



**STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MILWAUKEE

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***STUDENT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING***

February 14<sup>th</sup> 2019, CTO 3:48pm  
UWM Union EG8o  
2200 Kenwood Ave  
Milwaukee, WI

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***I. Call to Order***

Meeting called to order at 3:48 pm.

***II. Roll Call***

1) *Clarence Kinnard – present*

2) *Yugg Kolhe – present*

3) *Morgan Johnsen – present*

***III. Reports***

Clarence Kinnard: Has a few things to report, but they will mostly be talked about later in the meeting. Met with Kate Nelson (UW-Milwaukee Chief Sustainability Officer) and James Davies (BublR Bikes) in January, to discuss UWM/BublR five-year contract; will elaborate during New Business. Met with Josh Graybow, Adyson Leonard, and Santiago Moreno-Islas on February 13<sup>th</sup>, to brainstorm ways in which the B.O.S.S. service could be improved. Scheduled two meetings with John McCune: one with John and Prasanna Nanda, from UWM Transportation Services, to discuss the newly added Prowl Line shuttle stop; the other meeting is with John and a transit planner from the Milwaukee County Transit System, Andy Tillman, to work out the logistics of adding a shelter to the bus stop located in front of Chapman Hall. May have recruited a student to join the committee: Carmela Montenegro, an intern with the Wisconsin Bike Federation and student representative with the UWM Office of Sustainability.

***IV. Open Forum***

No members of the public wishing to speak.

***V. Approval of Agenda***

Motion by Yugg Kolhe. Seconded by Morgan Johnsen. Motion passes unanimously.

***VI. Special Orders***

No special orders.

***VII. Old Business***

***a. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - 11/02/2018***

Motion by Morgan to package and approve items “a” and “b”. Seconded by Yugg. Motion passes unanimously.

***b. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - 11/26/2018***

***c. Election of committee vice chair***

Clarence explains that the role of vice chair is not incredibly difficult.

Morgan moves to nominate herself. Motion passes unanimously.

***VIII. New Business***

***a. Topics to discuss at future meeting with B.O.S.S. officials***

Clarence: Recalls that Yugg brought this item up at a previous committee meeting. Relays specific concerns from February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with Adyson, Josh, and Santiago; in particular, Adyson's denial by B.O.S.S. to bring her service dog onboard. Yugg says that, from the university's perspective, this decision makes sense, because other people using B.O.S.S. may have a problem with dogs. Morgan says that, in the two times she has utilized B.O.S.S., she was the only one onboard. Clarence inquires as to whether B.O.S.S. has specific rules restricting the use of service animals; Yugg says he is not aware of such a rule, suggests that a student could put in a specific request if it was an emergency. Morgan reminds the committee that businesses and services are legally required to allow service animals wherever their human goes.

Clarence: Brings up other concerns/ideas from February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, including: students not being able to request a B.O.S.S. to Riverview or Cambridge Commons, B.O.S.S. and the Prowl Line falling under different UWM departments (Transportation Services and University Housing, respectively), Santiago's discomfort with telling new students that the Prowl Line operates on a 15-minute basis, Josh's idea to track the actual consistency of B.O.S.S. pickups, the University Housing survey not including an option to express concerns regarding transportation, an effort to increase student awareness of MCTS availability, and the list of student concerns from Nat Taylor and SHAC.

Yugg: Reminds the committee of a speech given by Mohiminul Islam, concerning the fact that certain parking lots on campus are totally empty after 6PM, and that post-graduate students/undergraduate research students often stay on campus working late into the night. Suggests the idea of providing free parking on campus for these students, perhaps from 6PM to 6AM. Morgan says that this idea makes a lot of sense, since the parking lots are already empty. Yugg inquires as to who controls parking on campus; Clarence replies that parking falls under the purview of Transportation Services, and that the committee should set up a meeting to discuss all these topics.

#### **b. Committee recruitment efforts**

Clarence: Reiterates that he may have convinced a student to join the committee. Reminds the committee that their bylaws reserve three positions for students. Realizes that filling all three spots may not be possible but says it would be good to find a few interested people. Morgan says she may know some people who would be interested in joining. Yugg says he always talks to B.O.S.S. drivers when he uses the service, so he will try to convince them to join.

Yugg and Clarence discuss how much B.O.S.S. drivers are paid, whether the service has a high employee turnover rate, and the high criteria which must be met to become a driver. Morgan and Yugg disagree over whether the criteria to become a B.O.S.S. driver is the same as the criteria to drive with Uber; Morgan contends that the criteria is the same, Yugg believes the criteria for Uber is less restricting. Yugg informs the committee that the B.O.S.S. service has the capacity to operate 16 vans but only runs eight or nine currently, due to low numbers of drivers. He suggests that if more students were employed as drivers, many of the problems with the service would be alleviated.

Clarence: Inquires as to whether more students are interested in driving with the service in the warmer months, as opposed to driving in winter conditions; Yugg does not believe this is the case. Clarence says that Yugg is seemingly the only individual who has had overwhelmingly positive experiences with B.O.S.S. Yugg says he always plans his trips at least a half hour in advance but insists he has never had a wait time longer than ten minutes.

#### **c. Bublr Bikes**

Clarence: Relays the details of his meeting with Kate Nelson and James Davies in January. Explains the specifics of UWM's initial contract with Bublr Bikes in 2015: \$300,000 for a five-year contract, which included the installation of Bublr stations around the campus. For the first year of the initial deal, UWM students were able to receive a year-long Bublr pass for no cost; after the first year, students received a still-discounted price of \$20 for a pass. (The original price for an annual pass for non-students was \$180; at some point, this price was reduced to \$80.) This

original contract does not expire until October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, but UWM and Bublr are already entering the negotiation process. Clarence says that, during his January meeting, Bublr conveyed a first offer of \$250,000 for another five-year contract, with the added benefit of reducing the price for a student pass from \$20 to \$8. Clarence doesn't believe that many students currently know that they can buy a pass. Morgan says students should know, since it is advertised on all Bublr stations around the campus.

Yugg: Believes events should be organized, in order to raise awareness of the student passes. Clarence suggests working with the Student Association Marketing Director. Yugg inquires as to what else is included in the \$250,000 agreement; Clarence responds that this figure includes the cost of maintenance and underwriting the cost of reducing the price of student passes. Yugg asks how many students register each year for the pass; Clarence says he will reach out to James Davies about this exact figure. Yugg says that the agreement should not be signed if students are not using the service, and that this money, in that case, could go to other services, such as B.O.S.S.

Clarence: Mentions that Bublr is also trying to collect concerns/suggestions from students who use the service. Says he does not personally use the service; Morgan and Yugg both say they do not use it either. Yugg reminds the committee that any service will have complaints, gives the example of the Union, B.O.S.S., the Prowl Line shuttle, and MCTS busses.

Yugg: Asks whether Bublr has investigated constructing overhead shelters for the bikes, to prevent accumulation of snow. He also suggests the idea of bike covers. Clarence says he believes the responsibility of cleaning the bikes may rest on UWM as well; Morgan suggests that this should be clearly outlined in any future contract between UWM and Bublr.

Yugg: Believes that bike-share systems like Bublr will eventually be replaced by electric scooters, such as the Bird program. Clarence inquires as to whether such scooters are even legal in the city of Milwaukee; Yugg replies that they are not currently legal, but that Milwaukee is "behind to accept good things."

Morgan: Can see how reducing the price of a student pass to \$8 would make people more likely to purchase one.

Clarence: Presents data to the committee showing the number of individual trips taken between Bublr stations on the UWM campus in the month of December (2065 trips.) Yugg asks if Bublr is planning to expand and add more stations; Clarence says that Bublr is looking for student input as to where they would be benefitted by a new station. Yugg suggests adding a station near the EMS building. Yugg also asks if individuals can ride Bublr bikes on sidewalks; Clarence replies that riding on the sidewalk is illegal in the city of Milwaukee, no matter what type of bike a person uses. Morgan says there are some areas in Milwaukee where bicyclists are allowed on the sidewalk, but the map is difficult to locate. Clarence informs the committee that the Milwaukee City Council recently passed legislation implementing a "Complete Streets" policy, but that he isn't sure how this policy will affect bike lanes.

Clarence: Besides the other things mentioned, Bublr is also asking the committee to help create an unbiased student referendum question. Yugg suggests a marketing campaign in tandem with this question, like previous years. Clarence says he has been "soft polling" students with the idea of a lowered Bublr pass price and that, so far, most people have been in support of renewing the contract.

**IX. Questions and Concerns**

None.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion by Morgan. Seconded by Yugg. Motion passes unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm**