



# The Student Forum

*Union College's undergraduate voice since 1929*



Date: March 12th, 2019

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

**Non-voting:** Matthew Milless, Devlin Daley, Michael Secchiaroli, Imogene Welles,

**Excused:** Lauren Dougherty, Anthony Boone, Sapan Shah, Cameron Bechtold (Abroad), Madeleine Miller

**President (Stalteri):**

Formal Forum Photo

Strategic Plan Meetings:

Last week's Town Hall #3 meeting, Academic Offerings: Debrief

Last week's Town Hall #4 meeting, Foundational: Debrief

- (MT) Discussion about how we teach philanthropy and giving back. Talked about focusing on the future large donations and don't focus on the small donations. Ensuring that we can in contact with our more recent alumni.
- (SG) Human Resources Group; Faculty feel strongly about pay raises and benefit inequalities.
- (EC) Marketing; what's Union's elevator pitch and what are we promoting. Using engineering as a ploy to get liberal arts students. Is the image we are selling accurate?
- (MS) Resources and technology; how students are utilizing online resources for thesis and other research projects. Turned the conversation on the students in the room and challenged them to think about the campus life and residential life platforms as well. We talk every year about the one perfect app that encompasses a place for everything. Another topic was a digital ID for students which may be limited due to student resources. Don't assume that all students are versed in how to use their email and other resources but maybe providing some education for students to use.

Dutchmen Dip: Recap and Blurb from Sophie Rosen

- Rafi, Matt Toy, and Emily took the dip this weekend!
- "This past Sunday, the Colleges Against Cancer organization pulled off what was probably seen as the most successful dutchmen dip thus far. In 2013, Kaitlyn Suarez, a cancer survivor herself, started the dip in order to help the Shinebarger

family pay for Kristen Shinebarger's medical treatments for Ewing's Sarcoma. This past December, Kristen, the happiest, most joyful 16 year old, passed away from her disease. Nothing seemed more fit than to dedicated this entire year's dip to the original recipient of the first dutchmen dip: Kristen. This is how we came up with the idea of the Dutchmen Dip Shinebarger Memory Scholarship.

- Two weeks ago, Tom Coleman '88 pledged that if we as a club could raise \$20,000 towards the scholarship, he would match it, endowing the scholarship. At first, this goal was seemingly impossible. He told us this when we had only raised around \$1,500, a very slow start to the fundraising process. Two weeks later, at 11:50 am, 10 minutes before the start of the dutchmen dip, the goal was reached. We raised \$20,000 in a mere 2 weeks, making the legacy of Kristen Shinebarger live on for years and years to come. This scholarship will be awarded yearly to an applicant who shows an immense amount of joy and positivity through an incredibly hard time in their life, just as Kristen had.
- The event was filled with sports teams, clubs, friends, and Union faculty smiling and laughing while going down the freezing cold water slide on a snowy, windy, Sunday. People were thrilled to see president harris go down the slide first, and people all over campus were able to share in the joy that the Union community came together and raised a whopping. \$20,000 in a mere two weeks for the legacy of such an incredible girl.
- What's next for the dip is unknown, but it will hopefully continue to happen every single year to come!
- “

#### Weekly Meeting Times for Spring Term

- Please fill out the doodle poll if you have not yet done so. I will let you know as soon as I have all the details.

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

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

##### Tentative Plans for Minor Committees

- Push back the cycle earlier so that it can also fit with the elections cycle that occurs for Student Forum and Class Rep positions. We will offer an orientation session for all members that are selected for these minor committees.
  - (SG) Does that include finance?
    - (RP) The at-large people will have to be

##### New Initiative of Offering an Orientation in the Spring

#### **VP Finance (Gottlieb):**

Vote: 2760 Shakti

- For their spring formal: Annual event for 70 students that is off-campus with Siena and RPI collaboration. They will be bumping up the per head price.
- (EC) If it is an annual event, how come it wasn't in their budget?
  - (SG) I like to wait to make sure that clubs are funding proper events on campus and then ask the clubs to come back once it gets closer.

- (ST) Motion to approve Finance Committee recommendation for 2760 for Shakti spring form.
  - (RS) Seconded.
- VOTE:
  - Approve: 15
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 2

Notification: 994.20 Rugby

**Trustees (Taha, Raval):**

Debrief on Trustee Retreat Meeting Minutes

- Student Affairs: Talked about the student experience, getting professors involvement in after hour programs, have a VPSA for next year
- Academic Affairs: Data Analytics minor, winter 2020 San Francisco program, general education task force
- Finance: New VP of Finance, talk about budget productions for 2020
- Admissions: How do we expand Union and more marketable to the public, discussion of merit aid, expanding ED admissions to target more students
- College Relations: A Day for U, Survey about the general perspective of Union from the public, alumni engagement conversation survey
- Facilities: Shower doors that were implemented in first-year and minerva living spaces, lighting on campus, food options on campus, energy charging stations for electric vehicles through a NY State grant, added water sprinklers in West, heating plan is finished by Davidson and Fox, S&E is going into the last phase, updating the furniture in the college dorms
  - (BH) Do we know the ones near Facilities if they are open to students? Is there going to be a fee?
  - (MS) Will this be taking away spots from students who don't have electric vehicles?
    - (RR) Looks like they are going to be set apart from the other spots
- Market value of the college's endowment:
- A lot of Strategic Plan meetings with colleges in the Boston area to see how they plan for completing it. They really do want to hear from the students so if you have suggestions, comments, or concerns, reach out to [strategicplan@union.edu](mailto:strategicplan@union.edu)
- Stillman Prize: Teaching in excellence prize nominated by sophomores and above.

**VP Campus Life (Toy):** Absent.

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

**VP Sustainability (Carrabba):**

CDTA: <https://widget.socialbicycles.com/#/122/1027/basics>

- Try this link!! You do have to put in a credit card but it should not charge you. It is in case you break the bike, you will have to pay for it.

- This is different than UBike which had a lot of structural problems and are being worked on to be fully functional in the spring.

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

**IFC** (Secchiaroli):

Chili cook-off results

- Raised over 400 dollars for Cocoa House.

Meeting with President Harris

Greek Life Strategic Plan

- Developing our own strategic plan for the future.

Discussion with Panhel

- Working on initiatives to change the culture on the campus.

**Panhel** (Welles): Nothing to report.

**MGC** (Boone): Absent

**Minerva** (Shah):

Minerva BYOB Policy

- “To give more details about the BYOB policy discussed, Liz and Jenn came by to discuss that under the new campus-wide policy, if any Minerva were to have an event with alcohol, we would require to abide by all the rules fraternities are required to adhere to when hosting on-campus social events, including that
  - Go to Fraternity & Sorority Life website to register the social event by Wednesday of that week
  - FSL provides the wristbands
  - Responsible people - 1 RP required for every 25 people
  - They wear bright yellow vest
  - We must provide the RP
  - All students need to be ID'd
  - Events can only be registered with alcohol for Friday & Saturday night
  - Chips and water are required (5 cases of water, 100 bags of chips)
    - If this runs out, the event is over
  - All parties must be done at 2:00am
  - Campus Safety starts and ends the party

The minerva council came to the conclusion that these regulations and this event style does not fit our goals, so we are not pursuing this policy. Instead, we are looking into alternative options for the few events with alcohol Minervas do conduct, including utilizing a registered bar service provided by Hospitality for any event with alcohol, as was used in the recent Golub Arts for Progress event.

Additionally, we are obtaining clarification on the exception to the rule that allows no restrictions on alcohol, according to the student handbook, for 'faculty-sponsored events'.

Hope that's enough detail!

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

**Class of 2019** (Al-Moghrabi):

Senior Slideshow Photos

- Working on the slideshow for the President's Dinner during Senior Week. I have only got photos from about 4-5 people and mostly women who are involved in Greek Life. Reach out to the seniors and have them send me additional photos so that we have more photos of the entire class.

Cap and Gown Orders for Seniors

- Spread the word to order the free cap and gown for graduation! It is only free until March 30th.

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

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

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

**Committee Report** (SAC): Nothing to report.

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

- Lauren is coming back this week!

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:**

Forum notes in the Concordiensis

- A student who was the secretary of the ConCORDY used to do the minutes and would transfer them over but now the new editors will have a discussion to see the best way for them to get the notes if they want to.

**Announcements:**

**(ST)Motion to adjourn**

**(SB)Seconded**