



# The Student Forum

*Union College's undergraduate voice since 1929*



Date: May 6th, 2019

**Attendance:** Michael Stalteri, Raya Petrova, Sarah Gottlieb, Sarah Taha, Ruchi Raval, Matthew Toy, Andrew Wojtowicz, Emily Carrabba, Raphael Sebastian, Zaid Al-Moghrabi, Madeleine Miller, Sam Varsano, Simon Bohn, Cameron Bechtold, Matthew Dulchinos, 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:** Brian Huang

**President (Stalteri):**

Guest Speaker: Amanda Bingel, Director of Residential Life

- (AB) Big changes for next year is that housing has been changed: Fox for first-years, Davidson-Webster for upperclassman. All the residential furniture will be within a two year cycle, places that aren't getting replaced are Garnet, CPH, and Minervas. Student Body will have a chance to review furniture options and which ones you like best. One cycle 2020, one cycle 2021. Looking for sleeker furniture such as adjustable beds, lofting in-house, slimmer desks for laptops, etc.
- (RP) Are the beds going to be the type that you can loft yourself?
  - (AB) They will be similar to the beds in CPH if you have been in there.
- (LS) Are theme house also included in that?
  - (AB) Yes, including Roger Hull, Seward, and Greek Housing.
- (AB) The big switch for this year is the swap of the Residential Halls. The last fraternity in Fox will not be returning next year which leaves us with no Greek housing in Fox. Davidson and Fox are identical- except Davidson has two fraternities attached to it. It has been a push for the last few years and now Fox will be entirely independent housing. We are gaining 40 beds in Fox, we lose 52 beds in Webster and we would need 12 additional beds for the first year class. This is why we are piloting the first-year program in the Minervas. It will allow students to get involved with the Minervas at the start and earlier on. 16 beds will be held for first years in four houses, four houses in each, in doubles with each other. The Minervas have not filled during the Minerva lottery since I have been here in the past 6 years, people just randomly pick them when they go to the general lottery. They will be the middle rooms because they are smaller and not prime real estate. Student who live in Minerva will have an RA in a residential hall near them who will invite them to programs, either in Richmond or Fox.

There is an application with four essay questions, very basic questions. They are looking for people that are going to put time with the essay questions.

- (EC) With the first-years who are living in the Minervas have access to the buildings?
  - (AB) Yes.
- (CD) Is there a plan for those who don't like this program because the Minerva program is hyped up?
  - (AB) We should have the flexibility to do so.
- (CD) Is there 24-hour quiet hour housing available?
  - (AB) President Harris had some focus study ideas to work it into the first-year housing. On the second floor, there will be focused study for 35 beds in Fox and we are going to add another wall on the third floor as well.
- (MD) So the first floor of Fox that is currently a lounge, will that be renovated?
  - (AB) There will be another lounge that will be added to the other side near where the fraternity was.
- (RP) Have you thought about advertising the Minerva spots a specific way?
  - (AB) They are currently having a meeting at the same time and the applications are being held by the Minerva Office. Dual communication will come from Dean Schurick and the Minerva Office.
- (EC) What is going to happen when first-years don't show up to meetings?
  - (AB) I don't know, again, this is a pilot program for the year to try and see how it works. My guess is people who are attracted to living in a Minerva aren't trying to be super disruptive.
- (LS) I know that you have been able to request a roommate before..
  - (AB) Last year was the first year we did that and half of the people didn't stay together. We aren't going to be doing that again.
- (RR) I lived in my Minerva for the last two years, and how involved you are is part of the application, so do you think that would give them an advantage?
  - (AB) That is a great question, and I don't know that we have thought that far down the road.
- (MT) The first-years who I play baseball with, there were a lot of upperclassman who were trying to take half of a room, and then the people who wanted to live with four couldn't?
  - (AB) We usually don't let people pick half of an apartment or half of a room but I can circle back and check on that. You normally have to pick an entire suite.
- (MD) If 13 first-years apply, will the other 3 be sent back to upperclass housing?
  - (AB) I would probably send it back to the upperclass housing for those who are abroad to have the chance to live there.

#### Brief on Conversation on Constructive Engagement Last Week

- (RP) I really enjoyed having the opportunity to go because I wanted to go in the
- (MegM) I think it is important that we engage in things like this as members of our classes and the Student Body. A great use of our time.
- (RS) Is there a way to actually get students on the floor to ask questions?
  - (MattM) Seats can be saved but you need to have the confidence that students are going to show up.
  - (MS) I think it is difficult with the space of the Nott but I am sure President Harris and the staff would love to hear feedback about things of that nature.

#### CEO Event Volunteers: Panel with Fortune 500 CEO Alum's is May 10th at 6 PM

- More Tabling Help Tuesday and Wednesday at Common?
  - Megan and Michael on Wednesday at Common
  - Matt Toy and Raya on Tuesday at Common
- Volunteers Stay After

#### Student Forum ReUnion Event

- Saturday, May 18th from 2-4 PM in Golub House Great Room
- Respond to Calendar invites and Excuses must be emailed in advance!
- Add accomplishments to the google document from this past year!
  - (MegM) Is there a dress code?
    - (MS) I put business casual in the invitation so I would ask that you also dress to this code.

#### Announcement

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

#### **VP Administration (Petrova):**

##### Vote on CoC Recommended Proposals:

- Gun Sense Organization for Full Probationary Period
  - Came to us the middle of last term. Facilitating dialogues on campus and bringing speakers to campus to talk about gun sense and safety and/or firearm safety. Working in politicians offices, go to town hall meetings, look at possible internships that could arise from this clubs.
    - (SG) Are they currently an organization applying for club status?
      - (RP)
    - (AB) Was there a concern that a counter organization that would be formed against this organization?
      - (RP) They will have to go through us and any club can go through the status to become a club/organization.
    - (EC) In terms of the political aspects, I know that UCAN has had issues with that before?
      - (RP) The Senior executive has dealt with this already.
    - (CD) There informational meeting did have about 40 people there and seemed to have a lot of interest.

- (RP) They came to us wanting to be an organization from the beginning and they aren't seeking funds, they just want to generate awareness on the campus.
- (SG) Motion to approve COC's recommendation for organtyiz
  - (CD) Seconded.
- VOTE:
  - Approve: 17
  - Against:0
  - Abstain:1
  - MOTION PASSES.
- Yoga Club Full Probationary Period
  - Foster a greater understanding of mindfulness and yoga. Trips will include to Studio 4 which has already been orchestrated with the teachers there. Working with the Wicker Wellness Center to provide more yoga sessions. Would provide transportation to Studio 4. During the probationary period, the student will get people together to go down to the Studio for about \$3. There will be sign-ups like the other clubs that do off-campus trips.
    - (RR) There is tremendous cultural significance in terms of yoga, so does she plan on talking about those as well?
      - (RP) It sounds like she is going to help explain
    - (MT) Motion to approve COC's recommendation for probationary club status for Yoga Club
      - (MH) Seconded
      - VOTE:
        - Approve:17
        - Against: 1
        - Abstain: 0
        - MOTION PASSES
- One for the World Organization
  - Mission will be to eradicate poverty and hunger by giving one percent of your income in the future. Events will include hosting outside speakers and professors to talk about giving and pledging money. There is a Pledge Week where they are tabling and are raising an awareness about the chapter that exists and you can choose your own way of subscribing to charities of your choice.
  - Need experience in collaborating with the students and the whole nature of their organization is focused on having discussions. 2 First-years want to start this clubs and COC believes they will be successful.
    - (MegM) It is also my understanding that there has been extensive research in that they don't profit but all your givings go to the charities themselves.
    - (CD) Through this organization, would they be looking to collaborate with other clubs and organizations who are in the gift of giving?
      - (RP) They want to collaborate and I encouraged them to

- (SG) They don't have to pay a due?
  - (RP)
- (ST) Motion to approve COC's recommendation to make One for the World an organization on Union's Campus?
  - (NS) Seconded.
- VOTE:
  - Approve: 17
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 0
  - MOTION PASSES

**VP Finance (Gottlieb):**

Notifications: \$550 to World Around U, \$200 Biology Club

Votes:

- \$4,828.52 to Men's Club Hockey
  - Encompasses all their post season play because they made playoffs. Transportation and coaching is included in this.
  - (RS) What happens if we don't fund this?
    - (SG) I think that we should but if we fund it in the next years
  - (RP) Motion to approve Finance recommendation for Men's Club Hockey for \$4,828.52.
    - (NS) Seconded.
  - VOTE:
    - Approve: 16
    - Against: 0
    - Abstain: 1
    - MOTION PASSES
- \$2,000 to Outing Club
  - Money for a GPS SOS device for their overnight trip. There is a recurring fee for the device and bear canisters to protect their food for the overnight trip.
  - (EC) The Outing Club has been able to provide exactly what we wanted them to do in the fall.
  - (EC) Motion to approve Finance's recommendation of \$2,000 for the Outing Club.
    - (MD) Seconded
  - VOTE:
    - Approve: 17
    - Against: 0
    - Abstain: 0
    - MOTION PASSES
- Max. \$1,200 for Men's Lacrosse Home NCAA Playoff Game for maximum 300 student tickets
  - Like we do with men's hockey, we like to provide student tickets.

- (MT): I think we should do this because we want to have students be able to provide students to support student athletes.
- (MD) Motion to approve Finance committee's recommendation for max. \$1,200 for Men's Lacrosse Home NCAA Playoff Game for maximum 300 student tickets.
  - (NS) Seconded
- VOTE:
  - Approve: 17
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 0
  - MOTION PASSES

**Trustees (Taha, Raval):**

Executive Board Elections Update

- We will be sending an email for tabling for elections.

Upcoming Board Meeting

**VP Campus Life (Toy):**

Lobsterfest Update

- We ordered the shirts last week.

Union College Challenge Reception

- President Harris had reached out to Lauren D., Mike, and I to organize a reception for students who completed the challenge. Light refreshments, coins will be handed out, and conversations with President Harris.
- May 30th during common in Hale House.
- Email will go out to the campus by Wednesday of this week.

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

**VP Sustainability (Carrabba):**

Today's CDTA Tabling Update

- I tabled today for CDTA- thanks to the 3 people who came today. We haven't been getting a lot of traffic at the table so please stop by with the your friends to even share the discussion.
- (ST) How many students are coming up to the table?
  - (EC) The first tabling went really well but today we only got about 10 students.
- (CD) I think it might be a good idea to do some tabling at West too because as a first-year I never went through Reamer at lunch time.

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

**IFC (Secchiaroli):** Absent.

**Panhel: (Welles):** Greek Week is happening!

**MGC (Boone):** This week, Alpha Phi Alpha is having a free event for their 34th anniversary celebration.

**Minerva (Angelopolous):** Nothing to report.

**THC (Smith):** Nothing to report.

**Class of 2019 (Al-Moghrabi):**  
Senior Week Loan

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

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

**Class of 2022 (Holley):**

CDTA promotion team for Tuesday afternoon (McVaigh)

- 2pm in Reamer if you would like to come!!

**Committee Report (SAC):**

SAC Update (Al-Moghrabi)

- We discussed Standard Four of Middle States: Theme Houses, Greek Life, Minervas, and Student Forum. Two sections were underrepresented including Greek Life and Student Forum-currently the PanHel and IFC reps are writing their section.

**Advisor's Report (Milless, Dougherty):**

- Next Tuesday, is the Leadership Celebration, so
- Student Forum Elections are this week so make sure that you are encouraging your friends or people who are suitable for those positions.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:** N/A

**Announcements:**

- Today is the first day of Ramadan- it is a whole month of fasting from sunrise to sunset. It is a month to become better people overall as well.

(EC) Motion to adjourn.

(MaddM) Seconded.