The Student Forum
Union College's undergraduate voice since 1929

Date: Monday, February 10th, 2020

Attendance: Simon Bohn, Raya Petrova, Ruchi Raval, Brian Huang, Carlos Piedad, Nimra Shabbir, Lauren Smith, Madison Holley, Matthew Toy, Sarah Vanasse, Nathan Oommen, Sophia Anderson, Julia Nicolescu, Carlos Gregory, Stephan Akichy, Sandeep Alampalli, and Matthew Giarratana

Non-voting: Matt Guinee, Cate Llewellyn, Jana Davis, Lauren Dougherty, Marina Angelopoulos, and Meghan McVeigh

Excused: Thomas Walker

Guest Speaker: Patty Wareh

- Minerva system has not been changed majorly in 16 years (when the program was implemented
- (MA): everyone has been given questions.
- What type of minerva programming would you be most likely to attend?
  - (CP): Live music events are typically very popular
  - (GY): Tickets to proctors are very popular too.
  - (RP): I personally would benefit from events centered around specific majors and career fields
  - (MT): what is the current policy on alcohol at minerva events?
    - (Patty): They have to follow the same policies as they are everywhere on campus
  - (RP): I would be most likely to attend something that I could not find anywhere else on campus.
  - (LS): One of my favorite things to do at union is to see more showcases of students like a dance performance or music groups. I think Minevas could host more events like this.
  - (SA): maybe some more student led discussions like the identity dialogue
  - (JN): One of my favorites was when one of the minervas planted plants
  - (MH): I think it would be nice to have classes for skills that are useful for students like sewing or knitting.
  - (MA): would you see these to be biweekly?
    - (MH): depending on what the activity is
  - (RP): It could be a great student teaching students activity.
  - (SB): I think that minerva mentors should carry on more passed freshmen year
  - (GY): I don’t think minerva mentors are well utilized by students so it would be exciting to see more advertising.
(MA): I think minerva mentors have been phased out.

○ Have you ever attended a minerva council meeting?
  ■ (about 16 students).
  ■ (CL): I wasn't able to because I transferred and many transfer students have not gotten informed about how the minerva system works

○ Do you want more faculty involvement?
  ■ (SA): I think we should have at least two because it would stimulate more faculty involvement
  ■ (RR): I think it would be great to see more involvement.

○ How do you think house leaders should be selected?
  ■ (SA): I think the election process is adequate.

○ Do you think there are better models for increasing involvement across campus and for making efficient uses of resources?
  ■ (LS): I think it would be interested to pair minivers with theme houses to help cosponsor events and theme houses could use some of the minerva funding and take advantage of venues
  ■ (SB): I think that big events are things like milkshake monday and pizza wednesday.
    ● (Patty): Used to use PizzaWednesday but many students grab food and then leave. How could we make these events fit in more with the minerva goals?
    ● (LD): I think that it is a great way to meet friends
    ● (LS): the was admissions frames things is to give students a way to integrate social, academic, and residential life. I think that providing a space for students to hang out.
    ● (SA): everytime I go to waffle tuesdays you have to wait for waffles for a while and I always stay.

■ (RP): I think events in the classroom are sometimes linked for class requirements and it seems logical to link minerva's more with academic.
  ● (Patty): I think they are not linked as much as they could be. I think that it is pretty easy to request all of the events you all are describing.
  ● (RR): anyone that comes in can request events, it is more about making people more aware. I also think that it's really important to keep these smaller food events for first years because it is a comfortable social space.

■ (MT): I think the most important things to consider are why these events we all claim to like are not working anymore.

○ Is the FYP preference a logical way to assign people to a minerva?
  ■ (LS): I think it is good because it is random enough to integrate people from different teams and clubs so that different types of people can meet.
  ■ (JN): I think I made a lot of great friends on my floor and we were all a part of the same minerva which is really nice.
  ■ (SA): I think it increases involvement because if you know the people in your minerva because they can go to events together.
(MG): I do understand why we assign minervas. I also think that bigger and more meaningful less often would stimulate more involvement.

(MA): It has been thought of to give minervas a theme so we can assign people based on a preference.

(JN): I think there are better ways than just themes, more so something students can have in common like learning or academically related.

(CL): College students do not plan things. It would be interesting to see minervas get days of the week where they always know something is happening.

What should the minerva main goals be? What do you want the program to be?

(LS): First and foremost, I think we should provide a more uniform understanding of the minerva program in general.

(SV): I think that there should be ways to keep upperclassmen more involved.

(MT): I think the minervas should be an alternative to greeklife.

(GY): I think Minervas are very homey and they have a kitchen and a house and people should be hanging out here more.

(SA): In my opinion, it's all about educating students more about the program right off the bat.

(RP): I think the goals are very noble and I think its more about fulfilling these promises then coming up with new goals.

(SA): do you think the lesser involvement has more to do with upperclassmen being able to be in greek life? I think minervas should use this greek model of creating a community so less people will feel the need to be involved in greek life.

(RR): Most people involved want to live there I think the mentality is that many people do not have an interest in living there.

(LD): I think if we do themes they would remain broad so different types of students can still meet each other.

(Patty): Thank you for all of your feedback.

(MA): Minervas are in peril. Why do people not go to events?

(MM): Campus event emails are just not a great way to advertise them so more people know about them.

(SA): It's also difficult because the events are at the same time as sports.

(SA): As soon as I came to union, I started going to events. Since then, I have watched numbers dwindle.

(RP): I do not believe in the first year program and I think that it's hard to form connections between random people. My impression from the leadership is at times they think it is too much work. Having more faculty involvement would help take the pressure off of minerva leaders.

President (Bohn):
- We are still working on the sidewalk petition.
- Union marketing piece from Sarah Taha
  - We have Jim Torello coming on the 17th to speak as well.

Secretary (Meghan):
- Nothing to report
**VP Administration** (Petrova):

Vote on EON Club Proposal

- The mission statement of this club is to provide people with a safe space for the exchange of ideas and get guest speakers to inspire ideas and support their pursuit.
- They have already started to host events without funding. This is another reason why we feel they would be successful.
- (MT): Motion to approve a 10 week probationary period for EON based on COC’s recommendation
  - Approved: 15
  - Abstaining: 0
  - Opposed: 0
  - MOTION PASSES

**VP Finance** (Nichols):

funding requests from AMWHO and Interfaith Union

- This is a club that integrates many different faiths. It is a multifaith council of all religious organizations on campus.
- They created this because students do have to be a part of a certain faith to be involved in these organizations so we cannot fund them.
- They requested 8000 dollars. We recommend 4750 dollars based on the ideas they provided.
  - Dinner and discussion about music and religion, postpartum faith, social action activities, traditional religious dinners, etc, with the main goal of education about religion
- (RR): interfaith union is run by students?
- (RN): yes. The council is a representative from all religious groups
- (MG): is this for the rest of the academic year?
- (RN): this end of the year rule only applies to spring term.
- (RP): motion to approved funding of 4750 dollars for interfaith union club
  - (MM) seconded
  - Approved: 14
  - Opposed: 0
  - Abstaining: 0
  - MOTION PASSES.
- (RN): AMWHO is requesting money for a conference to attend in order to remain an active chapter.
  - Based on the break down of the event, the finance committee recommends 2320.
  - (MG): Is this how much they typically have asked for in the passed?
  - (RN): they did a similar amount last year.
  - (RR): how much is the club budget?
  - (RN): only 700 dollars. And they have a detailed plan for how they intent to do it.
  - (JN) motion to approve the finance committee's recommendation of 2320 dollars so that they can attend their yearly conference,
  - (CP) seconded.
    - Approved: 14
    - Opposed: 0
Abstaining: 0
MOTION PASSES

Trustees (Raval, Huang):
- Event on Friday, the 21st 4-6:30pm in the fieldhouse
  - Launch celebration
  - President Harris is making a big announcement where the student forum will be called up to facilitate. We are all getting quarter zips to wear to this and I need everyone's sizes
  - We need to greet people at the door
  - If you are already presenting, you will not be getting a quarter zip depending on who you are getting involved in
  - Will have
  - We also need people to hold up a card (x5)
  - We need everyone to sign up on the campaign launch email
- This term, for the trustees meeting, we are focusing on the career center
  - Please write on the doc your personal experience with the career center

VP Campus Life (Shabbir):

VP Academics (Smith):
- Nothing to report

VP Sustainability (Piedad):
Green Fee Update
- Green fee proposal will probably not be decided on until next week

VP Multicultural Affairs (Holley):
- February 12th at 5pm in the fishbowl BSU is hosting a Jubilee (youtube style) where people can asking interactive questions to the audience, etc. Hope to see you all there.

IFC (Guinee):

Panhel: (Llewellyn):
- Competency training with pride thursday next week
- Love Mom and Dad is tomorrow at 7pm in CPH

MGC (N/A):

Minerva (Angelopoulos):

Theme House (Goldberg):
- Nothing to report

Class of 2020 (Wiener):
- We just started planning senior week. We will send out a survey to the whole campus soon.

Class of 2021 (Toy):
Nothing to report

Class of 2022 (Anderson):
- Getting a head start on business discount initiative
  - Reaching out to contacts that have said yes in the past
  - The goal with the business part is to open it up to more than just restaurants

Class of 2023 ():
- Looking into helping with Minerva involvement with freshmen

Committee Report (SAC):
- Met about the Minerva program this week

Advisor’s Report (Dougherty):
- Upcoming has 30 more free tickets for thruway Feb 15th at 7.
  - You must take the shuttle if you use these tickets
  - 15 dollars for students!

Old Business:

New Business:

Announcements:
- Vagina Monologues are this weekend
- Club Basketball game this weekend as well

Motion to adjourn:
Approved: everyone
MOTION PASSES.