

# Gateway Student Journalism Society

Meeting Minutes

April 19 2023

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Gateway Student Journalism Society was called to order at 6:06 p.m. via Google Meets by Mitchell PAWLUK.

## **Present:**

KERR, Lochlann

TEELING, Katie

PAWLUK, Mitchell

MACATANGAY, Arthur

WILLIAMS, Emily

BROOKS, Sam

KOSAK, Dan

CRAIG, Lee

## **Absent:**

VILLOSO, Julia

DAUM, Evan

TYAGI, Aishwarya

AVILA, Rebeca

BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE, Anna

## **Approval of the Agenda:**

Moved by WILLIAMS.

Seconded by KOSAK.

There are no votes in opposition.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by KOSAK.

Seconded by WILLIAMS.

There are no votes in opposition.

## **Reports to the Board**

WILLIAMS presents the Editor-in-Chief report.

WILLIAMS says that she kept this one kind of short. She is sad to be leaving, but also excited. She's looking forward to having a rest, but has had so much fun this year, and the board has been a huge help. She says next year's team will do a stellar job, and she has a lot of confidence in them. She says going forward, she'll be involved in the DFU campaign, taking over as Board Chair, and potentially continuing with the alumni association. She mentions board turnover, and says that she'll be emailing around in the next couple weeks to see where board members stand. She then goes into updates, saying she's been getting into finishing up with passing stuff over to next year's staff. She says hiring is all finished, with TEELING as Editor-in-Chief, Katie O'CONNOR, who is present at the meeting, as Managing Editor. She then mentions the email vote that occurred a couple weeks ago, where the board voted on accelerating the hiring process for the Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Isabella Yue, who is now hired. Jonas Smith has been hired as Executive Director and Lily Polenchuk as News Editor. Mainly, she's been working on the Alumni night, which is happening April 29. Only 20 people have RSVP'd so far, but the university's alumni association has sent out an email to the emails in their database. She says that they have rented the backroom of Dewey's for the event. She also says they're trying to collect people's photos to put in their slideshow. She says this is her last report as EiC, but this won't be the last time the board will hear from her.

KERR presents the Executive Director report.

KERR says he has also kept this report brief. He mentions that they kept the readership survey open an entire month, but will start crunching numbers right away. This means that TEELING will present the survey at the next board meeting, as KERR will have left the position. He also mentions that they got a \$7000 grant from the federal government. He says he's been really busy, so in regards to the B-unit, he's mostly been cleaning up for the next team.

MACATANGAY presents the Managing Editor report.

MACATANGAY says this is also his last report for the board. He says that articles from elections have been the most viewed over the past month, especially those from the Presidential Debate and Results Night. He also says the BoG article about tuition increases has been highly viewed. He says they did their last Gateway to Cinema last week, and he went with TEELING. Mostly, he's been doing lots of editing and onboarding to prepare for his departure. He also mentions the Annual General Meeting which is next week, with a social at Sherlock's afterwards.

CRAIG presents the Finance Committee report.

CRAIG says that everyone this past year has done a wonderful job. She mentions that she's gone to a couple Gateway to Cinemas, which she's never done before. She mentions the \$5000 donation and the \$7000 grant The Gateway received, and says she wants to meet with TEELING and Jonas Smith in May to make sure the finances are stayed on top of, and that systemic issues don't impact them.

PAWLUK says for the sake of time, the HR Committee and Governance Committee don't have to present their reports since they haven't met in months. He says that TEELING can go ahead and present her presentation on the Sexual Violence Task Force Committee report.

TEELING presents the Sexual Violence Task Force Committee report presentation.

TEELING starts the presentation by talking about what the goals of the committee were before writing the report. She says that historically, people have come forward and disclosed cases of sexual violence to The Gateway, or called upon the Gateway to report on it, but they weren't equipped to do so. With that, the committee wanted to create a set of resources that future staff could use, if they ever had to report on sexual violence, and to make sure it was fair and accurate. TEELING says that after a while, the committee members realized that the report shouldn't be something that they finished and never updated again. Instead, the report is meant to be continually updated to ensure that the information is up-to-date, and that staff continues to be involved. To build the report, TEELING says that committee members reached out to student papers that had done extensive reporting on sexual violence, and ended up interviewing journalists from The Ubyyssey, The Martlet, The Varsity, and The Gazette. Members also conducted their own research which they used to supplement the information they got from interviews. TEELING says some also reached out to external sources, like the U of A Sexual Assault Centre, which gave staff a presentation on sexual violence in the fall, and a lawyer. Ultimately, a meeting couldn't be set up with the lawyer, TEELING said. TEELING then talks about the contents of the report, and explains what went into everything. TEELING says that the first section, trauma-informed reporting, was the backbone of the entire report, and was arguably the most important section. TEELING explains it can be hard to balance trauma-informed practices and journalistic ethics, so they laid everything out so that future staff could see all their options. She also says that practices vary across the different university papers they interviewed. TEELING then explains the next steps, including the recommendations for future staff. In the short-term, she says that she will be incorporating reading the report and more in-depth sexual violence training into staff training in the spring. She also says that Charles Rusnell, a former investigative journalist, has offered to give a presentation on FOIPs to staff. She says that this is a section the committee has encouraged future staff to rewrite after the presentation. In the

long-term, TEELING says they recommend the confidentiality clauses in staff contracts be updated, and that staff should research informed-consent practices, like those used by other newspapers. She says that staff heard about practices like these after they attended the NASH conference in February, where The Varsity gave a workshop talking reporting on suicide, and mentioned an informed-consent form they had families of the deceased sign.

PAWLUK says that now they've completed the report, and TEELING has committed to the recommendations for future staff, the Sexual Violence Task Force committee will be disbanded.

WILLIAMS wonders if the board can approve the report.

WILLIAMS motions to approve the report.

BROOKS seconds.

The report is approved unanimously.

**For discussion:**

WILLIAMS presents the Alumni Event.

WILLIAMS says that the alumni association at the university have reached out about U of A Days, which is a large-scale alumni event in the fall.

BROOKS says that the U of A Days doesn't actually bring that many people in.

CRAIG says she understands what BROOKS is saying, since she's been to a few of the alumni events to be supportive. CRAIG says that a lot of people don't come back to alumni events, especially those from Arts backgrounds. She says it's worth it to attend, but to do so carefully. There will be alumni on campus, but they won't necessarily be Gateway people. She tells WILLIAMS to proceed with caution. People feel connected to different things, and it might not necessarily be the U of A.

BROOKS says that the U of A is a commuter campus, and has cultures for specific faculties or disciplines. The U of A doesn't have a culture of returning to your roots. The U of A is trying to have a culture that doesn't apply to them, BROOKS says. The Gateway is best-served by hosting their own events.

WILLIAMS says that's good to know, going forward.

PAWLUK says that the people they bring out to U of A Days are very specific to different clubs and faculties. It's reminiscent of the Students' Union potentially overestimating how much advertising revenue they'll be able to bring in.

WILLIAMS says that this upcoming event is entirely being run by The Gateway, and a main point will be gathering contact information. She says that the U of A Alumni Services won't share their email list with her, even though the Gateway is the one who supplied these emails in the first place.

CRAIG says that the point of the event is to build off of it. It's about building off of the good experiences people had with The Gateway, and reminding them about that so they'll give money to The Gateway. The U of A has a disconnect problem with their alumni. CRAIG says if WILLIAMS plans it correctly, alumni will feel that connection and donate their money. Also, she says if WILLIAMS tells people how dire the monetary situation is, people will be more likely to give The Gateway money.

### **Adjournment**

WILLIAMS motions give KERR the ability to adjourn the meeting.

BROOKS seconds.

The board unanimously approves the motion.

KERR motions to adjourn.

WILLIAMS seconds.

The board unanimously votes to adjourn.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:19 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Katie Teeing