

Meeting Summary

- New at-large members were introduced
- Amber presents budget update, the 2025 budget will be shared with the board soon upon finalizing it
- The board discusses a New Union- a vision based on Feasibility Survey/what Students want, funding, construction, etc.
- The board discusses Student Employment and its downfalls- questions were prepared to ask visiting Student Employees in the coming meetings

CALL TO ORDER

TJ calls meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes from September 27, 2023:

TJ asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Minutes were not available and will need to be approved at the 10/25/23

NEW BUSINESS

- **New members of the board are introduced- two representatives from Fraternity and Sorority Life, Andrew and Emma.**
- **Amber provides an update on the budget.**
 - The 25 fiscal year budget for the Union is being finalized. Once it's finished, she will share it with everyone at the following board meeting. Student activity fee sheets have been submitted to Student Affairs leadership. They didn't ask for an increase for student organization fees, but they have asked for an 8% increase for the Carolina Union fee. The main reasons for the need for this increase:
 - The State has passed salary increase rates
 - The Union would like to offer an increased hourly rate for about 235 student employees and Union professionals
 - Capital projects with an expected expense of 8.6 million
- **TJ presented on creating a new Union, and there was a discussion surrounding feasibility and garnering support from students:**
 - Goal is to create a one-pager to present to Vice Chancellor and Chancellor
 - TJ will be meeting with Vice Chancellor and Chancellor in the next 2 weeks
 - There was a proposal to create a petition
 - This would help give students a voice in this matter
 - Tori was asked if the one-pager could eventually be put on the website
 - Discussion of whether the website receives enough views for that
 - Discussion about other school's unions- UNC Charlotte, NC Central, etc.
 - The idea of creating a digital model to be displayed in a public area so that students can view the new vision and garner support
 - Someone proposed showing a comparison in fees from our school to others who have nicer Unions to put this all into perspective
 - Hearing from students' perspective, especially Union student employees, could be beneficial- if administration demands more fees, it will feel like they're just asking for more money on top of so many other expenses.
- There was a discussion surrounding why we need a new Union:
 - One of the biggest reasons is the capital projects

- 8.6 million will be spent on the building because it's so old
 - Needed repairs, like the roof, can become a safety hazard for students
 - Incredibly urgent issue
 - Lack of accessibility: the wheelchair lift in the Great Hall has been out of service for some time now
 - It was mentioned that the wheelchair lift is something that is being prioritized, but it has been under review with the State for months now- expected to be finished within the next two months
 - Student desires from the feasibility study:
 - Very few students see getting a Union as a low priority
- The presentation depicted what a new Union would look like:
 - Conference and meeting rooms, food venues, lounge spaces
 - Organization and rehearsal spaces were at the top of student's list
 - A large venue like Memorial Hall that seats 2,000
 - Parking would be a topic of concern with such a large venue
- A discussion of the process of a new Union:
 - A bill of support would go through undergraduate and graduate government
 - A referendum to engage student support
 - Meeting with student organizations to gauge ideas
 - A formal proposal to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor
- Funding for the new Union:
 - It will cost around 350 million. There will be 3 main forms of funding- a fee increase for students, donors, and outbound support from the State Government
- TJ asked for questions and ideas on how to improve the plan.
 - Several members voiced making the data easier to visualize with graphs
 - Someone said we're going to need a more concise and decided-upon "why" for why we need this new Union if we want to get it approved
 - Somebody proposed a video of student interviews of why they want a new Union and what they envision, possibly alumni students as well
 - It was mentioned that people are more willing to give money to a cause when they feel it's something important to them and to you. It would be great to have students on video saying something like, "Oh, I need a wellness spot in the Union so that I can go to my therapy appointments without missing class", things like that
 - A food pantry in the Union was a proposed idea
 - Large food deserts on Campus
 - Small suggestions like these are important, because sure, the new building will be nice, but what will we be adding that truly concerns students? New restaurants/food is important
 - Designated offices for multicultural organizations
- Someone pointed out that the Union is an aging facility, and it doesn't represent the name or prestige of the University. To renovate this building would be like putting lipstick on a pig, it's best to put money towards a new building
- There was a discussion of construction/shutting down the Union, etc:
 - Somebody used Chapel Hill High School as an example: They were able to completely rebuild the school in phases, so that students were able to maintain normal student life by only shutting down portions of the building at a time
- With a new Union should come new infrastructure and systems:
 - 25 Live has its issues: if a new Union is built, students need a new system of accessing its facilities easier
- **The conversation transitioned into Student Employee Ad Hoc Committee:**
 - In the coming meetings, Union Student Employees, Student Stores Student Employees, Student Researches, etc. will be coming in to speak on their experiences as student employees

- Questions the board wants to ask Student Employees:
 - What's the pay structure like?
 - What are your roles and responsibilities, and do you feel fairly compensated for those?
 - Do you feel like you're contributing in a meaningful way?
 - How is your working relationship with your peers? Teamwork? Overall work environment?
 - Are you working here for the resume boost/experience or to pay for college?
 - What was your job application process like? How long did it take to get hired?
 - How are you getting to work (transportation)? Is it too expensive?
 - What are your hours like? How many are you working a week? What time of day?
- Students working after lockdowns were brought up. TJ was sad to see so many Student Employees working after the lockdowns.
- Pay transparency is important- should we be more transparent and post Student rates on our website?
 - Somebody counteracted this by saying that the Union is self-funded- if we post wages, it may backfire, and Students will want to work elsewhere to make more
- Student Employees may find it difficult to advocate for themselves. Despite the Union being very upfront with Student Employees taking care of themselves, this is a lot of Student's first job, and it can be daunting to deal with HR, salaries, W2, taxes, etc (especially difficult for international students)
 - Could be beneficial to look into having someone serve as a student advocate
- Students paying for parking is a big problem
- Noting upcoming events:
 - Kristen Hawkins on 10/12
 - Ben Carson on 10/16
 - Both divisive events with potential protests, be cautious

ADJOURNMENT

TJ adjourns meeting at 6:33 p.m.