the revenue was the average growth per year and Mark explained that it was not. The jump this year is largely related to opening new restaurants at Memorial Union.

Susan announced that she and Mark are going to the Big 10 Meeting. Susan also provided updates regarding student staffing including a pay increase for facilities and dining staff, the addition of a new staff member in charge of recruitment and utilizing direct placement in the hiring process.

## Secretary

Mark updated that there are two academic staff positions to be filled. He added that there was a request to make emergency contraception more available to students. A vending machine system was considered as well as having them sold at the Union in the Badger Markets.

## Internal

Farhat informed the group that the Wisconsin Union Association and WUD had their first collaborative event to introduce trustees with the students. She added that over the summer, she reached out to trustees and students to match them for a mentorship program. First meetings have been set and she is trying to keep a structured process.

She also reported that they had an all-WUD meeting on September 4 where they introduced goals for the year and allowed people to intermingle and build relationships.

She noted that they are working on a 360° system to assist with self-reflection and evaluation.

## External

Brennan informed the group that he is working on a new marketing plan including a “for students by students” underlying theme, electronic signs in the Union, social media blasts and updates to “Inside the WUD-Work.” He added that the Student Org Fair went over successfully.

He also updated that the Sunburst Festival and Sunset Slam were very successful. They are also in the initial planning stages of making a music wall in der Rathskeller.

## President

Mills updated that he attended multiple meetings with different student organizations regarding how they could potentially work towards larger goals. He also added that he met with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Lori Reesor and plans to meet with a cabinet of other student leaders in the future.

He noted that they recently held the Tong Family Marina Groundbreaking Ceremony, and the marina will hopefully be done by May 2019, however there is still fundraising to be done.

## **Updates**

### **Hoofers**

David provided updates on Hoofers, starting with a summary of Hooper Council and its role. He added that Sunset Slam and Sunburst festival were both a big success and that each president is drafting club goals. He explained the goals include increasing inclusion, advancing risk management, finishing the Marina Project, collaborating with other communities and establishing more alumni connections.

### **ASM**

Yogev provided updates on ASM, explaining that they are working on Babcock Ice Cream legislation. He also stated that about 300 students have been appointed to the shared governance committees. He added that they are working on voting initiatives and starting the budget proceedings.

### **Council**

Union Council will meet October 23, November 13 and December 13.

Brennan moved to adjourn the meeting. Farhat seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.