

Gateway Student Journalism Society

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

Opening

The regular meeting of the Gateway Student Journalism Society was called to order at 7:08 p.m. online and in-person by Emily WILLIAMS.

Present:

BROOKS, Sam

DAUM, Evan

TEELING, Katie

WILLIAMS, Emily

SMITH, Jonas

FLAMAN, Levi

THIESSEN, Nathan

POLENCHUK, Lily

BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE, Anna

Absent:

JICKLING, Sophie

CRAIG, Lee

FASSONE, Lale

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by BROOKS.

Seconded by FLAMAN.

There are no votes in opposition.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by TEELING.

Seconded by FLAMAN.

There are no votes in opposition and one abstention.

Reports to the Board

TEELING presents the Editor-in-Chief report.

TEELING says that interviews for deputy editors have been ongoing, and most should be hired over the weekend to start on Monday. Says that sports and news are extended. Says that she reached out to student groups to send out an infographic for the positions, and 15 sent them out. Says that Cindy said she can get the year-end completed by Friday but asked for an extension for Monday. Says that there was a first big social last week for volunteers. Says that lots of workshops have been secured, the first one was with Kerian Levitt and a volunteer came. Says that she's been continuing work strengthening relationships with student groups, a big one being the Indigenous Students' Union with covering the memorial. Says they've been really involved and she bought donuts as a thank you. Says for the DFU she was supposed to meet with Taylor Good but he had to cancel and hasn't gotten back to her yet. Says that BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE has two interviews left for report cards.

SMITH presents the Executive Director (ED) report.

SMITH says that they've been working on advertising which has been super successful. Says that an ad deal with the math department and an Edmonton ad agency have been signed. Says that there's two more potential advertisers for the print run, and he has had two discussions with potential advertisers today. Says that they're six months ahead of schedule. Says that he tracked down the people from Trapped who were a part of the non-collected ad deals from last year's print, and he got the revenue from that. Says that for marketing and outreach merchandise has been planned for the year and designs are being made by Isabella Yue, who will also start DFU designs soon.

POLENCHUK presents the Managing Editor report.

POLENCHUK says that the report has more insights on website analytics. Says that volunteer engagement with pitch meetings is going great, especially during midterm season. Says that the volunteer form has been consistently getting sign-ups. Says that there have been workshops biweekly for the pitch meetings which have received positive feedback. Says that both the pitch email and the newsletter have been seeing a great increase in subscribers.

FLAMAN asks why random articles receive a lot of engagement.

POLENCHUK replies that it is usually because of bots or random events.

BROOKS says that some of them make sense and people could just be looking them up.

TEELING says that a lot of the bot articles are the same culprits, like the one about millennials and bad tattoos.

THEISSEN asks if the bot activity and fall in readership is concerning.

TEELING says that the bots affect how the website works and she worries that if the site continues to slow down, less people will be able to access it. Says that she works with those in charge of the site, but says it's a matter of making it work and waiting to see if it can be fixed.

WILLIAMS adds that TEELING shouldn't be having to do that, and there used to be an IT person on staff who used to help manage the website. Says that it would be interesting to see where some of the clicks are coming from, but because social media blocks news that contributes to lower traffic as well.

TEELING presents the Finance Committee report.

TEELING says that they talked about Cindy, and how last month she wasn't performing to the best of her abilities. Says that a plan was made to help Cindy do her job better, but right now she's in the middle of moving and asked for an extension on the year-end. Says that they gave an extension to Monday and if that's unable to be done there'll be a conversation. Says that discrepancies caught in the report were worked out.

WILLIAMS presents the HR Committee report.

WILLIAMS says that over email she was acclaimed as permanent chair, and she is looking forward to doing work on that committee when performance reviews come around.

POLENCHUK presents the Governance Committee report.

POLENCHUK says that Governance met for the first time today and made good headway. Says that she was voted as permanent chair. Says that they talked about goals including inclusive language and minute details. Says that there was a lot of conversation about inclusive language and making some clarifications in the Code of Conduct, Article 4, the procedure for adjudicating complaints, and will be explored further in the next meeting.

BROOKS adds that for the next AGM they need to make an update to language around audit review.

SMITH presents the DFU Subcommittee report.

SMITH says that the second meeting reviewed wording for the ballet question. Says that there's nothing major to report on right now, mainly just asking for feedback and keeping everyone updated.

For Approval: Student-at-Large Representative

BROOKS motions to move in camera.

BAJWA-ZSCHOCKE seconds.

There are no votes in opposition.

BROOKS motions to move out of camera.

WILLIAMS seconds.

There are no votes in opposition.

FLAMAN motions to nominate Adrian Wattamaniuk for Student-at-Large Representative.

THIESSEN seconds.

The motion passes unanimously.

Adjournment

BROOKS motions to adjourn.

WILLIAMS seconds.

The board unanimously votes to adjourn.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lily Polenchuk