Meeting to Order
Council President Susanna Ryan Berger ‘99 called the meeting to order at 9:15. We had three members who joined via WebEx.

Moment of Silence
A moment of silence was observed for Robert Abbe ’49 and Edwin Hicks ’53. Bob was a generous contributor to Union College, and Abbe Hall is named for him and his wife. Bob was an Alumni Council member from 1990-2003, and a Trustee of the college from 1990-2015. He was an Alumni Gold Medal winner and a Distinguished Service Award winner. He served as Class President and Class Vice-President. He was a member of Delta Phi fraternity. Ed was an Alumni Council member from 1990-2013. He was an Alumni Office volunteer, and an Annual Fund agent. He was a member of Sigma Chi.

Minutes of the April 25, 2015 Meeting
There was a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

President’s Remarks
This is an exciting time for Union. We are welcoming new students in the freshman class, a class that has members with very high academic achievements.

She hopes that our Council members get engaged in the committees. We surveyed Council members and heard them say that they wanted to be more engaged and involved and formed the structure to allow that.

She attended the Board of Trustees Summer Retreat. The Trustees are looking at the future of the school. Union has to make the value proposition important. They studied Fareed Zakaria’s In Defense of Liberal Education, which argues for a new commitment to liberal arts education. We are one of a very few schools that has the interaction of liberal arts with science and engineering.

The Board is looking at how to keep the grounds and the college up-to-date. There will be a campaign. We will be investing in the Science and Engineering Center, Reamer Center, and West College.

Committee Reports
Admissions Committee – Kate Stefanik Barry ’01 is the chair, and Abbey Massoud-Tastor ’07 is the Admissions Office liaison. Among her other responsibilities, Abbey coordinates legacy admissions and distance interviews and is looking for alumni to assist in those areas. Legacy admissions are key, with 235 current legacy students (55 of whom are in the freshman class, equating to ten percent of the class). Union is targeting alumni who would
have college-age children and giving them opportunities for a crash course on Union and a
course on the admissions process.

**Regional Clubs Committee** – Vin Mattone ’06 is the chair, and Violetta De Rosa is the
liaison from the Alumni and Parent Engagement Office. The clubs are an excellent
opportunity for people to learn what is going on at the college and to meet people with
mutual interests. The Committee would like to be a consortium for the clubs, sharing
successes and failures in event planning, facilitating best ideas and challenging alumni to
attend events. We are reaching out to alumni to be new contacts in new geographic areas.

**Finance Committee** – Marna Redding is the liaison for this committee. Treasurer Cal
Welch ’62 presented the Treasurer’s Report as of 6/30/2015. Expenses are high, because
our mailing expenses for the Trustee election are high. Many more than expected request
paper ballots. Our interest-earning accounts now earn negligible interest, and that financial
reality will not change in the foreseeable future. We do not have Affinity Card income any
longer, as the banks don’t want to work with small institutions. We continue to give the
college money for specific activities (such as Homecoming and Reunion).

**Careers Committee** – Susanna Ryan Berger ’99 is the chair, with Rhonda Engvold as the
liaison. The Union College Advisory Network (UCAN) allows alumni to sign up to be
advisors to students It is a searchable database of alumni and friends of the college who
have offered to share information and advise pertaining to career and graduate school
planning. Alumni can support the Career Center with mock interviews, invitations to
students to the alumni’s place of business, etc. There were two action items. First, we look
for alumni to be part of a mentoring program. We are looking at our peer schools to see
what their mentoring programs are like. Second, we look for alumni to facilitate job
placements and internship placements. This committee wants to be involved in the interface
of the small Becker Career Center and the larger alumni body.

**Student Forum**
Ilan Levine ’16 gave a presentation on Student Forum activities. The Forum has three objectives,
including active role in governance, improvement of communications within the student body, and
improvement of campus life.

He led the Forum in joining the American Student Government Association, a professional
organization that serves college student government associations. Union is rare among schools in
that we have two voting student trustees. We get an excellent turnout in balloting for student
government representatives.

The Forum seeks close relations with the college administration as senior college administrators
meet with the Forum, Forum members are invited to meet with Stephen and Judith Ainlay, and
Forum members have involvement. The Forum is providing input to the Isaacson Miller search for
the new Vice-President of Academic Affairs., the Title IX Coordinator search, the Dining Services
RFP, and the Reamer Renovation Committee. There is a New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium,
consisting of Union, Skidmore, Hamilton, Hobart/William Smith, Colgate, and St. Lawrence; Union hosted a Student Forum conference of those six schools.
The Forum improves student communications. The Facebook page was recently revamped. There is a weekly Student Forum update in Concordiensis. The Forum is currently investigating having ZIP CAR car-sharing on campus, as an improvement to Student Life.

A non-binding to-do list includes expansion of the College Trolley service, bike rentals, student discounts to local restaurants, security escort transponders, extension of library hours, establishment of an outdoor study area, map of the Science and Engineering Center, installation of printers in residence halls, streamlining committees, streamlining club proposal processes, and a salary cap on club coach salaries.

Greek Life Update - Liz Artz, Director of Greek Life with the Panhellenic President, the Inter-Fraternity Council President, and the Multi-Cultural Greek Council President

There are nine fraternities within the IFC. The Council conducts fundraising for organizations such as the City mission and obtains speakers on topics such as sexual assault. There are three sororities within Panhellenic. Panhellenic also has fundraising events such as a Skit Night. They focus on Cocoa House for their philanthropy activities, with the organization conducting philanthropic activities as well as the individual houses conducting activities. MGC has three active chapters. They work for multi-cultural improvement, work philanthropically for UNICEF, and work for sexual assault awareness.

Greek life includes 44 percent of the student body (52 percent of the sophomore through senior classes). They are continually improving the relations between the Greeks and the Minervas. As many Greeks as possible live in the houses, but there is not enough space for everyone, so some Greeks live outside the houses. The demand for Greek life is increasing. The former Greek houses have been re-purposed making it easier to attract students to Union, but the interest in Greek membership itself is increasing. The goal of Greek life is to build lifelong relationships and to learn outside the classroom. Many leaders on campus are also leaders in Greek life.

Reporting of sexual harassment is rising. People are less reluctant to report incidents. The actual incidence level is probably about the same, but reporting is increasing. Union is supportive of people reporting an incident. There are mandatory programs on sexual assault awareness.

Adjournment – There was a motion to adjourn the Council at 11:15, pending the singing of the Alma Mater. It was unanimously approved.

The next meeting is on April 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Huggins ‘77 – Secretary