Date: October 23rd, 2020

Attendance: Matthew Toy, Kathryn Osterholtz, Julia Nicolescu, Nathan Oommen, Brian Huang, Sophia Anderson, Sarah Vanasse, Alexis Henrikson, Tyler Greenwood, Madison Holley, Marina Angelopoulos, Nimra Shabbir, Cory Sachs, Carlos Gregory, Anna Trancozo, Hayley Baglogh, Gwyneth Sultan, Sandeep Alampali, Matthew Giarratana, Lani Waggoner, Ippolit Matjucha, Emily Stein

Non-voting: Lauren Dougherty, Kathryn Osterholtz, Matthew Guinee, Cate Llewellyn, Jana Davis

Excused: Sophia Anderson, Brian Huang, Cory Sachs, Carlos Gregory, Anna Trancozo, Hayley Baglogh, Gwyneth Sultan, Sandeep Alampali, Matthew Giarratana, Lani Waggoner, Ippolit Matjucha, Emily Stein

Special Guests: Jenn Jerussi

President (Toy):
- Presence - Special Guest Jenn Jerussi
  - Jenn is unable to join us this week
  - Goals of presence for Union and how it applies to us:
    - Be able to collect data around student engagement
    - Both student retention and overall engagement
    - Central place where students can access event updates and weekly calendar
    - Fulfills aspects of the strategic plan and would be for all aspects of student affairs
      - i.e Residential life and Greek life
    - Elections can be conducted right in Presence
    - Easy to distribute funds and track community service hours in the software
      - Need clarification on practicality of finance piece of this
    - Helps you build extracurricular resume of achievements, awards etc.
    - Jenn did vet a bunch of other platforms and this showed the most success but we can only work with the data that is in there
  - So do we think students will actually use this?
    - MG: Could we reach out to club leaders asking if they would actually use the service and fill it out and keep it up to date?
    - SA: It will be interesting to see how smaller clubs will use this and if they think it will increase their numbers
    - AH: Are we bringing this program for student retention or to have everything in one place?
• LD: we are looking at it as an assessment to see how Union is tracking and assess how are initiatives are working on campus and it streamlines the calendar

■ LW: I am not sure it all needs to be streamlined, some of the events seem pretty casual and the need to collect data for everything may deter people from joining

■ MT: Clarification: student leader does not have to track anything, students would just swipe in to go to them.

■ MG: the swiping aspect may make students feel like they were being tracked

■ CS: Lauren are there pieces of this that you see that we don’t see?

■ LD: I am not answering that question until you all decide

■ CL: I agree with everything that has been said- would every event need to be using all aspects of the software every time they have a meeting or event? Is it customizable? We should not be buying into something that isn't applicable for us.

■ MT: The thought is that it is a shift, if we all decide that we are going to operate this way then we would expect all clubs and organizations to use the functions in Presence.

■ MA: As a club leader can I see how many people are at my event? As a club leader this would be a great way to track attendance and be great data.

■ MG: Is it possible to include requirements of clubs to keep their pages up to date?

■ MT: We can make that a requirement but historically we have seen people not follow these types of programs.

■ SV: I have been thinking about this a lot and I think having the data and the ability to engage more people would be great, we just need to be incentivizing people to put in the time.

■ NS: Implementation has always been a challenge but in a virtual space it may make more sense to implement this

■ SV: As student forum this is really on us to implement and even though we have a lot going on it will only happen if we encourage our peers.

■ JN: If we are doing this and committing, it is 100% on the club leaders to be as willing to do this as we are.

■ TG: Seeing all the extraneous features was confusing and overwhelming but after thinking about it and hearing more info has been helpful

■ MH: How long would people continue to use the software and keep it updated

■ MT: It will be on Forum to make sure that the clubs and organizations are using the platform in the correct way and keep it updated.

■ JD: Was there a specific amount of time/amount that clubs need to update their pages especially at the beginning. Could we do it in small increments of time?
MT: Implementation ideas for this: When we sign up we will get a Happiness Counselor who’s job is to make sure we are happy with our program as a point of contact.

Bring club leaders into a zoom session and they would make their page right there following the directions of the counselor in person

Updating is going to depend upon how active your club or organization is, each week would be different.

MA: In terms of us being responsible for keeping everyone updated, how long does that last? Once everyone knows how to use the platform it is not sustainable to ask Forum to constantly be regulating and checking that people are updating.

LD: That won’t be your role, your role would be to train them to put on events and transition leadership.

MT: A lot of clubs and orgs did not have good transition of leadership in this pandemic time and that transition does happen often

JN: I see all the benefits but there are cons, but the deterrence is the amount of work that needs to go into it. It would be nice to have a central place to use it all

CL: Every time we think about an alternative it never seems good enough but it makes me feel better that club leaders won’t see the extraneous features. Our messaging here will be very important or its not gonna float.

LW: First year reps met about Muse that would do the same thing but would have a separate calendar for students specifically.

CS: Is it possible that prior to voting we could have Jenn come talk to us?

MT: I am not sure what else she would say, I said everything she was going to say.

LD: On the administrative side, this will be adopted all across campus so all the student affairs departments have already committed to it. It has amazing features but if nobody uses it then there is no info in the site then the good things about it will not be utilized.

MA: The idea of this infiltrating Greek Life would also create accountability within that area and allow them to have data there but I worry that portion would freak people out.

CL: I agree which is why I think our messaging is so important here.

SA: As a small club we rely solely on emails and our response wait has been really low so I think we need a new platform to do that. If all the info is in one place it does make it easier.

AH: We are already doing that to an extent right now with COVID guidelines and contact tracing so I don’t think it would necessarily be as new.

Also I don’t think campus events email are that helpful or accessible, I remember as first year losing emails and being frustrated

IM: Do we have any financial cost yet?

MT: $950 a year for the next 3 years. Money comes from Student Forum budget
CS: Are there any extra costs or fees?
LD: the whole point of the contract is so that does not happen for 3 years
SV: Before the motion I just want to reiterate that if you vote yes we are all in on doing this
MG: When will this be implemented?
MT: Soft roll out and training admin and club leaders in the winter with a harder roll-out in spring and full transition next fall.
  o MH: Motion to approve the allocation of $950 from student forum budget to Presence software for 3 years
  o NO: Second
In favor: 14  Opposed: 1 Abstain: 0
  • Thank you for attending Dean Angrist meeting earlier this week
    o She really values our feedback, you all rock!
  • Civic Engagement Sticker Distribution
    o Event on November 3rd- handing out stickers and signs to celebrate voting.
  • Post-Election Office Hours
    o Nov 4th: 11:30pm-12:30pm there will be post-election office hours for students who feel like they need to talk about the results of the election
  • Restaurant Discount Initiative
    o In the past we have partnered with local restaurants to get discounts when you show your student ID- supporting local is important
    o It is not mandated for Forum to do, can develop a task force for those who are passionate about it.
    o Look out for email from Matt about this

Secretary (Osterholtz): Nothing to Report

VP Administration (Nicolescu): Nothing to Report

VP Finance (Oommen):
  • Club Financing requests will be coming next week

Trustees (Huang, Anderson): Nothing to Report
  • At BoT meeting

VP Campus Life (Vanasse):
  • COVID Task Force Update
  • Thank you for your help sorting and distributing the utensils!
    o Shoutout to First Year Reps for their help
    o Off-campus utensil distribution will be through the mailroom

VP Academics (Henrikson): Nothing to Report

VP Sustainability (Greenwood):
  • Green Fee update
    o Not a ton of people have applied yet, but the deadline is not for 2 weeks
- It is a pretty extensive application
- Encourage friends to apply
- Sarah will send out Green Fee advertisement in weekly update
- Each class should put it on their Instagram accounts to advertise signing up for the Green Fee.

**VP Multicultural Affairs** (Holley):
- ID Dialogues 2.0
  - Monday 10/26- a great time to talk with a valid and underrepresented community on Union’s campus
- Update on CDTA Alternatives
  - Dining is putting up a whiteboard and poll where you can put down what you want in the Market or the Bookstore

**IFC** (Guinee): Absent

**Panhel**: (Llewellyn): DEI speaker coming to campus the next few weeks

**MGC** (TBD):

**Minerva** (Davis):
- Minerva Fellowship update
  - Fellows were unable to go to their countries so we are hoping to be able to do it next year
- Halloweek
  - Each Minerva house has been working hard on each theme for the weekend so check that out
  - SV: Do you have the links/ flyer that you can send to me?
  - JD: Link to sign up for the events will be going out this weekend and I can send them to you

**Theme House** (TBD):

**Class of 2021** (Angelopoulos): Nothing to Report

**Class of 2022** (Gregory): Nothing to Report

**Class of 2023** (Sultan):
- Meeting with Dean Osborn
  - Discussing ideas for a meet the Class Dean Event
- Title IX Office Event
  - All about the Booze event- Halloween themed event with NYS Sexual Assault Victims Unit

**Class of 2024** (Waggoner):
- West bathroom update
  - Third floor bathrooms are now gendered

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

**Advisor’s Report** (Dougherty):
- U-Program is bringing Josh Peck tomorrow as a speaker
- Civic Engagement is working on holistic events for election week- stress-relief, support etc.
• Instagram accounts of each class should be set up with a generic e-mail address not a personal one.

Old Business:

New Business:

Announcements:
MG: MSA is having a weeklong charity event, check their Instagram for more information!
SV: Women’s U and Multicultural Affairs are holding a discussion about the term “Karen”

Motion to Adjournment:
SA: motion to adjourn
MA: Seconded

Motion Passes 15-0-0