The Student Forum
Union College's undergraduate voice since 1929

Date: May 11th, 2020

Attendance:
Non-voting: Cate Llewellyn, Lauren Dougherty, Madeline Goldberg, Meghan McVeigh, Marina Angelopoulos, and Matt Guinee
Excused:

(PH): We are joined by Leah Rosem out new VP of marketing and Dean FranCee. We're moving on now from planning the June 14th Commencement ceremonies on campus to working with students on an alternative. you probably saw that the boss finally released new regulations around Title Nine and right in the middle of the pandemic. August 14th I think is when we have to comply with them and how do we comply with it is the 2020-2021 Academic Year. The planning for multiple tomorrows meet every day Monday through Friday for weeks and weeks free right now and do that on Friday. I hope you had a chance to take a peek at it and I would love to hear your thoughts for things. I've yet to find a school that knows what it's doing in the fall. Do you want to put anything on the table guys?

(DF) no you've covered everything from my area

(LR): Like I said I was at George Washington University for nearly twenty-five years working there I actually was in soon Affairs division for a little while and then work for the central Administration working on marketing creative Services projects. I like to work very close to his students and hear what is going on with them and help them achieve their goals inside and outside of the classroom. At GW I was responsible for social media channels and that would help departments and student groups with any Publications are print or digital needs that they had. At Union I'm in Communications and marketing role and also helped the college achieve its goals and its reputation and help get the word out about Union. I also help our internal community and how are we communicating with each other and what is there to do at Union. so much of what union is about is the community and the students and the faculty that are an important part of that storytelling at Union

(PH): the virus outbreak has impacted people differently, through economic and racial segregation. Is there a conversation within the last year that you will be able to ensure that equality exists. It is about the financial impact and then maybe individuals who could afford Union before, it’s much more difficult than they might have imagined. If families
have significant economic swings because of this time the financial aid package will be adjusted. It's hard to know if for example if a family member has been furloughed from position, you don't yet know whether that's going to be two weeks, three weeks or if they will be out of work for a year too so it makes it tricky to adjust right now for the whole year. Just to make the distinction, people may not know that remote means you're taking what you would do face-to-face and you're just moving that online, online education is really starting by "I'm designing this course to be taught online until from the ground up" it's online so it should be a much more engaging if this happens for fall. We can't send a group that goes out and directly provide service individuals who are being unfairly affected by the virus but what we can do is to make sure that people who understand what you just talked to understand why those things are here and can understand how you can make the situation better. We are thinking about how do we can actually use our faculty and our alumni to help engage our students on big topics I think about COVID-19 think about climate change think about the presidential election and have a positive impact.

(RP): Somethings I have been hearing from people is that people are saying they will take a term off or a gap year if fall term is online. For some people, this is an option but it is not for international students who are here on a VISA. I wanted to know if You are aware of this and if it is a part of the discussion. Some students taking classes from different countries are struggling with time differences and this schedule is not sustainable. It is also very difficult to choose classes not knowing if they will be online.

(PH): We hope our plans for the fall as well as the next year to really will work for as many students, the best possible option for most students is what we're shooting for. This whole issue around the international students so how many class would you have to have to be considered full-time student what are the consequences and so forth we've been talking about this literally hours ago. When you're picking horses we're certainly planning on that being subject to change depending on the situation in the fall.

(SA): A lot of people filled out FASFA before this all happened and a lot of the financial restraints that are now being imposed were not mentioned in the FAFSA. Do you have any and concrete things you can give as to how it's going to be addressed?

(PH): We've been trying to be flexible on a case by case because all of a sudden the financial data we have may be completely irrelevant and we don't yet have any new information so what they've been doing is just a case-by-case. They're having a lot of individual conversations with folks about things to work through it with them.

(MW): Some people reached out to us in the because the morale for the senior class is pretty low at the moment because you don't have a lot to look forward to in our last three weeks of college so is there anything in the works for the senior class in the upcoming near future?

(DF): Yes we are planning something but were trying to keep it under wraps while it is still in the works

(LR): If there is something meaningful you would like please tell us.

(DF): There are some things we cannot confirm or deny.

(PH): We are also watching other schools and their ideas for seniors as semester schools come to a close.

(DF): We also recognize surveys went out a while ago to seniors and there may have been some changes in opinion since then.
(M): is there a date we will announce things for fall term?

(PH): so no. We thought we would know by now. We are trying to make the decision as late as possible to make the best decision possible. We are having a hard time seeing a path to a normal life on union campus at this time and we want to wait until we see that path. That being said, international students and faculty especially need to know soon. We are hoping to have something out by mid june.

(RR): I know many students feel like they are willing to do whatever it takes to get back on campus. I think that as Union students, in this tight-knit community, getting together in person as a class for commencement is important.

(DF): and just because we do something virtually on June 14th doesn’t meet we won’t have a celebration in person later

(SV): any update on summer research?

(PH): you will hear more in the next 12-24 hours. You are not seeing much happening on campus on college campuses this summer but it seems unlikely.

(RR): I think it is also important to acknowledge members of the community are experiencing loss but the last time we have gotten a wellness center email for students since March.

(PH): how many students do you think will take a term off if it is online?

(PR): I have heard from a lot of people. I have friends that already took this term off as well. It hasn’t been on a huge scale. I think people who find online classes hard are the ones considering it.

(TW): I have friends who are seniors in high school and I think many of them are considering taking a gap year.

(SA): I have three siblings that are going to be a freshman in college and they are also thinking about this. I also have a lot of friends that won’t come in the fall because they have enough credits to graduate on time. Not everyone has this opportunity though.

(MA): I think it is more widespread than we think.

(MW): the senior class already has kids living off-campus near the school while taking their online classes.

(RR): The least turnover is in July so some students may have to live near campus even if they don’t attend class.

(BH): I think people are still in denial of reality about how different life will be on campus

(SA): I also think our federal leadership is contributing to that.

(PH): Look at the readings on the PMT website and share it with people who do not understand the gravity of this situation. We are a total institution and we are separate from just the reopening of restaurants. It will not look the same on campus this fall. We want to get as many students as possible back as early as possible.

(MA): I do not think the middle option has entered the dialogue, being on campus but in different ways.

(TW): I think the administration also needs to be sure to enforce new rules on campus.

(PH): most college students will not be heavily affected by this virus. However, there are many people working on campus that will be. It is about getting our peers to understand the gravity of the situation.
there are also many students with medical conditions we need to be thinking about as well.

Could we talk a bit about the changes to title ix
this isn’t coming out the blue. We are very concerned about the potential effect this will have on students reporting sexual assault. I think the cross-examination piece is scary and the fact that lawyers can get involve concerns advantages for some and disadvantages for others.

If you are concerned, please use your voice to make changes. We have to follow these things but you can speak what you believe.

There was a notice from a different school where they are 100% sure that their graduating class will all have a job after college, what are your thoughts?

I haven’t seen that, please sent it to me.

If w have questions can we email you?

President (Bohn):
We are in the process of sending out shirts
(RR): can w make sure to be careful of UPS generated emails and notify students ahead of time fo this?
(SB): yes of course.

Secretary (Meghan):
Nothing to Report

VP Administration (Petrova):
- Major and Minor Committee applicants are very low. I will have to extend the deadline. Once again encourage people to apply, please.
- (BH): can you sent us a list of the position so we can recommend our friends?
- (SA): are you going to extend it now or wait until the deadline?
- (RP): I think I will do it sooner than later, but I will check to see what I did last year.
- (LD): You should wait until the day of.

VP Finance (Nichols):
- Budget Packet Votes: Confidential
- All budgets were approved.

Trustees (Raval, Huang):
- Class rep elections are this week! Make sure you come to the meeting Wednesday if you are running.
- I will ask all of our candidates to join the meeting on the 25th

VP of Campus Life (Shabbir):
Nothing to report
VP Academics (Smith):
Nothing to report

VP Sustainability (Piedad):
Nothing to report

VP Multicultural Affairs (Holley):

IFC (Guinee):

Panhel: (Llewellyn):
Nothing to report

MGC (N/A):

Minerva (Angelopoulos):
- Pet show on Thursday on zoom!

Theme House (Goldberg):

Class of 2020 (Wiener):
- We got the new on commencement and w are still figuring out something nice to do for the senior class. If anyone has any suggestions please let me know.
- (RP): how you guys have given the senior class a way to reach out with suggestions?
- (RR): yeah we had a seniors town hall
- (MW): and since we heard commencement hasn’t been happening we haven’t had much interaction. We were thinking about making a poster or a flag out of people wearing union shirts
- (LD): is the goal to send something tangible?
- (RR): yes and we also want to come together as a class to leave something behind.

Class of 2021 (Toy):
- I am having a pizza Cook-off with FranCee on Wednesday, be sure to tune in

Class of 2022 (Anderson):
- Nothing to report

Class of 2023 ():
- Nothing to report

Committee Report (SAC):
- Nothing to report

Advisor’s Report (Dougherty):
Congrats to the new eboard. If you did not get a position please run for class office. If you are not staying in a position, please begin arranging ways to pass on information to the next person.
- Free Solo Climber zoom speaker is on Thursday at 7
- (RN): is there going to be a recording?
- (LD): no

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Announcements:**
- Forum, AUW, women’s union will be hosting the identity dialogues this week

(RR): Motion to adjourn
(JN): seconded
Approved: everyone