

Gateway Student Journalism Society
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2026

Present:

Lee CRAIG

Teren HAZZARD

Leah HENNIG

Kathryn JOHNSON

Gabriella MENEZES

Nathan THIESSEN

Christian ZUKOWSKI

Absent:

Unees HUSSAIN

Areeha MAHAL

Christopher REYNOLDS

Katie TEELING

Bishoy ZAKHER

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by HAZZARD.

Approval of the Agenda

HENNIG requested an amendment to the agenda to add an approval item for Mackenzie Bengtsson's interim opinion editor contract. CRAIG moved to approve the agenda. THIESSEN seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

HENNIG moved to approve the minutes. THIESSEN seconded. The motion passed with abstentions from THIESSEN and ZUKOWSKI.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Editor-in-Chief: HENNIG said that the final print edition of the year went well. She has been preparing training materials for the incoming staff. HENNIG said that the Careers in Journalism panel event went well, and they plan to hold more of these events in the future.

CRAIG asked how many people attended the event. HENNIG said there were around 25 people who attended in person and around 12 people who joined online.

ZUKOWSKI thanked HENNIG for including print distribution data in her report and thanked the Gateway staff for their work this year.

Executive director: MENEZES said that investment opportunities are being explored, but most of that work will be undertaken by the incoming Executive Director, Davis Maloney. Advertising for her term is complete, and she is preparing for the transition of the new Executive Director.

HAZZARD asked if MENEZES's mention of investment opportunities included GIC opportunities. MENEZES confirmed that it did, and added that she has had conversations with ATB regarding general avenues for investment.

Regarding MENEZES' discussion on exploring investment opportunities, ZUKOWSKI asked if a risk questionnaire has been completed. MENEZES said a risk questionnaire has not been completed, but she has had a conversation with someone at ATB about investment opportunities. MENEZES noted that most of the work on investment will be done by Maloney.

Finance Committee: JOHNSON filled in for HUSSAIN. JOHNSON said that no concerns were identified at the Finance Committee meeting.

Human Resources Committee: TEELING was absent.

Governance Committee: JOHNSON thanked everyone who has completed the GSJS board competency matrix self-evaluation form, and encouraged the remaining members to complete the form.

For approval

Contract for Mackenzie Bengtsson, Interim Opinion Editor:

HENNIG said that covering the role of Opinion Editor is not sustainable for her personally and for The Gateway as an organization. HENNIG presented a contract for Bengtsson to fill the role until the end of the month. For his payment, HENNIG included half of the normal monthly amount, as he will be doing half a month's work.

HAZZARD asked CRAIG if the board is allowed to approve Bengtsson's contract. CRAIG confirmed that the board is allowed to vote on this matter. She explained that the contract is a separate contract for Bengtsson to fill in for two weeks, and he will begin his term as Opinion Editor on May 1.

ZUKOWSKI said his impression was that the payment amount exceeded the budgeted amount for staff, and asked if this was correct.

MENEZES said she believes the amount falls within the bounds of the budgeted amount for staff. HENNIG agreed, and explained that they had budgeted for the maximum amount of articles the Indigenous Reporter could be compensated for, but there were not as many articles published as were budgeted for. HENNIG said she is fairly sure they remain on budget for this line, but if they were over budget, they have currently underspent on furniture, so the money could come from that area if necessary.

ZUKOWSKI thanked HENNIG for the clarification. ZUKOWSKI asked if they should change the terms of the contract in the appendix to align with the contract to avoid confusion. HENNIG said she will change that.

CRAIG said it would be great if HENNIG could make that change for the sake of consistency. HENNIG acknowledged CRAIG's suggestion.

HENNIG moved to approve Bengtsson's interim opinion editor contract. ZUKOWSKI seconded. The motion passed.

For discussion

2026 Readership Survey:

HENNIG said that, overall, the survey went very well. They had roughly 50 more respondents compared to last year. Trust in The Gateway remains at a consistent level. HENNIG noted that there was a slight increase in negative views of The Gateway, but there has been an overall decrease in negative views over the past couple of years. First and second year students do not seem to have much of an opinion of The Gateway, whereas those who think a little more negatively about The Gateway tend to be in their later years. The survey data indicates that posters, newspapers on campus, and the Students Digest are effective forms of outreach. The data also indicates that many students feel very neutral about transparency around The Gateway's operations and finances. HENNIG noted that Instagram is quite popular for people to view and follow The Gateway, as well as TikTok. There was some interest in more Reddit and YouTube content. HENNIG noted that YouTube could be a natural extension of the short-form video content that The Gateway has been doing. Additionally, students seem to enjoy the print edition and having a physical copy.

ZUKOWSKI said that the lack of negative written feedback is a good sign.

2026 Five Year Strategic Planning Report:

HENNIG said that not much has changed since the last report was given. Post count has consistently been met. HENNIG noted that The Gateway has not made a lot of progress on creating a formal plan to serve underserved demographics, but they have still been reporting on Indigenous issues and a few French issues. She said they are hoping to have more time to put

attention towards that over the summer and reflect on areas for growth. The Readership Survey indicated some interest in Apple News, and HENNIG is looking into what it takes to get The Gateway on the platform. HENNIG is hoping to continue with the monthly print editions in the upcoming year. She is also looking into archiving content and making more notes about managing the website for future staff. HENNIG said The Gateway is considering adding a beat reporter. This position would follow the same pay structure as the Indigenous reporter position. HENNIG is also working on expanding the staff training from last year.

Regarding The Gateway's lease, HENNIG said the plan for now is to remain in the current office space for an undetermined amount of time. The Landing is having safety issues and has requested to move to the third floor of the Students' Union Building. HENNIG said they are discussing different options, including possibly dividing up the space in the Gateway office. MENEZES said that the plan for this year is to budget around \$25,000 for investments, which will be for the reserve fund. HENNIG is planning on reaching out to the people running Week of Welcome earlier this year, as securing a table for Clubs Fair has sometimes been difficult. The Gateway is a year out from starting to plan for a new undergraduate DFU campaign. HENNIG mentioned that the Readership Survey is a good way to see what kind of marketing is working. The Gateway did a survey to gauge support for a graduate DFU, but the responses were very limited. Within those responses, the support for a DFU was generally low.

When it comes to an upcoming DFU presentation to Students' Council, ZUKOWSKI said some members of council could have concerns with the amount of money The Gateway is saving. He said The Gateway should be careful about articulating that, especially in the context of renting uncertainty. ZUKOWSKI asked when the DFU planning process will begin.

HENNIG said she appreciated ZUKOWSKI's insight on Students' Council. HENNIG said they want to start planning for the DFU campaign two years in advance, which will begin in the 2027-28 year. Last time, planning occurred only one year ahead. Planning will include reflecting on what did and did not work well last time and staying updated on the regulations so that it can become a plebiscite. HENNIG mentioned that The Gateway is working to revitalize its alumni network, which can help with the campaigning process.

HAZZARD asked if any board members had anything else they would like to discuss. MENEZES mentioned that she had an opportunity to get around \$7,000 worth of advertisements during Maloney's term, and asked for board members' input on the distribution of commission.

CRAIG asked how much this advertisement sale covers Maloney's potential sales during his term. MENEZES said she does not know the maximum amount he could make from advertisement sales, but mentioned that the commission for this particular sale is around \$1,000.

CRAIG asked MENEZES how she plans to divide the commission. MENEZES said she discussed it with Maloney, and she is uncomfortable taking the full amount, so they have decided to split the commission. MENEZES said this is something she wants the board to consider for the future because there are often advertising opportunities that one Executive Director can get that would fall under another Executive Director's term.

HENNIG agreed that this is important to consider for the future and is perhaps something The Gateway should be more specific about in its contracts and policies. She said that if they are both comfortable with that arrangement, she thinks it is a good idea. ZUKOWSKI agreed with HENNIG.

ZUKOWSKI asked if MENEZES had an estimate of how much of the website the advertisement sale would occupy to get an idea of how the sale would impact available advertising space during Maloney's term.

MENEZES said she believes it is split between the website and the print edition. The sale includes a few banner advertisements and a few full back-page advertisements. She noted that Maloney will still have a lot of possible advertising space to sell.

Adjournment

THIESSEN moved to adjourn the meeting. ZUKOWSKI seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Kathryn Johnson