

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | April 19, 2017

The Carolina Union Board of Directors have wrapped up another incredible year together. Understanding the university's responsibility to create opportunities for all students, we recognized the need to be innovative leaders for inclusion and social change. The Board decided to engage in bold conversations, and to form a more perfect Union by the students, for the students. The following is an abridged list and description of the Carolina Union Board of Directors' accomplishments over the 2016-2017 academic year:

1. Campus Climate and Inclusion Initiatives

Throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, the Board often opened discussions on campus climate in response to controversial events across the community and country. Our discussions included:

- a. **Outreach:** The Board of Directors sought to improve its visibility on campus by beginning the year with a #MeetTheBoard social media campaign which highlighted all members of the board, and the entities which they represented.
- b. **Sexual Assault Awareness:** In light of the sexual assault case in the fall of 2016, the Board of Directors sought to understand the resources available to students involved in sexual assault, and how the Union can better facilitate these resources. The Board of Directors heard from the Title IX Office and Safewalk to learn more about available ventures for student safety and protection on campus.
- c. **Black History Month:** "Black Lives Matter" pins were available to students at the Information desk, and there was a special Treat Yo Self Thursday in celebration of Black History Month. The Board also highlighted impactful black individuals by displaying pictures of famous black poets, activists, educators, etc. – pictures which were arranged to spell out "B.L.M".
- d. **Complimentary Menstrual Products:** The Board of Directors approved the addition of complimentary menstrual products in all seven women's bathrooms and gender-neutral bathroom in the Carolina Union.
- e. **Accessibility Icon:** The Board of Directors voted and approved the installation of the new symbol of access beside the current signs in the Carolina Union, as proposed by the Campus Health Advisory Board. The new symbol will portray an individual who is more mobile and independent.
- f. **Healing Space:** A space dedicated to being restorative, supportive, and comforting was highlighted as an important need in the building. The Board of Directors voted and approved the allocation of Suite 2416 to be transformed into a healing Space open to all students for the 2017-2018 academic year.

2. To Form a More Perfect Union

Almost immediately following the 2015-2016 academic year, the Board of Directors began work on leading a Feasibility Study in order to explore the functionality of the current Carolina Union and receive feedback from students. Alongside the design firm, Vines Architecture, students and staff participated in tours of peer institutions, focus groups and work sessions, and the comprehensive #UNCUNIONIdeas Survey. The study produced an enormous amount of feedback from students, and Vines Architecture was able to propose a new 292,000 square foot building that would satisfy the student body's needs. Working with the Union's Communication & Creative Services Department, the board made the entire results of the Feasibility Study public to the campus community through the creation of a new website: ourcarolinaunion.unc.edu. The Board of Directors recognizes the many heterogeneous voices from across campus, and will continue to research and pursue the process of determining the future of the Carolina Union.

3. Innovating the Carolina Union Spaces

- a. **Rehearsal Space Renovation:** Blank Canvas initiated the project and raised funds to install a brand new dance floor in the rehearsal space of the Carolina Union. The new dance floor is open to any organization or individuals that wish to use it.
- b. **Meditation Room Update:** After an extensive study of the usage of the Meditation Room, the Board of Directors lifted the restriction on sleeping in that space.
- c. **Administration and Events Services Reshuffling:** To facilitate a better utilization of the office spaces, the Administrative Suite and the Events Services Suite flipped locations.

4. Improving the Carolina Union Board of Directors

In order to set the 2017-2018 Board of Directors up for success, the 2016-2017 Board of Directors consented to set March 1, 2017 as the date to select the new Board Chair. The Board emphasized the importance of the transition into next year especially in light of the Feasibility Study process. The Board recognizes that the 2017-2018 will be an unprecedented and exciting time for students and the Carolina Union. It will be full of both big challenges as well as positive progression toward a stronger, better Carolina Union that meets the needs of its many constituents. The current Chair of the Board wishes to provide guidance to the incoming Board, and gives the following as suggestions for consideration:

1. **Lead Boldly:** This upcoming school year will require great tenacity. It will also require swift, but calculated, decision making. At every stage, trust your ability to lead the Carolina Union into the future.
2. **Be Simultaneously Forward-thinking and Present-Minded:** The upcoming school year will be filled with a constant envision of the future, and all the possibilities that it holds. However, do not forget to address present student needs at every turn, and to continue making the Carolina Union a home for students that are currently here.
3. **Lead Inclusively:** Challenge yourself to ask which oft-neglected entities should be brought into the conversation. Let the mission statement of the Carolina Union, and its commitment to diversity and inclusion at UNC guide your decision-making process.

We are unbelievably proud of the work that the 2016-2017 Carolina Union Board of Directors has accomplished and hope that we set a positive precedence for the next Board, as well as other student leaders on campus. We are excited to see the initiatives and accomplishments the incoming Board will embark upon, and we know that they will continue to build on the legacy of previous Board before them.

Sincerely,



Boateng Kubi, Chair
Signing on behalf of the 2016-2017 Carolina Union Board of Directors