

Date: April 1st, 2019

Attendance: Michael Stalteri, Raya Petrova, Sarah Gottlieb, Sarah Taha, Ruchi Raval, Matthew Toy, Andrew Wojtowicz, Emily Carrabba, Raphael Sebastian, Madeleine Miller, Sam Varsano, Simon Bohn, Cameron Bechtold, Matthew Dulchinos, Brian Huang, Nimra Shabbir, Cameron Dreher, Madison Holley, Lawson Wheatley, Meghan McVaigh

Non-voting: Matthew Milless, Lauren Dougherty, Devlin Daley, Michael Secchiaroli, Imogene Welles, Anthony Boone, Marina Angelopolous, Lauren Smith

Excused: Zaid Al-Moghrabi

President (Stalteri):

Brother's and Sister's Strategic Plan Ideas Tour

Guiding Questions:

- Are the macro goals listed the ones we should be focusing on?
 - What is missing?
 - Where should we place more emphasis?
 - Where do you see your particular group "buying in" to the goals attached?
 - What about places where you or students will push back? For what reasons?
 - Any specific ideas or structures you would want us to consider?
- Marcus Hotaling (Student Experience) and Ken Aslakson (Brothers and Sisters)
- (RS) With the Brothers and Sisters committee, I think that one of the main reasons that Union is out of touch in the community. Very few people are allowed off campus and at some other colleges, most of the built community is built on living in the community, buying from the grocery store, etc. It should extend as well to the other class levels.
 - (MH) Union has a very negative outlook on the Schenectady community and there has to be something that makes the mindset change inside the campus. There are many stereotypes that people give to the community members of Schenectady.
 - (LS) There is also a stigma that Union doesn't want to interact with the community and that fuels the fire. I have had multiple interactions with the community through internships.
 - (MT) Some people at Union have a prior connection to Union and Schenectady is very different than it was 10 years ago. Maybe the stigma is passed down from relatives and friends who have a different idea of what Schenectady is.
 - (EC) The way we market and talk about the Union about being a bubble, and never having to leave the campus. It might attract a certain student body in that way.
 - (CD) If it is introduced as a requirement as part of the curriculum, then it may enhance the negative value of people not wanting to enter the community.
 - (AW) There are way too many things that are more important, from the GenEd requirement committee, it doesn't seem like it is going to make the cut for community service.

- (EC) More internships and jobs that were in the local community would perhaps enhance that relationship as well.
- (MikeStal) I had a psychology internship class where my advisor based on her connections was able to place me in the local community. They do one in pre-health and political science that helps us get out into the community with the people that they know.
- (RP) What percentage of students here are local to Union?
 - (KA) I don't know the numbers but I expect they are pretty small.
 - (RP) The people who were representative from the community at my high school showed pride in their community through their leadership roles.
- (SB) The Taste of Schenectady was an hour walk and there were 10 restaurants that we could go down into and visit with the food and owners during my pre-orientation.
- (RP) There are alumni that have businesses in the city as well!
- (AB) Having political events happen on campus because many students are registered to vote in the community and so students can be more informed about the area but also will be knowledgeable to vote.
- (RS) I was going to piggyback on Simon's point- it should be important to let the students know about what is going on in Schenectady.
- (MikeStal) The way we would find out about this is through Facebook events. One person says they are going, and then other people see it, and want to go, etc.
- (MT) I would like to see the number of students from Schenectady.
- (CD) I volunteered at an elementary school and for some students even at the 2nd grade level, Union seemed like an unattainable goal.
- (CB) I want to say that there are a lot of things that they Kenny Center already does that we are mentioning.
- (MA) Inviting community members to come to our campus would help break that stigma as well.
- (RP) When it comes to planning an event, are you allowed to go into the Schenectady community?
 - (MattM) Of course. A great example of this would be Thruway.
- (MH) I feel like Union and Schenectady should be a symbiotic relationship instead of one is above or below. I think there needs to be a physical person who comes from the community to help spark ideas about what is going on in the community.
- (SB) CDTA for example had a great response to coming into Union.
- (KA) I imagine you are talking about a liaison between Schenectady and Union. There are 3 Union people on the legislature in Schenectady.
- Student Experience
 - (LS) As a tour guide, we say that you can join greek life or not, but really once you get here,
 - (MH) Union is a very big party school that starts with the knowledge that the campus has.
 - (RR) We have U-Program and Greek Life parties and we don't have a medium. It could be shown through safe drinking events through Minervas, like Golub did a paint night with wine. I think the happy medium would be somewhere in the middle.

- (ST) The fact that we are isolated at night, I think that there is a huge push towards partying.
- (SG) I feel like academic fraternities would be a beneficial place for this, such as a business fraternity that can still socialize but also have a light drinking component.
- (RS) I think that part of the problem is that America has a drinking problem, because it is the thing you can't touch. There is something that is painted and then people want to live it out in college.
- (MegM) Best way to get people to events is through free food.
- (EC) Union only hang out with the people who are in their organization such as Greek Life, Pre-O mentors, Geology. You want to meet people who are different than you.
- (RP) More focus on theme housing and having the people who live there represent their actual themes.
- (SB) I do think they are good but sometimes they think that create a bubble.
- (LS) I see where your argument is coming from but most of the people living in the house are finding something different
- (CB) When people google our college, it comes up as biggest beer school. I don't think that we should be controlling the drinking as much as we do.
- (SB) I think the first-year barrier is one of the biggest things that we face as a division.
- (BH) I know RPI's student demographic is different, I know that there is a pub that is run by their students, it is a big part of their student life. Gives them a place where they can safely drink, participate in trivia, and socialize.
- (MikeSecc) Rathskellar is a pub but doesn't serve alcohol. But it should be an environment that is safe to drink.
- (MA) Nobody should up this year for that Minerva event that Arts for Progress. It was a cash bar and they had to be I.D. and it was a complete failure.
- (CD) So many of these events are so random. I wish the events were set up in a more academic setting because we don't get
- (MaddMill) There are too many events happening at the same time.
- (MH) Is there a strict number events that have to occur per term?
 - There aren't for student clubs and organizations but Theme Houses have to do 2 events per term.
- (SB) There are very few events that are happening after Friday at noon that are Minerva and that could be pushed to the weekend.
- (CD) More predictability would be important for the success of these events.
- (LS) I think that it is easy to bash the Minervas but the bases of Minerva is combine social, academic, and residential life. It might be murky waters to have a very specific culture that we can create and shift or restructure to be something successful.

Welcome, New Forum Member!

E-Board Meetings

Finance/Trustees Stay After

Secretary (Daley): Nothing to report.

VP Administration (Petrova):

Tentative dates for minor committee application cycle

- Planning on open Monday of Week 5
 - Review Monday of Week 6, or extend to Monday of week 7
 - Week 7, decisions made
 - Week 8, Orientation meeting for chairs and students
- Committees Orientation Meeting

VP Finance (Gottlieb): Nothing to report.

Trustees (Taha, Raval): Nothing to report.

VP Campus Life (Toy): Nothing to report.

VP Academics (Wojtowicz): Nothing to report.

VP Sustainability (Carrabba):

Waiting to hear back from CDTA

- They will be coming to campus on April 12th

VP Multicultural Affairs (Sebastian): Nothing to report.

IFC (Secchiaroli): Nothing to report.

Panhel (Welles):

- Strategic plan meeting, first meeting Friday

MGC (Boone): Nothing to report.

Minerva (Angelopolous): Absent.

THC (Smith): Nothing to report.

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

Class of 2020 (Bohn): Nothing to report.

Class of 2021 (Huang):

Restaurant Discount Update/Timeline

Discount Team stay after

- By the end of week 3, finalize and get information out by week 4
- Middle States working groups will have their final drafts due next week
 - Open to see through Nexus and email

Class of 2022 (Holley): Nothing to report.

Committee Report (SAC): Nothing to report.

Advisor's Report (Milless, Dougherty):

- (LD) Excited to be back for spring!! Stop by and visit!

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

- (AW) The problem with campus events and the campus calendar. You could hover your mouse over the spaces on the campus map, and it could come up.
 - (MT) I have no idea how to do that!
 - (MegM) I think it would be easier to do it on the Union App.
- (BH) In regards to the new housing changes, they linked the open forum to before the emails were sent so I was wondering if anyone knew if they were having any more forums?
 - (MikeS) I will invite both Amanda and Laura Munkres to come and speak on this at a future meeting.

Announcements:

(EC) Motion to adjourn.

(MaddM) Seconded.