

Gateway Student Journalism Society

Meeting Minutes

January 25 2023

Opening

The regular meeting of the Gateway Student Journalism Society was called to order at 6:04 p.m. via Google Meets by Mitchell PAWLUK.

Present

PAWLUK, Mitchell

MACATANGAY, Arthur

WILLIAMS, Emily

KOSAK, Dan

BROOKS, Sam

KERR, Lochlann

TEELING, Katie

BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE, Anna

DAUM, Evan

TYAGI, Aishwarya

Absent:

VILLOSO, Julia

CRAIG, Lee

AVILA, Rebeca

Approval of the Agenda:

Moved by WILLIAMS.

Seconded by KOSAK.

There are no votes in opposition.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by WILLIAMS.

Seconded by KOSAK.

There are no votes in opposition. DAUM abstains due to absence.

Reports to the Board

WILLIAMS presents the Editor-in-Chief report.

WILLIAMS says that she feels like a lot has happened, since there hasn't been a board meeting for two months. The Gateway team participated in Anti-Freeze, which is an annual SU tradition. For editorial updates, they did another print edition. They sold two ads, and printed 3000 editions, which is lower than the fall edition, which printed 4000. WILLIAMS said her and KERR talked about putting questions about the print editions in the readership survey to get feedback. She says that most of the stands are empty now. As well, The Gateway was at the Winter Clubs Fair and held an Open House. WILLIAMS says there has been a staff resignation - Martin Bendico, News Editor, resigned because of personal reasons. As a result, The Gateway had an accelerated hiring process, with the posting only being up for one week. She hired the new News Editor this morning, Lily Polenchuk. Now the next step is hiring a new Staff Reporter, with that posting going up this morning. To prepare for the rest of the postings, WILLIAMS wants to hold an info night to demystify the positions, especially the B-Unit. The audit is complete. WILLIAMS is just waiting for the auditor to send the audited financial statements. The Gateway held their SGM in late November, and BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE was voted to be the volunteer representative. WILLIAMS says her and Emma Jones have been planning an alumni event for this semester. It won't be a big event, but it's just to get alumni reconnected with The Gateway. She says that this will be the groundwork, so that next year's staff can build off of it. WILLIAMS says they fundraised \$311 through the fundraising button on the Gateway's website, with a few people having monthly subscriptions. WILLIAMS says that her and KERR have talked about doing a month-long fundraiser, which would launch at the end of February.

KERR presents the Executive Director report.

KERR says that he took the charge on layout again. In order to pass the information down to future staff, everyone did the layout together. KERR says they didn't break even, but they did accrue \$890 in ad revenue from selling three ads. He says that although the goal was to break even or make money, they did build connections. KERR says he has also started making the readership report.

MACATANGAY presents the Managing Editor report.

MACATANGAY says that they have done a lot of Gateway socials. He says that the Gateway to Cinema was really successful from November through January. He says that there is a new wave of volunteers from clubs fair and the open house. MACATANGAY says he is working on

building the Illustration section through monthly submissions to get more engagement. He is hoping to get it set up for the next Managing Editor, or whoever is interested in running Illustrations. MACATANGAY says that training sessions for Elections is coming up in February. For the Purity Test, MACATANGAY says he is looking for themes so that they can get the illustration up and running from a volunteer, and asks for suggestions or ideas from the board. MACATANGAY says that during pitch meetings, Deputy Editors and the Staff Reporter have been contributing workshops and running their own. MACATANGAY mentions that a couple staff members are going to Hamilton, Ontario for NASH, including TEELING and WILLIAMS.

PAWLUK presents the Finance Committee report.

PAWLUK says that he will present since CRAIG is not present. They were supposed to have a meeting today, but due to logistical reasons, have moved it to Friday, to discuss November and December's financial reports.

KERR presents the Governance Committee report.

KERR says that they have not met, since WILLIAMS and him want to make changes to the operating policies, but couldn't meet in December.

PAWLUK presents the HR Committee report.

PAWLUK says that the HR Committee held staff performance evaluations. He says that staff members haven't reached out to contest their evaluations, which they are allowed to. PAWLUK says the timeline was to have evaluations done before finals. They used the same evaluation rubric as the last few years. Evaluations were based on a few attributes. PAWLUK met with WILLIAMS to act as a sounding board, and to make sure that the feedback was relevant to the attributes. WILLIAMS gave the feedback to staff with one committee member present, who then stayed back as the staff member gave WILLIAMS feedback after she left the room.

TEELING presents the Sexual Violence Task Force Committee report.

TEELING says that they've been really busy over the last few months interviewing different student newspapers who have experience in sexual violence reporting. She says that PAWLUK is planning on reaching out to a lawyer to get legal advice to put in the report. They've begun writing the first draft of the report, which is nearly complete. She's hoping that they can have the first draft done by the next board meeting.

For approval:

WILLIAMS presents the unpublishing policy.

WILLIAMS says that over recent years, many publications, including The Gateway, have had many people come forward to ask them to remove their articles. WILLIAMS says that in the past, they've rarely agreed because of ethics and to preserve history. WILLIAMS says that they have had many people come back again and again. She noticed that many publications have processes in place in case they want to appeal the EiC's position. WILLIAMS describes the role of an Ombuds person would make recommendations, but that's where their power would end. WILLIAMS says her vision is to have the policy on the website. She wonders if the policy should be in operating policy or bylaw. WILLIAMS says that CRAIG cautioned against making it policy, since it makes it more rigid and The Gateway would have to abide by it. Previously, they've dealt with unpublishing on a case to case basis, which wouldn't be possible if it were an operating policy. According to the website, PAWLUK is the Ombuds person. It isn't in bylaw, WILLIAMS says.

WILLIAMS says that the CBC's unpublishing policy says that complaints aren't considered or sent to the Ombuds if it's about non-news programming. She doesn't know what this means, and asks the board.

BROOKS answers, saying that this means anything made for entertainment, including Opinion.

BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE asks if there will be a list of challenged articles with reasons why or why not it wasn't taken down.

WILLIAMS answers that the URL is still live, but the article says it's been taken down. Then, The Gateway typically issued an apology, since they were often removed because they were offensive. With this, WILLIAMS says, there will be a section on the website dedicated to the Ombud's reviews.

BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE recommends that The Gateway use the same system as the Edmonton Public Library.

DAUM says that the policy needs some language about term length, so that someone who has served for more than two years can continue if they're doing a good job in the eyes of the board.

TYAGI asks if the unpublishing policy only pertains to articles that are deemed insensitive, or if articles that are considered outdated will also be included.

WILLIAMS says that unless it was factually incorrect, they probably wouldn't consider it. Even then, they would update the article with the new information. WILLIAMS also says that they don't remove articles that are outdated, they just write new ones.

BROOKS mentions that news is dated for a reason, and that it's common for updates to happen frequently in journalism. He says it's becoming common practice to show a paper trail, like putting a banner saying when corrections were made. BROOKS also says that for archival purposes, it's important not to change articles that are older.

WILLIAMS mentions that the CBC's policy has a limit of one year for articles to be unpublished, but that there is nuance to these situations, which is why an Ombudsperson is necessary. She reiterates that if this policy was put in operating policy, the Ombudsperson might not be able to navigate each case if they were more than a year old.

BROOKS says that there is impracticality involved, and that the Gateway is a transient student organization. Because of this, the operating policy should be purposefully vague. BROOKS says that leaving discretion to the Ombudsperson, who are trusted by the board, is necessary. There needs to be less focus on the what, and more on the why, since things will change. BROOKS also says that the term length should be two years, since institutional knowledge is necessary. As well, the Ombuds person should create reports to the board to explain their decisions.

KOSAK says that the one year timeframe for unpublishing articles is a gracious time period. He also says that he agrees with BROOKS that term lengths should be two years.

PAWLUK says that he agrees with BROOKS as well, but that they should consider pushing the maximum limit for unpublishing should be four years, since that's the length of an undergraduate degree. He says that one year is more than enough time for someone to reach out, but that four years is pushing it.

WILLIAMS says that operating policy is easy to change, so that's why it would fit there well. She asks if she can have an informal mandate to start writing it as operating policy.

BROOKS thinks there should be a formal vote, so there is a paper trail.

BROOKS moves to endorse the policy as drafted, and that the EiC can begin writing it as a draft operating policy to present at the next board meeting.

DAUM seconds.

The motion passes unanimously.

For discussion:

WILLIAMS presents the job hiring timeline.

WILLIAMS says that this timeline is in accordance with bylaw, which has guidelines for when positions should be hired. She says that the EiC position always opens on January 26 and close February 9, so that they will be hired before Elections. Managing Editor hiring will open after Elections, on February 23 and close March 9. The line editors and executive director positions will open on the same day as Managing Editor. Staff reporter and Marketing and outreach coordinator will open July 7, and close July 21. WILLIAMS only changed the language in the Managing Editor posting, where she changed 'Production' to 'Managing'.

PAWLUK says that line editors are usually hired later in the year, and wonders why WILLIAMS changed this.

WILLIAMS says that bylaw dictates that line editors should be hired before March 15.

WILLIAMS motions to approve the job hiring timeline.

KOSAK seconds.

The motion passes unanimously.

Adjournment

WILLIAMS motions to adjourn.

The board unanimously votes to adjourn.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:13 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Katie Teeing