

Union Council  
October 23, 2018  
Minutes

Present: David O'Keeffe, Liz Preston, Rachelle Stone, Farhat Bhuiyan, Susan Dibbell, Yogev Ben-Yitschak, Heidi Lang, Fernanda Martinez, Argyle Wade, Mark Guthier, Mills Botham, Zaakir Abdul-Wahid.

Absent: Brennan Bahr, Chris Verhaeghe, Sam Kodzick

Guests: Edie Block, Shauna Breneman, Brandon Phoubhandhyt, Elena Dai, Tanvi Tilloo, Amanda Venske, Jacob Hahn, Jim Rogers

Meeting called to order at 6:09 pm.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

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

### **Minutes**

Liz motioned to accept September's meeting minutes. Farhat seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Agenda**

Farhat moved to approve the October meeting agenda. Yogev seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Reports**

#### **Mountaineering Club**

Elena, President of the Hooper Mountaineering Club, gave a brief synopsis of the club and presented the club's goals including refining the trip leading process and updating their gear-tracking system.

#### **Art Committee**

Brandon, Art Committee Director, provided an overview of the committee as well as their goals for the semester. He explained that they are hoping to work with the Madison community as well as link the committee with the Art and Art History Departments at UW.

Liz asked if there has been any feedback regarding the name change to the Main Gallery. Brandon replied that the feedback has been good so far, but someone posted neon pink flyers around the gallery to address racial tensions on campus. He added that there were

flyers posted elsewhere on campus so he did not believe it to be addressed specifically to the Main Gallery.

Susan asked how the implementation of the artist honorarium is going. Brandon explained that they are providing \$500 compensation and the artists are very happy about the recognition.

### Society and Politics

Tanvi provided an overview of the Society and Politics Committee, emphasizing that they are a nonpartisan group to discuss political issues and provide an atmosphere where unique conversations can be held. She also updated everyone on her goals which include helping the group grow in numbers, increasing their social media presence, imposing marketing initiatives and introducing collaborations with other groups. She added that she is hoping to develop a scholarship through the committee to assist in an internship in Washington D.C.

She noted that she has some requests for WUD and Union Council to help Society and Politics achieve success. Specifically, she hopes everyone will rave about the committee, help promote Human Rights Week and consider an additional stipend for a new Assistant Director for the committee.

David asked what the average attendance has been per meeting and Tanvi responded that it is about 12-15 members.

### Performing Arts Committee

Amanda provided a brief synopsis regarding the Performing Arts Committee including their role and purpose in regards to WUD and the Union. She presented her goals for the committee, highlighting an underlying theme of resilience. She emphasized that they want to strengthen their committee's team dynamic by connecting the student members with full-time staff more effectively. She also hopes to provide a better narrative of the committee to external viewers. She added that she hopes to create stronger ties with the rest of WUD.

### Inclusion Study

Jacob Hahn gave a brief overview on the Inclusion Study conducted last semester. He explained that a final report was presented in May along with recommendations. Leadership Team met during the summer to review recommendations and begin to develop goals. Specific goals will be developed and included in the Union's annual budget process.

He then passed around the prioritized recommendations and goals (on file with minutes)

### Social Justice Incubator

Jim Rogers provided an overview of the creation and potential structure of a Social Justice Incubator. He also provided a brief summary regarding the program's inception as well as the process by which it would be executed.

He emphasized the incubator's purpose in respects to the Union along with the student body and Madison community. He addressed the Social Justice Incubator's components, the setting and the potential budget.

Liz asked whether the Incubator could be integrated into WUD. Jim explained that the intention was to provide an opportunity for social justice to be implemented into all areas of the organization. Heidi reminded the group that Council does not tell WUD what they should do. Mills also added that Jim has presented the concept to Directorate and explained the logistics of the Social Justice Incubator. Farhat added that she wishes for it to be different from other social justice centers on campus.

David pointed out that it is important that the Union provide a space for this because many students and community members do not visit the Red Gym, and the Union is more widely used. He expressed concern that if one adds social justice to WUD, then it could be forgotten and many groups are already overlooked. He considered the potential for a discussion about WUD including an officer who deals with inclusion and diversity. He emphasized, however, that if the incubator is external, it could blanket all of WUD and more.

Liz debated whether or not it would be ineffective if it were inside of WUD, and that there is an opportunity for WUD to work with other student groups in a different way than ever before.

Susan stated that she believed the proposal, as presented, is broad enough to allow for change and evolution within the program. She suggested that there be updates on the program every semester.

Argyle expressed that he hears a lot about ineffective social justice training for the full student body and that the incubator should touch all parts of campus.

Fernanda recited Charge #4, emphasizing that WUD students and staff must participate, so WUD has to be involved in any case. She also raised the idea that many directors in WUD would be happy to take on the responsibility, and that it would not be an imposition.

David suggested that they discuss their involvement at a future WUD meeting, and that he would like to see it as an overarching theme throughout all of WUD.

Mark suggested that there be a group to discuss the pros and cons of various structures, clarifying that the deadline is self-imposed, so they can take another month if they require.

### **Action Items**

### Dining Recommendation One

David provided a brief synopsis of the matter regarding Babcock Dairy's ice cream containing beef gelatin. He explained that consumers were unaware they were consuming beef gelatin due to it not being clearly labeled.

Yogev then lightly delved into the religious implications of beef gelatin being an ingredient in the ice cream. He explained that Union Council has a good opportunity to make the Union an even more inclusive and inviting place and urges all to vote in favor of the recommendation.

Mills clarified that Union Council does not have any authority when it comes to the ingredients, however, they do have control over how they advertise and their labeling system.

Farhat motioned to approve the first recommendation. Yogev seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Dining Recommendation Two

Much of the background on the dining recommendation stemmed from the conversation surrounding recommendation one. Farhat motioned to approve the second recommendation, Yogev seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (recommendations on file)

### Hoofer SCUBA Amendment

David read the changes in the SCUBA constitution. He explained that the changes are necessary because they have great difficulty meeting the quorum required to pass legislation within the group. He clarified that they would still implement checks and balances and would still require a majority of the board be present to pass legislation. (motion on file)

### Social Justice Incubator

Mills read the motion.

Heidi mentioned that she and the other staff would like direction on the space and program. Liz continued to assert that WUD should consider the action further, and suggested that they discuss it further and address it at a later meeting.

Jim explained that Union Council had a request for these decisions to be made by December and Mills agreed that this should be the ideal finishing date. Susan exclaimed that the motion is broad enough that they should vote on it now rather than later in order to maintain the momentum established.

Farhat asked about the timing of budgets. Susan confirmed that budgets are developed in December.

Zaakir asked whether people could explore other options or refine the social incubator proposal if it were not approved at the meeting. Heidi explained that when the proposal was written, it was about soliciting feedback on the concepts for the Social Justice Incubator. In April, they were charged with developing a concept. She added that there is still a lot of details to be considered and developed.

Zaakir asked what the limitations to exploring other options would be. Liz explained that some of her concern is that if they say the incubator is the catalyst to discourse, the checks and balances to have other options available could be lost. She emphasized that they should be sure to not commit themselves to a single method. She asked about next steps..

Mills suggested they take it back to Directorate and then reconvene. Farhat motioned to amend the motion to add, "charging a subcommittee to meet outside and bring it later to Union Council".

Zaakir exclaimed that he did not see how tabling this matter would stop progress from occurring, and that adding the amendment seems unnecessary rather than just discussing it.

David explained that the approval would just be an endorsement, and that they would still have to discuss the matter with internal and external stakeholders. He stated it would be positive to express support through the approval of the proposal.

Susan expressed a desire to vote, emphasizing that this does not limit them, and she would like to continue moving and involve WUD.

Fernanda raised the question regarding whether WUD would want to be involved later rather than now. She believed it would be sensible to approve with the amendment, but perhaps a subcommittee would not be necessary.

Mills suggested the consideration of further options.

Heidi clarified that she and Jim would be able to come back and explicitly share how WUD would be involved, if the recommendation is approved.

Farhat retracted her amendment.

Susan moved approval of the motion presented on the Social Justice Incubator. The motion passed with nine for, none opposed and two abstained.

## **Advisory Boards**

### **Administration**

Fernanda announced that she would have more information on the Inclusion and Union South Traffic Studies at their next meeting.

### **External Relations**

Susan updated on behalf of Brennan, stating that they had their first meeting. At the next one, they will discuss digital signs and promotional potential, which they would share at the November Council meeting.

### Facilities

Mills announced that at their first meeting they explained the purpose and role of the board. They also worked on the matter of furthering the work of gender-neutral bathrooms.

### Program & Leadership

Farhat updated that they had a discussion about the purpose of the board and clarified that they would be following through with recommendations. She also clarified what the process looks like and gave everyone topics to consider as well as created a survey.

### Reports

Mills asked to table the other reports to the November meeting in the interest of time.

Farhat moved to adjourn the meeting. Fernanda seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.