



# The Student Forum

*Union College's undergraduate voice since 1929*



Date: March 5th, 2019

**Attendance:** Michael Stalteri, Devlin Daley, Raya Petrova, Sarah Gottlieb, Sarah Taha, Ruchi Raval (Leaving Early), Matthew Toy (Leaving at 6:15), Andrew Wojtowicz, Emily Carrabba, Raphael Sebastian, Zaid Al-Moghrabi, Madeleine Miller, Sam Varsano, Matthew Dulchinos (Leaving Early), Nimra Shabbir, Cameron Dreher, Madison Holley, Lawson Wheatley, Meghan McVaigh

**Non-voting:** Matthew Milless, Devlin Daley, Michael Secchiaroli, Imogene Welles, Anthony Boone, Sapan Shah, Lauren Smith (Leaving Early)

**Excused:** Lauren Dougherty, Cameron Bechtold (Abroad), Brian Huang, Simon Bohn,

**President (Stalteri):**

Guest Speaker:

Paul Bebase from the Mailroom

- 19th year at Union
- Bursting at the seams in the mailroom with packages. I have done some research to see how other colleges are handling this. Many colleges have removed their physical mailboxes because that type of mail is dwindling.
- You will still have a box attached to you but it is not physical. My idea would be to get rid of the boxes and put shelving all across where the mailboxes are currently located.
- 23,013/year in packages, that 1440/week for some statistics.
- How many people do direct deposit versus actually receiving a check?
  - 50/50 based on the student forum voice.
- Current means of communication for student body is email. We would like to start accepting flower deliveries.
- Would you rather see a text or an email about a package?
  - (LS) I think that text would be more effective because it get swamped in with the campus events email.
  - (MH) It would be good if you could do both because then it
  - (RR) I think a text message is more instant.
  - (EC) I don't use my cell phone for the cell phone purposes so I wouldn't want to get rid of both.
  - (SS) The wellness center does both text and email which I think works well.
  - (MikeS) I think that would be a great way to get instant packages out of the mailroom faster than if they sit there for the whole day in your email.

- Goals: Declutter and make it a little faster; maybe expanding the front wall
  - (MaddM) Would you notify people when they get letters?
    - (PD) We would text you with either the package or the letter.
  - (ZM) When you get two packages in the same day, there is a thread that exists and so you may think that you only get one package but then realize after you open it, you see that you got another package. Another one, I picked up the same package in the same
  - (ST) Do they have longer working hours for the schools that got rid of the boxes?
    - (PD) The hours are the same at Bates, a school that I have been looking at because they have made the transition. We would probably extend the morning hours because of breakfast being in Upper now. Matt Milless suggested using work study, however, all of your laptops and belongings are going to be on the shelves and I wouldn't want a student to be responsible for expensive items being delivered.
  - (ST) I know that study abroad letters go out of 5pm, would you be able to make an exception?
    - (PD) Of course, we would. The biggest thing that I want to check it how much it would effect to get rid of the boxes.
  - (MattD) Can you elaborate on what would happen if a letter got lost?
    - (PD) I think just the reverse would happen. Things would stay in trays and so it would be one less step of human intervention.
  - (EC) So the students who get their checks instead of direct deposit, I get it on Thursday, would I still be able to do that? If I wouldn't be able to access this after hours, then I wouldn't get paid for the week.
  - (LS) Do you think that would be because students don't really have direct deposit?
  - (ZM) For myself, I never went to Human Resources to go set up direct deposit and I am more just lazy and don't want to go and switch it. But if it became what I had to do, I would do it.
- Thank you Paul for coming!!

Strategic Plan Meetings: In your calendars!

Last week's Town Hall #2 meeting: Debrief

- Engagement: Interesting to see the staff and faculty dynamic and how they struggle with connection. A portion of the Student Body wants to bridge that connection and so they are looking to this niche to build.
- Union Pride: Building a Union College collective pride; we have pride for the particular groups that we are in, but we don't have collective pride for Union. Seeing how we can grow that; Garnet Friday; where everyone wears Garnet to grow pride among the campus.
- Diversity, Retention: Started by asking what is diversity at Union and why we chose to come to Union. It was a neat conversation with a few students so we had some unique perspectives about our experiences with diversity and how professors on the campus engage in that as well. We got into the

discussion about clubs and organizations and how we can inspire the community to going to the events. We need to want to go to them and shouldn't have a points or rewards system to incentivize. Faculty, administration, and staff end into the clubs and organizations; they could advise them but that isn't really the point. The students are driving the initiatives and not getting binocular vision of the advisor or faculty member.

Meeting 3: Academic Offerings, Friday 3/8 at Common Hour in Admissions

Meeting 4: Foundational, Monday 3/11 at Common Hour in Admissions

Feigenbaum Forum on Innovation and Creativity

Thursday at 5 p.m., in the Nott Memorial

Read more about the speakers [here](#)

Look out for Scheduling Next Term Forum Meetings

E-Board Look out for Scheduling Meeting Next Week

Guest Speaker:

Christie Dionisos, Women's Union President

- (MikeS) I want to make sure that we have a healthy discussion here. This isn't about what we think is wrong or right, but about how we as the Student Forum can support AAUW, Women's U, etc.
- (CD) The biggest thing that we want to do going forward is to go forward. There are very unfortunate things that happened from this article but we are looking to go forward. We want to go forward but we want to take preventative measures to keep this from happening in the future. AAUW and Women's U are the start of this discussion and we are slowly growing a list of faculty, staff, and other students will create a list and emails would go out to this list. If you want to be part of this list, feel free to email me. A small group of students led met President Harris today and we don't want to focus on the case, but want we can do to further prevent it. Please show up to these events that are social justice related and show your support. Not speaking up is like speaking against. We don't want to target anyone and from the Women's U perspective, we want provide a united front. I want to hear your ideas and I know that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, so I we
  - (RP) One of the focuses show be to keep the discussions a normal thing and normalize it. Even if you can't go to an event, it is important to show your support by putting it on your social media. By showing your friends, you are showing that it is important. We can ride a wave now and resurface that conversation once again.
  - (MikeS) One theme from the discussion today starts with the students and we have a lot of power in these small discussions. We can tailor the conversations that we are having that are not bashing the administration or Union doesn't do this but learning and educating the community to become part of the cultural shift.
  - (MegM) Class reps could put stuff on the facebook pages!
  - (EC) What are doing for trigger warnings for survivors of sexual assault?

- (CD) In terms of emails, they will be general enough that we are making people aware
- (RS) I think as students we should take a stance. As student leaders on this campus, we should speak out about the specific individuals and institutions in the administration that we aren't comfortable with. I think not saying something is wrong but saying something isn't wrong either.
- (MH) I agree with Rafi point, I think about the a lot of women in my life when I think about this lawsuit. I don't care who you are or your position in the school, but if you want to facilitate a behavior like that
- (CD) I just also want to second what Rafi is saying but I don't think that we will ever know the full story so if we sit back
- (NS) I don't think calling out the individuals will help because we want to be a united front. If we want to get to the core,
- (IW) I think it is important to recognize that the lawsuit was out on the Union College and not the individuals.
- (MiSecc) I think having a united front and having preventive actions will be the responsibility of the student forum to work with the clubs and organizations.
- (CD) There will be spaces where we continue to have these conversations. I want to acknowledge that you are allowed to be angry and frustrated but instead of saying this is how we have a problem with but the larger picture. We are still doing things that are not as abrasive and making sure that we are not having a reactionary response. It is all about the education to the campus. We want to have a list of things that we want to do within in the next week after our meeting today.

**Secretary (Daley):** Nothing to report.

**VP Administration (Petrova):** Nothing to report.

**VP Finance (Gottlieb):**

Vote: Max. \$2700 for Home Playoff Hockey Games this Weekend

- For the past two years, we have funded tickets for students to go. Athletics will pay for half and we have to pay for half. \$3 for each ticket for students to attend. The \$2700 will cover the cost of the games for 300 people per night. We only have to pay for what is used.
- (ZM) We always give out free tickets to students so I don't see a problem with this.
- (EC) It provides a sense of Union Pride that we discussed early.
- (ZM) Motion to approve the Finance committee's recommendation of maximum
- EC: Seconded
- VOTE:
  - Approve: 14
  - Against: 0

- Abstain: 1
- Notification: \$500 to UProgram  
Notification: \$600 to Shakti  
Notification: \$500 to WRUC

**Trustees** (Taha, Raval):

Debrief on Trustee Retreat Meeting Minutes

- Table the minutes until next week when Ruchi is here and there is more time.

**VP Campus Life** (Toy):

#UnionCollegeChallenge

- Madison and Raya did the PossePlus Retreat over the weekend. Raya also went to the Saratoga Ninja Lab. Matt went to the DPhiE Family Feud event.
- Encourage to continue to do it for next term as well. Looks good for us as members of Student Forum and recognize that we care.

**VP Academics** (Wojtowicz): Nothing to report.

**VP Sustainability** (Carrabba): Nothing to report.

**VP Multicultural Affairs** (Sebastian): Nothing to report.

**IFC** (Secchiaroli): Chili Cookoff on Thursday, \$1 small cups, \$2 large cup in Reamer at 5pm

**Panhel** (Welles): Panhellenic Prom was a success this weekend. Primary recruitment will include Saturday and Sunday.

**MGC** (Boone): Absent.

**Minerva** (Shah):

Minerva BYOB Policy: More discussion on this next week.

**THC** (Smith): Left early.

**Class of 2019** (Al-Moghrabi): Nothing to report.

**Class of 2020** (Bohn): Nothing to report.

**Class of 2021** (Huang): Nothing to report.

**Class of 2022** (Holley): Nothing to report.

**Committee Report** (SAC): Absent.

**Advisor's Report** (Milless, Dougherty): Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:** N/A

**Announcements:**

- Thruway A Cappella Sing Off: Proctor's Theatre Friday at 7PM
- Friday WRUC Student Run Concert at 8-9:30PM in Symposium House
- Dutchman Dip is Sunday at

- Spread the link because if they reach \$20,000, one of the trustees will match and so there will be \$40,000 for the scholarship.

(ST) Motion to adjourn

(EC) Seconded.