

**UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**UBD Meeting Minutes**  
**October 18, 2023**

**Members Present:** Bella Armenta, Dorcas Bisisi, Fatuma Mwende, Areeba Hassan, Shelby Kennedy, Em Sessom, James Parrish, Jeffrey Britain, Michael Savoie, Stacy Buchanan, Brittany Landau, Wendy Denman, Mackenzie Martinez, Mike Flores, Richard Owens, Molly Orr, Kavan Ingram

**Members Not Present:** Thanuja Berram, David Munoz-Sarabia, Isaac Hernandez, Jeremiah Witty. A representative from Housing is still to be determined and was not present. Skylar Redlin no longer works for the University and a representative from the Division of Student Affairs was not present.

Union Board of Director Student Government Association VP Bella Armenta called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m.

Bella welcomed everyone and introduced two new members, Mackenzie Martinez and Fatuma Mwende.

The Minutes from the September 20, 2023 meeting were presented for approval. Bella asked if there were any questions. Michael Savoie moved to approve, James Parrish seconded the motion, the vote was taken by show of hands and all approved.

**Facilities**

Mike Flores provided an update on the Union Hours of Operation for November. There will be reduced hours the week of fall break (November 20, 2023 – November 25, 2023). Michael Savoie stated that he works with student committees and the students have expressed concern over the food and dining hours during the fall break. Mike reassured him that while there will be reduced hours, the retail dining options in the Union will stay open until 2 or 3 p.m. each day. Wendy Denman noted to everyone that dining has updated their hours on their website. Jeffrey Britain asked if the Union breaks even the week of fall break. Mike reassured him that there are still many students who stay on campus to eat and hang out in the Union during the week of fall break so the Union will still be highly utilized.

**Finance**

Kavan Ingram reviewed the current Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget and that we are on par for FY23. He asked if there were any questions on the budget that was provided to each member. Jeffrey asked to clarify the balance of \$20 for the Vending-Non-Food category. Wendy stated that these are funds from the female restroom feminine products.

Kavan then gave an update on the Union Scholarship. There were 16 total applicants, double the amount from last year, and 3 students received \$1,000 scholarships each. The students who received the scholarship are Macy McClish with Design Works, Derek Dotson with UPC, and Aditya Lingangari with Operations. Again, each student will receive \$1,000 total, with \$500 to be received in the fall semester and \$500 to be received in the spring semester.

**Programs**

Molly Orr began by mentioning some upcoming events including Homecoming, where balloons and general décor will be going up at the end of this week. Friday evening of October 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a concert at the Library Mall featuring Leanna Firestone.

Another upcoming event is Boo Bash on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. There are 30 student organizations signed up to help and the event is open to the public.

The Fine Arts Series will feature ALOK on 11/2 and will include a poetry performance and book signing. Season of Lights will take place on 11/14 with the lighting of the holiday tree and the orb trees.

Molly noted that in 2024, the Union will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year and the celebrations will kick off with Union Fest in March 2024.

### **Conference & Event Services**

Richard Owens began by stating the reservation stats between the years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. From 2022-2023, there were 1,762 reservations and 45,000 participants. From 2023-2024 there have been 1,428 reservations and 37,000 participants.

Richard continued by stating their big upcoming events include various career fairs, mental health events, and Homecoming.

### **Executive Director**

Wendy Denman presented the Union fee increase. Please see Wendy's PowerPoint presentation at the end of this report for the intricate details. In summary, UNT students are currently paying \$167/student/semester in Union Fees. There has been no increase in Union Fees since 2015, when these fees were established. A fee increase went to the board in 2020 and was approved but due to COVID, the increase did not happen. An increase went to the board again in 2022, was approved but the President decided not to increase the fee.

Wendy also touched on the Union reservation increase happening on January 1, 2024. The Union is currently maxing out on space and to keep with the mission of offering space as a priority for students, the reservation fee will be increasing. Currently, 75% of revenue comes from the Union fee and 25% comes from rental revenue generation.

The increase in rentals will be generated to cover the growing costs of capital projects that have exceeded the annual operations budget. The money that is intended to be put into savings is being used for big projects. Capital project purchases range from \$1M – \$1.8M, so the Union may have to dip into its reserves.

Other items of concern are the rise in inflation, insurance premiums (up 125%), and the need to increase staff salaries and wages. Additionally, in the future, the Union staff will be supporting the custodial duties for the Multicultural Center.

The proposal is to increase the Union Fee to \$1/student/semester (\$167 to \$168) effective the fall semester of 2025. The vote for increasing the fee will be brought to this current board to be voted on at the next meeting on November 15, 2023 where there will need to be a 2/3 majority vote for the increase to pass.

There were no Chair/Vice Chair reports or Action Items that were presented at this meeting.

Bella asked the board if there were any other announcements or other matters that needed to be mentioned. Dorcas Bisi reminded everyone that SGA will be having a free market tomorrow October 19<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned by Bella at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mackenzie Martinez.