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**News Article**

What do Homecoming Week, MTCC Late Niite, and Spring Formal all have in common? These events, along with various others, are run by Union Board. For some reason students don’t know or don’t like the student run organization. Why is that?

“One of the main negatives we hear,” says Sirisha Damaraju, the Vice President of Union Board, “is that Union board is one of the organizations on campus that gets too much money.”

A problem that seems to trouble Union Board, is that not many of the students know about the organization, and if they do, they may not know about all the events that are hosted by Union Board. According to Damaraju, they having been trying to cope with this issue of brand recognition.

The belief that UB gets more money than other organizations is a main issue that students state, according to Damaraju. After speaking to general body member Jorell Socorro, a 3rd year CS major, it seems that there are lots of events that are hosted by Union Board. “[Union Board is] an organization that plans and organizes many of the event on campus,” says Socorro.

“They tend to judge on things they don’t know are out of our control.” says Merridith Tedsten, the current President of Union Board and a 4th year undergraduate here at Illinois Tech. As President of Union Board, she oversees and guides the Executive Board meetings as well as the General Body meetings. She also has the duties of helping the other Executive Board members in order to keep everything running smoothly.

According to Tedsten, the students that have these negative opinions about Union Board have little understanding about what the organization does in the school. Homecoming week at the beginning of the fall semester, trips to the city theaters, music artists on campus, and other entertaining events are programmed and run by Union Board. Members of the organization believe that they may be at fault as well due to inadequate branding at these events, meaning that unless you ask some of the volunteers at these events then you won't know that Union Board is in charge.

And it seems that the idea of Union Board having a budget that is too large compared to other organizations, is a common sentiment among the students.

It seems that people don’t know what it is that Union Board is using the money on, and may believe that the organization doesn’t use their money in an efficient way. There have been past moments on the Facebook pages for IIT, where Union Board is mentioned as getting quite a bit of money while on the other hand another organization is struggling to get funding for their various events.

After speaking with Johnny Zhong, a 2nd year Electrical Engineer commute, he was asked if he knew what Union Board was, he gave a puzzled look and a solid “No”. Although after further questioning, it turns out that Johnny did hear about all the events that were hosted by Union Board. “Yeah, I hear my friends that live on campus talk about the events all the time,” he says “ and kind of wish I was on campus to enjoy them.”

Some students are even thinking Union Board is a whole different organization with different responsibilities. Christopher Morcom, a first year Computer Science, said what he thought Union Board did on campus. “They help out with a lot of finances on campus. They govern a lot of what organizations can do, and what organizations can be on campus.” says after being asked what Union Board does and control.

The students are not a full fault, and the organization itself has some share of the blame, says Tedsten. Due to insufficient marketing on Union Board’s part, the students don’t see enough of the organization on campus, and in turn may assume that they don’t do anything.

Union Board has stated that in the coming year, one of their main objectives will be to promote the organization on campus. They hope this will improve the image of Union Board, as well as get more students involved in the organization in order to represent the student population better. According to the various executive board members, the organization is always open to new members as well as new ideas for events, in order to give students a more pleasant experience at IIT.