

Union Council Meeting
Minutes
February 5, 2019

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

Guests: Jane Oberdorf

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Mills read the land acknowledgement.

Action Items:

December 13 meeting minutes were approved.

Meeting Agenda was approved

New Business:

2019-20 Union Operating Budget

Jane Oberdorf, Assistant Director Administration provided an overview of the 2019-20 operating budget as well as where the Union expects to end this fiscal year. All materials are in Box.

The 2019-20 budget assumes the following for Revenue:

- Strong dining & retail serve at MU
- Expanded retail and merchandise sales
- Increased traffic at Union South

Expenses include:

- 3% increase in wages for permanent staff
- Increased living wage for temporary employees
- Increase remaining student wage to \$10
- Increase Distinguish Lecture Series budget by \$50K

The DLS committee provided the Administration committee with the requested materials including list of potential speakers, past costs and how UW's lecture series compares to other Big Ten schools. Administration committee supported the increase but asked to see a report on how the increase will be spent including a marketing plan and what the increase accomplishes. Fernanda will add documents to Box.

Additional Expenses:

- Funding to upgrade US restaurants, US meeting rooms, and AV in Red Gym meeting rooms
- Upgrade 30 US guest rooms
- Replace climbing wall mat in Sett Rec
- \$255,868 to the Building Project (Union's contribution)

Assessments include:

- Campus Service Assessment increased from 5% to 7% (assessments now totaling 3 million)

David asked how WUA fits with Union's budget. Mark responded the Wisconsin Union Association is a separate non-profit. They have their own budget. The Union can make requests to WUA for funding. For example, WUA funded Revelry. Their support does not appear in the operating budget.

Seg Fee Request:

Budget includes a 2% increase. Brings total to \$240.72 (includes building project fee). Increase will cover 28% of staff and student wage increase.

Zaakir asked about the wage paid to special needs employees. Jane responded that the Union pays the agency that assists special needs employees and the agency sets their wage and pays the employees directly. In many cases, the employees are limited in what they can earn annually.

Farhat moved approval of the budget. Zaakir seconded.

Brennan added that most students do not understand seg fees and 2% increase is small. Zaakir agreed that 2% is a small increase. He thinks students will be supportive of increasing student wages to \$10.

Yogev asked where the surplus appears. It is in Schedule B.2. (Solvency Summary). Mark said that the campus guidelines for reserves are that they should be between 11 and 15% of operating budget.

David recommending explaining the reserves a little more clearly at SSFC.

Zaakir asked the \$96 building fee has not changed with the increase in enrollment. Mark responded that the bonds could be paid off earlier.

Art Committee Director Update:

Farhat reported that the Art Committee Director stepped down from his position over break. The Officers met with him because there were missed deadlines and he was over-committed. Application process was re-opened (although condensed). Only one person applied. Lily Miller was approved by Council Exec on Friday. She was summer coordinator and is currently and AD on the committee. Brennan met with the Art committee including the Associate Directors about the process.

Officer Nominating Committee:

Mills walked through the various procedures related to selection of officers as well as the major duties of each position. Materials are in Box.

One student representative and one non-student representative from Council are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Chris has volunteered as the non-student rep.

The deadline for officer applications has been extended to this Friday. Liz suggested asking Directors to share this info with co-sponsoring organizations.

The Nominating Committee will review resumes and applications then will bring candidates for in-person interviews likely next week. Finalists will be invited to Council on 2/19 for a short interview and presentation. Council will make the final selection of Officers.

Yogev volunteered to serve as the student representative.

Hoofer Sailing Club Amendments:

The Sailing Club membership, the Sailing Club Board of Captains and Hoofer Council have approved the recommended amendments. Amendments in box.

Amendment 1 adds infrastructure and some smaller changes. David moved approval Zaakir seconded. Amendment 1 approved.

Amendment 2 – Mills presented the recommended changes. A new position was added—Rear Commodore. Recommending that the election of Commodore change—be elected in spring but not take office until fall.

Line of succession is described.

Article VIII is new. Biggest change is that voting is online versus one night and in person. All other clubs including Council vote online.

Farhat moved approval. Brennan seconded. Amendment 2 approved.

Advisory Board Reports:

Administration – Fernanda reported that the board approved Union operating budget and reviewed WUD budget including DLS.

Dining & Hospitality – David reported that straws have been removed from in some units—no complaints. Talking about recommending a new position for sustainability.

External Relations – meeting canceled due to campus closing but meeting next week.

Program & Leadership – meeting canceled also due to weather. Will review PDs at the next meeting and review fundraising policy.

Facilities – meeting also canceled but meeting next week.

December Financial Statement – On file in Box. Susan said that the organization is still doing better than budgeted due to expenses being below budget.

Secretary

Mark provided an update on the VCSA realignment. The Union and Center for Leadership and Involvement will be paired in new redesign under theme Student Leadership & Community Engagement. Other themes include:

- Advocacy
- Health & Wellbeing
- Identity & Inclusion

No decision on who will lead themes other than the Dean of Students.

Two main searches underway—director of University Health Services, and the Dean of Students. In April Dean of Students candidates should be on campus.

VP Internal Relations

Farhat reported that the Winter Retreat was held on 1/25 at the Spark with WUA. 11 students and 8 alumni participated.

Porter Butts Kiosk Committee met with Zebra Dog to look at options. Will present to Council in April.

Performance Evaluations underway for student leaders.

VP External Relations

Brennan has been focusing on leadership recruitment. A lot more digital marketing. Ordered new merchandise including WUD hats, booklets, plus new SOAR materials. Working on Music Wall in the Rath. Student Org Fair tomorrow

President

Mills announced that he participated in the budget meetings and is headed to Florida tomorrow to do some fundraising with Mark and Kelly DeHaven. This past weekend hosted the successful Winter Carnival including return of Lady Liberty. Mills also distributed research that Jim Rogers conducted on Fredric March. More will come at the April meeting.

ASM/SSFC

Zaakir reported that they are in budget meetings and new SSFC rep should be at the next meeting.

Hoofers

David announced the creation of a Hooper Ambassador program. Goal is to increase access to Hooper cubs. Ideally get 20-30 club members to work together. Info session going on tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm