



The Student Forum

Union College's undergraduate voice since 1929



Date: January 22nd, 2018

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 (Abroad), Matthew Dulchinos, Brian Huang, Nimra Shabbir, Cameron Dreher, Madison Holley, Lawson Wheatley, Meghan McVaigh

Non-voting: Matthew Milless, Devlin Daley, Amy Haven, Anthony Boone, Sapan Shah

Excused: Lauren Dougherty, Michael Secchiaroli

President (Stalteri):

Mayor's Cup Rescheduled: 1/29

- Shorter meeting next week at 5pm
- Women's game will be an excused absence if you want to attend.

Secretary (Daley): Nothing to report.

VP Administration (Petrova):

Post assessment survey results and initial steps CoC will undertake.

- (MS): Motion to table VP of Admin agenda item
- (EC): Seconded

VP Finance (Gottlieb):

Vote on 2000 for Outing Club

- Given 6,000 dollars for programming this year- expected to exhaust funds. Have had over 15 events this year. Getting momentum from the first-year and sophomore class for trips. Need to pay for Safety and Guides for the trip to ensure safety for the students. Looking to plan events for the rest of the year with what remains of their budget and for spring term.
- (EC) Motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation for \$2000 for the Outing Club.
 - (BH)Seconded
- VOTE:
 - Approve: 17
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - MOTION PASSES

Trustees (Taha, Raval): Nothing to Report.

VP Campus Life (Toy):

#UnionCollegeChallenge Update

- SpoonU event and Chess&Chill attended by Student Forum members. President Harris commented on the photo on the Instagram.
- Make sure to introduce yourself and take photos. It is important for them to know you are there on behalf of the Student Forum.

VP Academics (Wojtowicz):

Recommendation from the AAC: Data Analytics Minor

- It will replace a computer science minor at the moment. Take classes with a lot of data components and this is important because it is one of the most valuable
- Goes into ethical measures as well like cyber security, etc.
- AAC gave Student Forum the recommendation to approve this major.
 - (MD) Are you talking about the computer science minor or an offshoot?
 - (AW) It is not computer science as a whole just a minor off of that.
 - (MD) Can computer science majors minor it?
 - (CD) It says on the document that it is not recommended for majors to take this as a minor.
 - (EC) It mentions something about a new class. Do you know how that happens?
 - (AW) The AAC would approve that class and then it would go forward.
 - (RS) If we vote, does that mean that minor that it will go back to the committee exactly as what will be given?
 - (MS) My understanding is that it will go back to the committee with our input and then they will go back for further discussion and they move forward with the process.
 - (MD) Does it specify computer engineering major?
 - (AW) I am not sure. That is a good question.
 - (ZM) Does that have to be voted on today?
 - (MS) We have 10 days to vote on this and bring it back to the committee.
 - (ZM) I think this is something that we need to review and gives thought to in order to make a sound decision
 - (MattM) I think Zaid makes a good point because I have a feeling that nobody has reviewed that document thoroughly and therefore needs comments and questions sent to Andrew to bring back to the committee with feedback.
- (SS) Motion to table the AAC Data Analytics minor vote for next until Student Forum has read and submitted feedback for discussion by this upcoming Sunday 1/26 next week.
 - (RS) Seconded.

- (MS) It is imperative that you send comments and questions via email to Andrew because we have to vote on this next week.

General Education Requirements

- They want student input on the GenEd requirements. This leads me to two things: do any of you have any critiques, constructive criticism to the GenEds? Next question: do you have any creative ways for them to get feedback on the GenEds.
 - (ZM) My biggest problem with the GenEds is the LCC and the Senior Audits because you don't really know clearly until the spring your junior year. I could have had a minor but now I don't because of a mistake my advisor made. Maybe doing the audits at an early stage would be better. And making it clear to the advisors what the requirements are.
 - (RS) The LCCs are pointless in what they are trying to accomplish. I don't have a solution to this problem but just thought it is important to share.
 - (AW) Do you wish they did something different?
 - (RS) I wish they had an exposure to people through diversity instead of just the language or a music class. Something that is deeper than just a surface level understanding of a culture.
 - (SB) The President and faculty are doing the strategic plan and the Academic Advising group. One thing they are looking at is if it is needed and getting what you really need out of it. I highly suggest reaching out to them to discuss further on their thoughts as well.
 - (EC) SET and the SCLB don't seem to be much different but I think they need to redistribute the number of classes that exist per department.
 - (ZM) For an engineering major, I have had to take so many classes I have no interest in and there are so many classes that I would have been more interested in taking if I didn't have to take so many specific choices. I feel like they are pushing, and I get the importance of being at a liberal arts college, but they are restricting the number of electives rather than just a specific major.
 - (CD) The way you can get out of some of these requirements are not standardized across the disciplines. You can get out of a 5 in calculus but not for your 5 in a Humanities. Another thing would be deciding whether or not
 - (AH) I never understand why sciences with a lab have the same amount of credits as all the other classes. It was frustrating to me to have the same credits for having two labs a term and someone else is taking an English class, like Intro to Lit.
 - (AW) Do you think intro to Lit is necessary to have because I am hearing a lot of frustration about that class in particular here?
 - (EC) I think that it is a good one for people to take if they need to take it .
 - (SG) I feel like there needs to be standardized reason for why each class needs to be for reach requirements. For a WAC, I have taken classes that required 10 pages while others have had 30 pages. Same for math, like

Psych Stats doesn't count for a QMR but a philosophy class that I took did.

- (MM) This is something good I know the MecE department does so they know we have to take a WAC classes but they make our upper level lab classes WACs to relieve that stress. I think if you can get the GenEd requirements to match more in your major, like reading science writing instead of an English class
 - (AW) I think that takes away the understanding of the liberal arts education.
- (MT) I know it is a liberal arts school and there are engineers. It seems like the engineers are the ones who are struggling to get the same requirements done. I'm an econ major and I have planned out my whole tract and still have space for electives. I think that maybe if you could bring up how you could make the GenEds easier to complete for engineers. It doesn't seem like a big concern for other majors.
- (MegM) I think another area of concern would be with Pre-Health tracks and STEM fields. You have two advisors so that you can try and stay on track for graduate school and more.

VP Sustainability (Carrabba): Nothing to report.

VP Multicultural Affairs (Sebastian): Nothing to report.

IFC (Secchiaroli): Absent

Panhel: (Haven): Nothing to report.

MGC (Boone): Nothing to report.

Minerva (Shah):

The new FormStack to replace the funding portion of 25Live (Link here: https://union-college.formstack.com/workflows/minerva_funding_request_wf)

- We are in the process of replacing 25Live for the Minerva House system. It is an interactive data form so if you put in a request for an inappropriate Minerva event, it will direct you to another page. Hopefully this will be sent out by the end of the term.
- (BH) That will just be for the funding portion?
 - (SS) Correct, and you will still use 25Live for funding requests.
- (MS) When we get a working link, I think it will be helpful to send that along and ask for feedback from the Student Forum.

New language table policy for Minervas

- Each language will be slotted to a specific Minerva. Each club will receive \$600 dollars per term and you can use it for food, guest speakers, decorations but it has to be culturally appropriate.
- (ZM) Did you say that the Minerva budgets were going to get review?

- (SS) I don't think they are being reviewed this year. There is \$19,750 allotted to the program for each Minerva which is separate from the Minerva Central Office, Learn Something Teach Something, etc.
- (AW) Do houses spend all that money?
 - Each house does spend a lot of that money but some houses stay under budget which then carries over into the following year.
- (MS) So if it is \$600 from each Minerva house to the Language Table each term, that would be \$1800 for the year,
 - (SG) Definitely because we take into consideration money from outside sources.
 - (MattM) The funding from the Minerva is for food use at meetings which is not what the Student Forum money is for. It shouldn't have a huge impact because it
 - (SG) How is it being policed? Are you just putting money in their account?
 - (SS) Just to clarify, the Language Club is separate from the Language table which is run by the departments. They can take out a Minerva credit card and sometimes Minerva students sit in on the tables.
 - (MattM) Language table is academic and language clubs are under Student Forum so this will help clarify.
 - (SG) Then, no, Student Forum will not be taking any of that money into consideration.
 - (BH) Professor Bidoshi runs her own
- (SS) 6 languages are already assigned, but one is a "Wild Card". If you have a language that you would like to see, you can apply through the Minerva program.

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 Reports (SAC):

- Talked about the Strategic Plan and subcommittees and noticed that the Student Experience one does not have students on it. The committee decided that it didn't make any sense but I was asked to bring it to forum. We suggested that the VP of Campus Life should be on the student representative.
- (MattM) I don't know which students were assigned to the committee and maybe didn't sign up. Matt Malatesta and Marcus Hotaling are the co-chairs of the committee. I don't think appointing someone to their committee would be suitable for that.
- (ZM) It wasn't our doing but Dean Leavitt and Brian Cohen's idea.
- (MS) Have Brian Cohen reach out to
- (Zm) Other than that, we talked about retention rates and why first years leave. After we finish the Greek House reviews, we will be returning to the same list from the beginning of the list. I think that so many tasks that were listed in the beginning have been solved or fixed, I suggested that we create a new list and so I am offering to take new suggestions.

Restaurant Discount Team:

- (BH) Thank you for giving feedback to the poster I sent last week. We are waiting to send that out to campus. Mike met with us today and we are looking to push 15% when we go back with new agreements. We talked about a sticker on their restaurant saying that they are on the Union Initiative.
- (MegM) I just finished the spreadsheet so we can keep updated as years go forward with the restaurants, the responses, etc. This will be passed on from year to year.
- (CD) Identifying restaurants that already have Union discounts that we don't have so we can have more restaurants in our initiative.
 - (SB) Is in the future or plan to bring this for future families and visitors?
 - (MS) This is an initiative for only students because they have to show their union ID in order to get the discount.
 - (MegM) It would be really hard to prove that you were visiting Union too and not just local to the area.
 - (SG) Do you think this is exclusive to restaurants?
 - (MattM) I don't think that you have to be exclusive to restaurants but I would stay away from bars and liquor stores for sure.
 - (CD) I think we are going to tie it into a report or document for all the perks and discounts that you get as being a Union College Student because there are a lot of them including \$5 movie tickets.

Sustainability/Transport Team:

CDTA Tabling Today

- (EC) Met the CDTA people today who were great about communicating who will bring some better communication about the CDTA rides.
- (CD) Very nice and quirky people. They knew the locations that students wanted to get to which helps students understand where they can travel to.
- (AB) Just to make it easier there is an app for the CDTA which makes it easier. They have a navigator card which is like a MetroCard too so that it's good for if you have guests that don't have a Union ID.
- (LS) They recognized the campus community and what was going on which was cool.
- (SG) Maybe we can try and plan programming to push taking the busses?
- (MS) Just to reiterate that we have done a disservice to the Student Body over the four years of this program running because we pay for this free ridership out of the Student Forum budget so it is important that this year's Student Forum to sign on and help promote this to benefit the Union Students.

Campus Security Team:

- (ZM) This doesn't only concern the campus safety committee but Raya went ahead and made the minor committees send reports to keep track of what they are working on. The student escort and other tasks were our focuses but then we

thought about pushing these initiatives to the minor committees so we will be going to the committees and guiding through the process with them

- (MS) Raya is doing a revision of the major and minor committees and so this team is helping assist Raya in this initiative.

Campus Life/Wellness:

- (MT) Continuing to get the Student Forum name out there and going to various campus events so we are going to continue to do that.

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

Old Business:

Alumni Panel Sponsorship Vote (Gottlieb)

- Potentially moved to Wednesday 1/30 due to the Mayor's Cup. Something I discussed but didn't communicate but I wanted Student Forum's official partnership, that would be cool. It is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce but being run by Sarah Gottlieb.
- (EC) What does it mean for us to partner?
 - (MS) It would mean that we would be able to help promote and let the students know that it is happening. Potentially a good place for networking for students as well.
- Motion to approve Student Forum support for Sarah's Alumni Panel
 - (BH) Seconded

New Business:

Discussion about possible providing shuttles from CPH to main campus (Brian)

- Yesterday, during the extreme cold, the walk from CPH was very cold and also very difficult to it being unshoveled. I don't know if there are drivers during that time of day, even some professors cancelled class due to the extreme cold. Even if they provide a shuttle every hour or at hours where there is prime foot track. If a discussion could be started about this, it would be helpful to start a dialogue. With the snow, there is limited parking spots in Richmond lot
- (MegM) I don't know what the trolley does but could it
- (LS) There is a shuttle that I used to take to Ozone which was
- (MM) It is hit or miss for the trolley driver and last winter when I lived in CPH, I felt dangerous walking to my 8am class.
- (ST) I had a meeting at the end of last year and they said they would be working on a new website to see if there is any progress about the tracking of the trolley. They could work on a list to see where the spots are on campus so I can look into more information for that.
- (EC) This is something we talked about of the retreat and I think this is a potential avenue we could take.
- (MH) I know that a lower income students don't have a lot of the proper snow equipment so I think that this would be a good avenue for those to escape the cold.

- (SB) Planning and Priorities committee looks at a wide variety of things that is the working on the mission statement of the college, allocations, and budget. Currently comparing to the other schools that are in our bracket.

Announcements:

(EC) Motion to adjourn.
(MaddieM) Seconded