

109.Cade Jordan and Reagan Patrick: Union Board is Unique

Gavin Kelly

Hey, everybody. You're listening to Beyond 1894, this is the official podcast of Louisiana Tech University. I'm Gavin Kelly from the Office of University Communications, and this is kind of our Union Board episode. We have Cade Jordan and Reagan Patrick here, the President and Vice President of union board this year. Thank you guys both for being on. Cade is a senior in biology, Reagan is a senior in political science. We're gonna get to know them both a little bit. We're gonna get to know union board a little bit. Guys again, thanks for being here.

Reagan Patrick

Of course. Thanks for having us.

Cade Jordan

Thank you.

Gavin Kelly

All right, so let's take it back. Everyone kind of has a tech story. Everyone has a reason why they chose Louisiana Tech, and we ask everyone who comes on here that sort of thing. So let's get to know that about you guys, Reagan, why don't you start us off? Why don't you tell us where you're from and why you chose tech?

Reagan Patrick

Okay, so I'm from Bastrop, Louisiana. It's a really small town underneath the Arkansas border. Funny enough, both my parents actually went to ULM, and I just, you know, wanted to try something different. I went and toured tech. It was the only school I applied to and toured. And I just fell in love immediately. I kind of just knew I was supposed to be here. So kind of simple. But after that, I didn't feel like I needed to go anywhere else, and it was the perfect distance away from home to not be too far, but be close enough where I could, you know, see my family. So, so

Gavin Kelly

political science, was that like an easy choice for you and you decided in high school? Or was that something you kind of had to fall into?

Reagan Patrick

Yeah, so I think I kind of fell into it. I was actually General Studies until orientation, I took a history class. I think it was like World History my senior year of high school. It was very small class, and we talked a lot about politics and government, and I enjoyed it a lot, a lot more than I thought. My dad's always been a history buff, so I guess it's kind of always been, like into me when I was growing up, but I

guess I never came to the realization of it until after high school, and then at orientation, I changed my major to political science. I had no idea what I was going to do, but I just knew I wanted to do that.

Gavin Kelly

And I'm sure, like when you have those discussions that early on, you know, you talk to people who change their majors or whatever, years and years in and but it's good orientation is a good time, because you have a support group. There. You have your OSL. And so it's easy to talk about, what's kind of the Do you have kind of a goal after graduate? Because you're a senior? Yeah. So what? What do you think is going to be next for you? Well,

Reagan Patrick

I actually did this amazing internship this past summer in Washington, DC, and that was just a blessing. I fell in love with the city. I fell in love with Capitol Hill. And I really didn't know before that what I wanted to do. I knew it was government, politics, but after doing the internship, the hope is that after graduation, I can make my way back up there, and, you know, work on Capitol Hill.

Gavin Kelly

Well, I mean, I'm guessing you made some serious connections while you were there, so I'm sure that will help out. Yes, it will. Well, good luck with that. Okay, let's get to know you a little bit man, where? Tell us where you're from, and tell us kind of what made you decide to come to Louisiana. Tech.

Cade Jordan

Yeah, I'm grew up pretty close to Reagan. I'm from Monroe. I mean, Reagan actually went to elementary school together, but I chose to go to tech, but was my parents also went

Gavin Kelly

to UC guys. Can you have a different story from Reagan, please? So

Cade Jordan

I mean, like I grew up around their campus and everything, but in high school, I took a lot of dual enrollment through tech, so I knew I didn't want to go over there, so I just decided to come over here. I never toured or anything before. I just showed up. The first day of orientation was here, and I got really lucky. Didn't really look into it too much. But I mean, this place has been the absolute best school that I could imagine going to

Gavin Kelly

great great again. Question, it was biology, your chosen major from the beginning, and Was that something you knew you wanted to do, or was it something you kind of found out about yourself when you started?

Cade Jordan

It was so I, before orientation, I declare that I was gonna be a kineses major, okay? And then the first day of orientation, I'm pretty sure his first day, whenever they break you out into the different like groups, and like, my kineses class went or, yeah, my kineses class went to watered. I just decided I didn't

like it, so I switched to biology, yeah, I knew I was wanting to do pre med, so I just decided biology was the best route for that. And then if I ever changed my mind, I could go into anything else, but have not changed my mind. Here we are. Yeah. Okay,

Gavin Kelly

so senior year, biology, pre med. I mean, the end goal here sounds kind of obvious, but what are you kind of thinking after graduation and we're gonna go from here trying

Cade Jordan

to go to medical school? I've. Applied to Shreveport in New Orleans, so just waiting to hear back.

Gavin Kelly

Okay, that's a okay. So you guys are both in union board. We're gonna kind of get into, like, how you guys got involved, but biology is one of those majors that kind of makes me think, like it's a difficult curriculum to juggle on top of, like, student involvement and extracurriculars and stuff. So how early on did you guys both get involved with union board?

Cade Jordan

I got involved my freshman year. So whenever, like, I was living at my door, I'm over in Harper, opened my door one day, and there was a flyer that fell at my foot. So I was like, Oh, this looks cool. Okay, yeah, but I did that. I rushed to fraternity. I think that really helped my time management, that helped me, like, learn to, you know, like when throughout the day I need to study so I can keep up my classwork, and then also so that I can be as involved as possible in my other extracurriculars.

Gavin Kelly

Yeah, yeah. Reagan, when did, when did you join union board?

Reagan Patrick

Yeah. So I joined the same time as Cade we're actually in the same we call it newbie class when you get on so it's the fall of my freshman year. I remember hearing about union board at orientation. I knew I wanted to get involved, but it was talent show, funny enough. I went to and they there was several other events like, I remember we had a comedian come my freshman year. I remember walking up to Howard and just seeing a bunch of red shirts outside the front door, like 20 smiling at me. I was a little scared, but I was intrigued, and I was like, this sounds like something that's super fun. It looks really involved, and these people are just happy. And I think when I walked through the doors of Howard, I was like, I'm gonna join union board. So it kind of just happened, and I got on, and the rest is history, I guess,

Gavin Kelly

yeah, meant to be. So at what point did you guys start thinking about taking on, like leadership positions within union board Reagan? Go ahead, tell us.

Reagan Patrick

Okay, um, so we have committee heads, which you typically do before you're on Exec. So my sophomore year, I was on the I was a pub committee head, which is basically PR. I did social media and graphics, and then after that, me and Kate planned Spring Fling last year, which is a blast. And so I always knew from I loved my vice president when I was a newbie. And that's what the Vice President does, is over all member relations, new members retreat, all the fun stuff, you know. And I knew when I was a newbie, like my end goal and union board would probably be to be vice president. I didn't know if it was going to happen, but to be here at this spot and just be vice president, I guess I kind of just built up to it, but it definitely was something in the back of my mind and in my heart, always knew that I wanted to do in Union boards like my place, yeah,

Gavin Kelly

okay, what made you man presidency? That's a big one. So what you know? What point did you decide that's something you wanted to

Cade Jordan

do? It was sometime last year I didn't really know what all I was gonna do whenever I joined. I was a lot more introverted my freshman year, yeah, and like, didn't talk to as many people as I do now, but like, as I've, you know, I guess matured throughout college, I've just strived to take on bigger and bigger leadership roles. My sophomore year, I planned our Mardi Gras Mambo event. So, I mean, like that events, basically rustins more to grow up, right? Yeah. And then last year, like Reagan said me and her plan spring flowing. And after that, I mean, I've gotten the experience for it, and it was something I didn't realize that I was going to love until I started doing it. Like, event planning is really, really unique and really cool. Like, if you would have told high school me this, I would have been like, no way. That doesn't sound fun at all, but it's really fun. And you get to make a lot of great, great connections. You get to meet a lot of great people. So yeah, yeah. I'm

Gavin Kelly

sure you guys both kind of mentioned a common thread that I'm sure you see, see a lot with people, kind of in your class and union board, but also kind of the newbies coming in, in that starting out, it's a little bit of a maybe overwhelming thing, and it's a little big, and you're not socially maybe up to it. But then by the time you're in a senior position like you guys are now, it's like you're almost a different person in terms of being comfortable with the level of it. So in these leadership positions, President and Vice President, we're not quite through fall quarter here we're in advising week, so it's kind of, it's picking up. But was there sort of a philosophy going into the year in these executive roles that you had in terms of leading union board? Like, did you have a vision or a goal for union board for the year? Whether it was just one simple thing to improve on, or kind of something to keep going? What were your thoughts there?

Cade Jordan

Yeah, my goal coming in was just to get as many people to our events as possible. We've always done a good job of getting, you know the students that are involved on campus that want to show up or but like are like one of like, something I'm trying to do this year is try to get our groups that, like, Don't ever come to any of our events, to show up. And so far. Mean, we've been pretty successful. Our Fall Fling event that we had at the beginning of the year, there were at least 1500 students there, which is more

than we've ever had at that event, our tech retreat event that we're having coming up on the 31st that event looks like it's also gonna be huge, doing that and then also trying to partner with as many people on campus as possible. Kyle Kavanaugh, over in the athletics department, has made that super easy. I meet with Kyle weekly. Um, he's let us use their facilities and everything, and I've tried to help back with him whatever I can. Yeah,

Gavin Kelly

he's, he's been, he actually had an episode here on the podcast not too many episodes ago, and he kind of mentioned his intentional effort to sort of collaborate with SGA union board and student groups on campus. Reagan, what's kind of been your goal in that vice president position coming

Reagan Patrick

into the year? Yeah. So I, I know it's like vice presidents like a fun, you know, silly exec position, but I really believe that, like when you love the people that you're working with, then your work comes out 10 times better, yeah, and I knew in order for me to back Cade and to, you know, bring as many people as we want to our events and that we can get there, we also need to enjoy working them, and that starts anytime you hang out with one another and meeting just having good morale. So my goal this year was to make us, you know, the strongest family I could make us not only love each other, but serve the people at our events. I think one thing we implemented at Spring Fling last year, which was awesome, was we really wanted to be super service based. So I remember the line being backed up to the room by the tag and me just running with water bottles, being like, do you need water? Like, it's hot, like, I'm sorry, like, Can I do anything for you? And I just remember people's faces being kind of like, Oh, okay. Nobody's ever really talked to me at these events. And, you know, so it was just having that service base, because you want the students to feel like this is an experience. And so I've kind of tried to implement that, tried to encourage people to know, not only love on one another, but love on the people that come to our events, because you never know what they're going through. You never know if they're there alone. So I think just that and backing what Kate said, and like being there for him, we kind of, I think, balance each other out, and our goals align and help each other in different ways. I don't think you could do one without the other. So I think it starts within the organization, and then you see the product outside of it,

Gavin Kelly

yeah. And I think, to your point, it's good for students who are not a part of union board, who are going to union board events, to be able to, like, see faces and associate faces and personalities with union board, instead of union board being this kind of faceless entity that just runs all these fun events on campus, it's good to be able to connect with people that are a part of union board, because that's like the soul of it. All right, so when it comes to, you know, facilitating union board moving forward. You know, obviously, every year you need a crop of, as you all say, newbies, if someone's listening and they're wondering about, you know, the efforts of union board and whether union board might be a good fit for them, something to pursue as a student. What sort of person is typically a good fit to be a part of union board? Well,

Reagan Patrick

one thing we always prioritize, the characteristic over anything, is work ethic. You know, you have to be a hard worker. You have to want to put in the hours. There's a lot of hours where we're there till 2am taken down. So you want to, you know, have somebody who has work ethic and wants to be there, but also just somebody who is willing to serve in any way. We literally have positions for every single person. If you don't want to plan an event, that's okay. We have things where you can do fun social media and PR, or you can take pictures, and it's like all of the roles are super important, but there's kind of something for everybody. But I would definitely say work ethic is the number one whenever we're looking for members. Yeah. I

Cade Jordan

mean, joining is a difficult process, because we have a member cap of 85 and then, like this year, we've had record high application. So, I mean, you know, you get a ton of great people applying, but, you know, not everybody can get a spot. It's a good problem to have. Yeah, it is. It is a great problem to have. But my, my advice would be like, if you're going to apply, make sure that you know what you're signing up for, because, like Reagan said, it is a lot of work, and it's hard work. It's not nothing about it's really easy. So just doing your research, coming around, being involved, being a face that you know people get to see, just being a positive outlook that you know, like whenever we're working, or events, and like people see you there, you know you're talking to people and and having a good time as well.

Gavin Kelly

Yeah, and it sounds like too that they're like Reagan said, There's something for everyone. And so I'm sure that you. Union board is made up of a diverse mix of majors and years and that sort of thing. So let's talk about, you guys have kind of alluded to some of the events that have gone on since in your 10 years in union board. Talk about, kind of, some of those highlights, I know you said, Fall Fling. Talk about maybe even the inner workings of an event, like something like setting up a stage for a concert or something, kind of talk about some of those highlight memories that stand out in your mind from your union board experience. Well,

Cade Jordan

each of the events are so incredibly unique. Like, there's really not two events that are very similar to one another. Each one just has like, each one has their own highlights, to be honest. Like, for our fall flag event this year, I'll say, like, decorating the plaza and everything. Like, we put up pennant flags up, like we got a really big ladder and just kept moving it to all the lights over in the plaza and putting those up, being in communications with, like, the people that we use for production, one of the guys, his name's Matt house out of Monroe. I have a great relationship with him. So, you know, texting him and, like, figuring out all of these, like, audio and visual needs that he's talking to me about. I mean, I'm not learning on the fly, right, not in that realm. So, like, like, he's great. Like, he'll, you know, draw stuff up and send it to us for our tech retreat event, putting up all the VIS queen and, like, completely decking out those plazas and hideaway doing makeup for like two hours before the event starts, so that, you know, we look scary. That ones, I say, is probably one of the most impressive things that we're able to put on is just like putting that much of his queen and decorating hideaway into, like, a scary maze. Because I we do a great job, yeah, on

Gavin Kelly

that one, and that one, it's that's coming up October 31 Halloween, right? And it's a collaboration effort with Louisiana Tech athletics with tech madness, right? Sure is so again, back to that sort of community focus of both union board and athletics. On that side of things, Reagan talk about some of those standout event memories for you.

Reagan Patrick

Oh, man, there's so many. The most recent would probably be Fall Fling. We're talking so much about. It was so awesome. Well, I

Gavin Kelly

mean, record breaking, like y'all said, so. But

Reagan Patrick

I just remember, I think it was probably close to midnight, we were going back and forth from the kennel unloading, and there was this huge video board, and I was, oddly enough, one of the three people they put in charge with helping take that down. I'm not sure how I got that, but, you know, I'm in Union all the big and strong people got to, yeah, I rolled out my sleeves, and I just remember we had, like, a factory line, and we were, like taking down and like passing through. And I just remember sitting there, and I remember our Brennan, the one of our pub committee heads, who does tick tock making tick tocks. Of all of us just super tired and like, 1am but it, but it's so fun. Like, you know, it's honestly, like, Misery loves company, like we're all we're all there, we're all tired, we're all taking down. But, you know, just fun things like that, like making tiktoks, it's just it brings happiness to those memories. I don't know that's the most recent one for me, and I think I could say that about every single event. I just, you know, it's like 1am and you're taking down and you're just looking around and everybody, but everybody's so efficient, and, you know, we're tired, but we're getting the job done. Yeah, and that's one of the things I love the most about union board. And we always leave something better than we found it too. So it's, it's just awesome. Yeah,

Gavin Kelly

it's a tricky balance between being productive in a moment like that and fighting sleep deprivation and all the tiredness, you kind of like, go numb and black out a little bit, and then you just like, oh, well, we did all that, and I don't even remember it. Let's talk about kind of union board moving forward for this year, because again, this is going to be you guys as big year as in terms of your executive positions. But what are some events coming up in the short term? We mentioned tech or treat I know there might be some application deadlines. And things like that that you guys might want to cover. So kind of talking about some important events coming up. I know with like, we mentioned Fall Fling, we mentioned Spring Fling. Some of this stuff is annual and happens every year, even though you guys tend to put a new spin on it every time. So kind of talk to us about that kid.

Cade Jordan

So after our tech retreat, tech madness event on the 31st we're gonna have talent show on november 5. It's part of homecoming week, or a homecoming week. It's gonna be at 6pm It's gonna be over in Railroad Park. After that, we have Miss tech interest meetings, so we'll have one on Friday November 8, at 11. These meetings are required if you're interested in being a misstech participant,

Gavin Kelly

another big annual thing that draws a lot of people. And if anybody

Cade Jordan

has any questions about that, they can email la tech ub@gmail.com Okay, after that, we'll have our tech the halls event gonna be sometime in December, and then Miss tech will be on January 14, 7pm and then to end. And winter quarter off, we'll have Mardi Gras, mambo, yeah, every sometime in February before we get out for school.

Gavin Kelly

That's great. And then, of course, in spring quarter, at some point, we'll be Spring Fling and that sort of thing. So busy year. Are you guys looking forward? I mean, I know you are looking forward to all these events as you get into, you know, your final couple quarters here, I'm sure balancing union board all your extracurriculars and schoolwork has been something you've gotten good at. Has it become more or less difficult as you've gone on?

Reagan Patrick

I think it's so odd because the quarter system is so ever changing. Yeah, so it's like, right? As I get used to balancing everything, it changes. But guess that's the beauty of it. So I would say I've definitely gotten better at not necessarily talking myself down. But you know, being level headed and being like you've done this before so many quarters like even though it's a new quarter, you know how to manage your time. I definitely think being a senior puts a new spin on it, because now, on top of everything you have to worry about after you graduate, and you know, doing graduation and applying for that existential Dre it's a new thing. Yeah, yes, it's like, the past three and a half years, I've just been in this bubble of like college, and now it's like real world, and so that definitely puts a new spin on it. But I also know I'll never be in a position like this again with the people that I'm with, so just soaking up every last memory of it and putting my all into it to hopefully, you know, leave those freshmen that come in just like I was I did back my freshman year, a good foundation. So I think that's kind of what it's all been about. For me is, you know, building up something to have somebody have the same experience that I did. I'll

Cade Jordan

say it's probably gotten easier overall. I know like so I, like my freshman through junior year, like, I took exclusively, like, 12 hour quarters because, like, I knew, like, my senior year I was going to be probably super busy, sure, yeah. So this is what it is. But you front loaded. There I did. I planned that very recording, yeah, but it's just been, it's been weird balancing it because, like throughout union board, I've taken on bigger and bigger roles and then so now, like I'm I'm helping plan every event that we have, but I know, like in the past, whenever I've planned these events, just myself, like I've tried to get everything done as early as possible, so that, you know, like the month or month and a half before your event, You're not really having to worry about anything. So that's what I feel like. We've done a really good job at this year, like, I know Fall Fling was basically planned, like a month before tech or treat. There's really not too much left that we have for it. We're already getting started with tech, the halls, talent shows just about accorded for as well. So just trying to get these things done as soon as

possible, so that, you know, once spring comes around and we have those events ahead of us, we don't have too much left to do. Yeah, also,

Gavin Kelly

I guess it's worth pointing out, being sort of chosen, elected to an executive position union board is probably a confidence booster in itself, because it's sort of like proofs you that your your peers, your mates in union board, have that kind of faith in you to lead. So last question before I let you guys go, if you had to like, sort of like, this might be a tough one if you had to sort of summarize your time in union board while also sort of pitching it to someone who may be listening and talking about what it's done for you as a person, what it's done for you professionally. If you had to, like, write your love letter to union board, what kind of would that sound like, right here, on the spot, with no with no preparation, even though you may have that those thoughts in your head, if I were

Cade Jordan

pitching it to somebody else, I really would talk about how unique it is. Like, this is an opportunity that you don't get unless, like, you know, you're, I guess, going to college for event planning. But like you were saying earlier, like we this is a very diverse group of people. We have people from, you know, engineering to art to biology to political science. Like this is, this is something that I'll never get to do again. And event planning comes with, like, a whole new level of problem solving, I feel like, because you're having to take so many things into account, so you do get a lot of experience, obviously, with event planning, but just with working with other people, talking to like people that are higher like over you, you get a lot of professional connections, but you also get a great group of people that you're surrounded by. Like these people are the people that I'll go hang out with on the weekends, have study sessions with, go eat lunch three to four times a week with like. These are my friends, because it is such a diverse and awesome group of people. Uh, that would basically have been my pitch to somebody else, was just how, like, you don't understand it until you're in it really, there's, it's very, very hard to describe, you know, everything that goes on, but it's literally all positive, yeah, Reagan,

Reagan Patrick

what do you got? I feel like mine's super similar, but it really does equip you for elite problem solving. Some days I just feel like I could conquer the world, because union board has just taught me how to problem solve so many things. I mean, when you're planning event, there are so many things I could go wrong. I know for us, we ran into some problems, and we had to, you know, rework the event a month and a half before. And, you know, I'm grateful for that, because it really teaches you how to step up to the plate and how to problem solve. And that goes for any position. You're in an union board, even being a regular member like it teaches you how to, you know, withstand the trials and to be level headed and realistic, and it's just great for that. It really does give you skills that I don't think quite any organization can do other than union board. Every organization is unique in its own way, but union board, definitely, with the event planning is something you know, so unique to it. And then also the family. I mean, you can't talk about union board and not mention how great the people are. And it really is genuine. I feel like we talk about that all the time, and people are like, is it really like a family? I'm like, yes, these are the people that are going to be in my wedding. These are the people that I'll still keep in contact with when I have grandchildren. These are some lifelong friendships that I've made, and the support union board is great for whatever major, whatever career, whatever college path that you're

pursuing, the connections, the encouragement that you get if you're struggling in a class, it's great. Somebody else probably has already taken that class and can help you. If you're going through something outside of union board, you have a support system to lean back on that's there for you. So it really is just so special. And yeah, I can't brag about it enough. You just got to try it to see it in all its glory. Yeah.

Gavin Kelly

Well, thank you both for that. Thank you both for making time and your busy schedules to be here on the podcast. I know I've had a lot of fun in University Communications, collaborating with union board, especially these last few months. You guys both specifically have been great for us, and I know you'll be missed whenever your time comes in graduation. But you know, big things ahead, and union board will be in good hands, right? So again, thanks Good luck. We're not even close to being done with the year yet. So there's a lot, there's a lot ahead, but hang in there and Thanks again, guys.

Reagan Patrick

Thank you.

Gavin Kelly

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