

Meeting Minutes August 24, 2022

5:00–7:00PM

ATTENDEES

Jauntel Bennett- Board Chair
Alexandra Marchesano- Executive Director of the Union
Taliajah Vann- Undergraduate Student Government President
Christian Phillips- Speaker of the Undergraduate Senate
Logan Grodsky (proxy for Theodore)- GPSG Treasurer
Joshua Bakita- Representative from GPSG
Lauren Aycock- President of CUAB and Board Vice Chair
Nick (proxy for Lacey Ragan)- Carolina Athletic Association
Sedrick Brown- Representative from Black Student Movement
Rida Bayraktar- Representative from Muslim Student Association
John Obeifuna- Representative from Black Entrepreneur Initiative
Paulo Rodrigues- Faculty Representative, Romance Languages Department
Ion Outterbridge- Staff Representative, Fraternity and Sorority Life
Tristan Routh- Carolina Union Tenant, Legal Services
Christen Flowers- Carolina Union Tenant, CDS
Riley Harper- Carolina Union Tenant, APPLES
Nneka Dike- Student Appointment
Tyron Lucas- Student Appointment
Ethan Hartung- Student Representative, FSL
Joe Singer- Event Services

Meeting Summary

- Jauntel introduced herself as the new Carolina Union Board of Directors Chair and presented on the Board's goals for the upcoming year.
- Members participated in an icebreaker activity to become familiar with each other's names and positions on the Board.
- The Board collectively discussed the idea of the Union serving as "the living room of campus."
- Jauntel walked through the Board committee's and their function.
- Lauren provided a CUAB update.
- Jauntel briefly walked through the BOD Teams channel, which will serve as the primary method of communication for the Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Jauntel called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes from April 20, 2022:

Jauntel presented a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20th meeting, Tristan put the motion forward and multiple members seconded it.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jauntel and Lauren introduced themselves as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, respectively. Alexandra introduced herself and explained her role as the advisor of the Board.
- Jauntel spoke about some housekeeping measures.
 - She emphasized that board meetings will be in-person for the time being and attendance is mandatory.

- She informed Board members that Microsoft Teams will serve as the primary form of contact alongside the Board's listserv where announcements will occasionally be sent out.
- Jauntel then presented the Board's goals for the Union.
 - In the short-term, the Board will be focused on strengthening visibility between the Union and students, guests, and the wider campus community. The Board will also discuss how to enhance the usage of the Underground and activate unused space in the Union.
 - In regards to long-term planning, the Board will focus on advocating for a new building and increasing revenue by encouraging further participation by outside organizations and companies.
- Next, Lauren led the group in an icebreaker activity to help members become more familiar with each other and their positions on the Board.
- Afterwards, Alexandra spoke on the idea of the Union serving as "the living room of the campus."
 - She asked members how often they visited the Union, and most answered that they enter the Union on a daily basis.
 - Alexandra then shared a statement from the Association of College Union's International (ACUI) on common standards for all college unions. According to this statement, the role of a college union is to advance community and unity, bolster the educational mission of the university, and develop students as lifelong learners. She identified the Board as the administrators of what happens in the Union building.
 - Alexandra presented the question of if people think the Union serves as the heart of campus.
 - Tristan made the point the Union most likely isn't the heart of campus for most graduate students. Alexandra agreed and emphasized that graduate student representation on the Board, like Joshua who serves as a representative for GPSG, can help this issue.
 - Alexandra then prompted members to close their eyes and think of their living room and find similarities between how they utilize that space and the Union. Members were broken into two groups to discuss this idea further.
 - The first group reported that the gathering spaces, dining options, entertainment spaces, work and study spaces, leisure and relaxing areas, and planned programming characteristic of the Union make it feel similar to their living room. They spoke about how the Union serves as a space that you can use in a variety of ways, for various needs.
 - The second group shifted focus to report more so on areas for improvement they could identify within the Union. They pinpointed needs for parking, sponsorship of student-led activities, more representation within the Board for graduate students and students with disabilities, quiet spaces for online meetings, better furniture, better directions and signage for the building, and more food options (with more gluten-free, vegetarian, halal options). They also put forth the idea of the Union operating in a more self-service fashion, where students can use spaces within the Union without having to pursue administrative direction and approval.
 - Ion brought up that several universities campuses have bars or more upscale restaurants within the Union, which would do better to attract graduate students to the area. The Board discussed the feasibility of this briefly.
- Jauntel provided a brief overview of the Board committees and their functions. Each committee will have a designated chair who will provide updates during Board meetings. Sign up for committees will take place at the next Board meeting. Jauntel plans to provide a list of questions pertaining to their progress and goals that committees should be prepared to answer at the whole-group Board meetings.
 - Jauntel defined the Long-Range Planning committee as the group that will work with the Executive Director to anticipate change within the Union. They will also oversee the implementation of a standing committee that oversees outreach for CUBOD.
 - The Finance committee will be in charge of discussing the Union and CUAB budgets in the spring semester and recommending any changes in financial planning to the Board and Executive Director. This committee will work alongside the Board Chair, the Executive Director, and Amber Ali. Their overarching goal is to increase revenue within the Union.
 - The Space Allocation committee is in charge of approving different organization's applications for space within the Union. They also manage storage space and will be in charge of planning how to

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activate unused spaces within the Union. The activation of unused spaces could also fall under the jurisdiction of a new adhoc committee, Jauntel will decide on this with input from the Board.

- The Membership committee will oversee the application process for new members of the Board and make recommendations for which student organizations should become members.
- Next, Lauren gave an update on CUAB. She informed the Board that CUAB had just wrapped up their second Week of Welcome, which they partnered with RHA to organize. They had just had a Blacklight silent disco in Fetzer and have a Nicki Minaj Karaoke night coming up. Lauren also shared that those looking to collaborate with CUAB concerning things like reserving rooms, financial support, and publicity and marketing help can fill out a collab form on Heellife.
 - Logan inquired if the financial records of CUAB are public information. Lauren responded that he can email CUAB.finance@unc.edu to be put in contact with CUAB's treasurer.
- Lastly, Jauntel completed a quick walkthrough of the BOD Teams channel and the important files that members should know how to reach. She asked members to fill out an excel sheet she plans to put in the Teams chat with their preferred pronouns and jacket sizes for Carolina Union BOD jackets.

ADJOURNMENT

Jauntel adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.