

Union Council Meeting Minutes March 24, 2015

MEMBERS			
		Derek Field, ASM Representative	X
Juli Aulik, Alumni Rep		Mark Guthier, Secretary	
Daniel Bahn, VP- Leadership Development	X	Jenny Knoeppel, VP- Public Relations	X
Sarah Bergman, President	X	William Lipske, Academic Staff	X
Lori Berquam, Ex- Officio		Peter Lipton, Faculty Representative	
George Cutlip, Alumni Rep (WAA)	X	Devon Maier, ASM Representative	X
Susan Dibbell, Ex- Officio	X	Bill Mulligan, VP- Program Administration	X
Abby Douglas, WUD Representative	X	Annie Paul, ASM Representative	X
Gen Carter, ASM Chair		Hank Walter, Treasurer	X

Guests: Naiya Patel, Director's Office Assistant; Professor Charles Cohen, Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions; Cole Dreier, Atheists, Humanists, and Agnostics Association; Naman Siad, Muslim Student Association; Jack Comeau, incoming Union President; and incoming Union Vice Presidents Philip Ostrov, Khea Yashadhana, and Tyler O'Connell.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	Sarah Bergman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.	
Open Forum	<p>Professor Charles Cohen, President of Muslim Students, Naman Siad, and Atheists, Humanists, and Agnostics member, Cole Dreier, spoke in regards to the Union establishing a Reflection Room.</p> <p>Professor Cohen stated he was here to speak to a question on why the union. I would say why not. How could it not be? 3 things one could say. 1. Many other schools who have reflection rooms. These rooms are located in major buildings. 2. You've already done it before. Some years ago when this issue first came up a room was given. 3. Best argument is made by the Union itself, calling itself the iconic social and cultural heart and soul of this University. Value #1 in the mission statement says respect for all people, nurturing, etc. This room would demonstrate respect for different individuals and be especially welcoming to international students who will utilize this room very well. It is a way of accepting all individuals with different practices.</p> <p>Cole Dreier, Vice President of AHA, spoke about fielding a question from a student who asked where on campus a spot is for meditation. He did not have an answer to his request. Others have expressed similar requests. Those students who wish to meditate for health reasons need a place to meditate respectfully. AHA has about 1,000 members who are not a member of a religious association and they do not have a church, mosque, temple, etc. to go to and practice meditation. It is also very important for students who are transitioning to college or to those who are trying to figure out their own religious beliefs. This room would allow a transition/ someplace to practice this healthy mindful technique. Students are not asking for an empty room just to ask for it. There are many articles from the Mayo Clinic and Harvard Medical School that show the benefits of meditation.</p> <p>Naman Siad, president of the Muslim Student Association spoke as someone who has used the reflection room when it was available before. Followers of the Muslim faith pray 5 times throughout a day. There is a mosque on Orchard Street, for people on that side of campus. Others have stopped in stairways and have prayed and other areas where they are disturbed. As a student who utilized the Reflection Room when it was around Muslim students weren't the only ones using the room? There were many other students utilizing this area. Personally it decreased the amount</p>	

**Union Council Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2015**

	<p>of stress because she was able to have a central location to go do her prayers.</p> <p>Religious diversity isn't always talked about on a campus that is very divers. This room would be utilized to all students. A strong message as a university to allow students to have their own identity.</p> <p>MODA Katie van Dam, Publications Director</p> <p>Caroline ?????</p> <p>The Spring issue of MODA will include photos of the naked female form that is not pornographic. The magazine has expanded to include a men's and art section this fall. We strive to have all of our online and other pictures be respectful. The spring issue has photos taken by a senior MODA committee member. It is tastefully artistic and talks about the struggles she faced through sexual abuse. This type of issue would make a good discussion to bring out such issues on campus amongst students.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Hank Walter: I don't know how it will be taken by students and what sort of conversations will be brought up. Is this something that the Society and Politics Committee might program about? Jack Comeau stated he would be happy to talk about that with Publications committee members.</p> <p>Publication will be April 30 and they will be available online in Mid-May.</p> <p>Devon Maier made a motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. Derek Field seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously..</p>	
<p>Closed Forum</p> <p>2015-2016 Directorate Slate</p>	<p>Sarah Bergman requested someone make a motion to close the meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposed Directorate appointments. Devon made a motion to move into closed session and Hank seconded the motion. All approved.</p> <p>CLOSED Session.</p> <p>Jenny Knoeppel moved to approve the 2015-16 Directorate slate as proposed. Daniel Banh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Riding Update</p>	<p>Abby Douglas gave a summary of the Hooper Riding Club situation. The Riding Club is projecting a financial deficit close to \$55,000. There are efforts being undertaken to improve the situation, such as price changes and fundraising efforts. Abby stated that the worst case scenario is \$60,000, but they are expecting it'll come down to a \$30,000 deficit and Hoopers will have to cover that.</p> <p>This is not the first time the Riding Club has struggled. Union Council appointed a committee to review issues when this happened previously. Internally this has already started happening. As Hooper Council President,</p>	

**Union Council Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2015**

<p>Reports</p> <p>Vice President for Leadership Development</p> <p>President</p> <p>Treasurer</p>	<p>subcommittee consider all aspects of the decision. Ms. Knoepfel said that philosophically, everyone on the Facilities subcommittee agrees that Memorial Union should have a Reflection Room. The logistics are where the difficulty is. The committee doesn't have the expertise to design/manage this Reflection Room and needs further guidance.</p> <p>Hank Walter stated that this kind of a room is not unusual in unions across the country. Mr. Walter has spoken with staff at the unions at Ohio State and Michigan to learn about their experience with reflection rooms. If the Facilities subcommittee does support this and Council does too, then we should approve the creation of a Reflection Room and charge the subcommittee to work with staff to implement it. Other universities have been able to make this work so we should be able to figure it out as well.</p> <p>George Cutlip stated that we should look into it since other universities have done this. It's our duty to the students. We could set up a schedule for everyone to understand what would be going on during certain times of the day. Like times to expect a lot of Muslim prayer traffic.</p> <p>Devon Maier moved that the Union create a Reflection Room as a part of Phase 2 of Memorial Union and a committee to be established to review any logistical issues. Will Lipske seconded the motion</p> <p>The motion was approved with 10 in favor and 1 abstention.</p> <p>Daniel Banh is working to implement a mini conference with the Jones Leadership Center to discuss diversity and individuality.</p> <p>Sarah Bergman has been working on Revelry, especially looking for funding and donations. A private donor is making a donation. President-Elect Jack Comeau, Dean Lori Berquam, the Revelry director and Sarah are going to discuss how it will be more sustainable.</p> <p>Sarah has been working on a speaker series or program that was funded by a MUBA member but plans have fallen through. Everyone is still really excited about the speaker series even though things won't happen this year.</p> <p>The big news is that the Memorial Union Phase 2 contractor bids came in a little under budget, which means the project can go forward and we're really excited for that. The next steps will be for the Department of Administration to create the contract and have it signed by the contractor and the Governor.</p> <p>In other news, the Badger Herald website is running a story that a campus crime reporting log shows that on March 19, someone reported that on March 6 there was a sexual assault at 800 Langdon Street, which is Memorial Union. We have been looking into this and can say that: 1. We are confident that there is no ongoing threat to anyone and no reason to be fearful. 2. There is not a police investigation. 3 We have been in contact with the Office of the Dean of Students. Our priorities are the person who reported it, first, and then trying to send a message that there isn't a security threat. The UW Police were clear that there is no threat to anyone's security. Any questions?</p>	
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**Union Council Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2015**

<p>ASM</p> <p>Vice President for Program Administration</p> <p>WUD Rep/External Relations</p> <p>Vice President for Public Relations</p> <p>Charge Regarding Hooper Sailing Club Summer Events</p>	<p>Devon Maier: Do we have any reason to be concerned about the building project moving forward. Hank stated that the project is fully enumerated and approved by the State Building Commission.</p> <p>Will Lipske asked who the CSAs are at the Union? Hank does not know that answer but will provide it for next month.</p> <p>Hank Walter also reported that staff are working on a project to use data to make better decisions. The Union will hire a project manager for Phase 2. series of winter gatherings in order to understand what student employees need more than</p> <p>It has been a challenging year to be president of Hoopers, and he commended Abby for handling a number of major issues very well. We're all very lucky to have her here.</p> <p>Derek Field: ASM just had elections. May 1st is when the official turnover will happen.</p> <p>They have been working to gather information on how the budget cut will effect students. Getting information from other universities as well.</p> <p>Also, reviewing funding of student organization through ASM. There are a lot of financial stipulations. We are also trying to retain people who ran for office but didn't win the election.</p> <p>Bill Mulligan reported that the Chancellor has informed WUD that there is enough carryover in Late Night Programming Funding that she will not need to increment it for next year. He has also been working on a WUD branding survey and looking at next year's budget. Bill has been working on the issues related to student wages that Council referred to the Administration Subcommittee.</p> <p>Abby Douglas announced that they will have 2 policies to bring to Union Council after the External Relations Subcommittee's meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Jenny Knoepfel reported that Directorate has hired a visual manager. In addition, she has been finalizing all the details with the branding project and transition to more consistent logos for all the WUD committees. Jenny has also been working with PubCom (Publications Committee) to get magazine racks in both union buildings and for the Art committee to get signage for the galleries.</p> <p>Sarah Bergman gave a summary of the background regarding this proposed charge. Every summer the Sailing Club has two events: Pirate's Day and Commodore's Cup. Unfortunately there have been many problems in the past with drinking. The aim of the proposal is not to shut down the event; but to keep everyone safe and to follow campus policy.</p> <p>Bill Mulligan asked about behavior where student staff are being harassed. This charge doesn't really address that.</p> <p>Abby Douglas suggested that an expectation of following Hooper behavioral standards should be added to the charge statement as a 4th bullet</p>	
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**Union Council Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2015**

	<p>or number 1. It was incorporated into Item #1.</p> <p>For point 4, the compliance report should come from the facilities director, but with input from the Hooper student representative and Hooper advisor.</p> <p>George Cutlip asked who makes the call that someone is under the influence. The building manager and sober monitors do.</p> <p>Will Lipske suggested that, rather than specifying students and Union members, because other guests participate in some events, the charge statement should refer to 'event attendees'.</p> <p>Devon Maier moved to approve the charge with the recommended changes discussed (above). Jenny Knoepfel seconded.</p> <p>Motion passed by voice vote.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	
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