

**Union Board of Directors
Minutes
February 19, 2020**

Members present: Noah Hutchinson, Sergio Benitez, Kassidy Sebastians, David Lacy, Michael Luecke, Susan Ramirez, Barbara Bush, Jeffrey Britain, Christa Coffey, Daniel Peak, Megan Wheeler, Karen Goss, Wendy Denman, Mike Flores, Molly Orr, Richard Owens, Phyllis Vaughn.

Members not present: Brittany Nichols, Manoach Bizumuremyi, sub for Non-Traditional/Commuter, Yolian Ogbu, Marlene Salgado

Chair David Lacy began the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Welcome

David welcomed Brittany Nichols (although she was absent) from Graduate Student Council who has replaced Deanna Ayers. He also welcomed Kassidy Sebastians who has replaced Dakota Fountain from Residence Housing Association.

Minutes

David presented the January 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes provided by email and asked for any corrections. No corrections were suggested. Barbara Bush motioned for the minutes to be approved, the motion was seconded by Christa Coffey. Motion carried, the Minutes of the January meeting were approved with no abstentions.

Area Representative Reports

Facilities

Mike Flores provided the March and April Hours of Operation. The Union will have reduced hours during Spring Break from March 10 thru 14. The university is closed on March 9th and the Union will also be closed.

Finance

Phyllis Vaughn provided the current budget spreadsheet through the end of February. Phyllis advised if anyone has any questions they can call or email her.

Programs / Discovery Park

Molly Orr reported that UPC will present Brent Faiyaz in concert on Thursday, February 27th in the ballroom. It is a non-ticketed event for UNT students only, standing room only. She also advised that Fine Arts is presenting yMusic on the 25th. Also, on March 5th we will celebrate Union Fest. Lots of activities including a vendor fair and cupcakes given out at noon. Festivities will start at 7:45am through 12 midnight.

Molly also reported that the position for Assistant Director has been posted.

Conference & Event Services

Richard Owens reported that the Conference & Event Services department is in their busy season and they are still working on several open positions in the department.

Director's Report

Wendy Denman provided a presentation on Union Fees. The presentation included content from the Texas Education Code, Union Fee Statute which can be found at <https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex.educ.code.section.54.519>. This statute states “The board of regents of North Texas State University may levy a regular, fixed student fee against each student enrolled in that institution, as may in their discretion be just and necessary for the purpose of operating, maintaining, improving, and equipping the student union and acquiring or constructing additions thereto; provided, however, that the student body must approve each increase of said fee in excess of \$3 per student for each fiscal year, at an election called for that purpose by the board.”

The presentation reviewed the process of requesting fees up to \$3 annually without going to Referendum. The process begins with the Union Board of Directors and ends with submission to the Board of Regents for approval.

The presentation also provided a fee breakdown showing how enrollment has increased over the past five (5) years, but the Union fee revenue has decreased. Other information that was presented included examples on how the Union, as an Auxiliary, pays its own way by giving back to the university for services we receive such as from Human Resources and Facilities. As an Auxiliary, the Union must generate revenue to cover costs of capital projects, plus replacing and/or repairing major building equipment and systems including technology upgrades. The wear and tear on the Union building is taking place earlier than expected. The increased number of people passing through the Union building has grown. Between 20,000 and 30,000 individuals pass through the building on a daily basis. This led to additional custodial staffing that was added so that there is a cleaning staff in the building around on the clock. Additional staffing in the Conference & Event Services department has also been added to handle the increase of event activities in the building. Other staffing needs include maintenance personnel as well as an overnight operations supervisor.

The fee proposal would be for the increase to take effect FY22 which would be the Fall Semester of 2021. The amount of the increase would be \$1 per student per semester. The amount would increase from \$167 to \$168 per student per semester.

Wendy provided answers to many questions including what other universities charge. Some research has been done and more information on this will be shared. Other inquiries on other revenue sources and if costs have been cut in any areas were addressed. Wendy advised that all areas have reviewed their budgets and are very conscience of their spending and diligent in watching where cuts can be made. It was asked if the proposed increase could be tabled so that board members could discuss the fee increase with their departments.

Chair & Vice Chair Reports

Nothing to report

Action Items

The proposal for increased Union fees was brought forward for approval. Question from the floor about the March 31st deadline was brought up. If the decision is tabled for now will there be enough time to present the fee increase to the Tuition and Fee Committee in time and the answer was it will be tight but it can be done. A motion was made by Christa Coffey to approve the fee increase which was seconded by Dan Peak. With a show of hands, six (6) members voted to approve the increase, zero (0) opposed, and six (6) abstained. The motion to approve the fee increase did not pass.

A motion to table the approval of the fee increase was made by Christa Coffey and seconded by Dan Peak. With a show of hands, all present voting members approved the motion. The proposal for the fee increase will be on the March 25th meeting agenda.

Other Matters / Announcements

David announced the next UBD meeting will be March 25, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. in University Union Room 401.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, David adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pam McDonald