

WLUSP Annual General Meeting

Virtual Conference: 7:00pm

Tuesday February 8th 2023

Secretary: Grace Corriero

Attendance: 52 WLUSP Members in attendance both WLUSP Membership, Volunteers and Laurier Community Members. Aaron Waitson has documented all attendees for tonight's AGM.

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

→ Meeting called to order at 7:23pm

2.0 Approval of Agenda: February 8th 2023

→ First: Jack Vrolyk

→ Second: Kash Patel

→ Motion Carries: 7:23pm

3.0 Approval of Annual General Meeting Minutes February 3rd 2022

→ First: Brontë Bheling

→ Second: Adrian Quijano

→ Motion Carries: 7:24pm

4.0 Ratify Committee Policy E-mail Vote

→ First: Deni Pivac

→ Second: Adrian Quijano

→ Motion Carries: 7:25pm

5.0 States of WLUSP Address Executive Director Report Presented by The Organizational Team/Abigail Heckbert (President/Chair of WLUSP)

- Acknowledging that Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications is located on the shared traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabe (Anish-nah-bay) and Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-no-show-nee) peoples. We recognize, honour and respect these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and water Student Publications is now present on.
- This year has seen a huge period of change and development within the organization.
- The team has managed to create a hybrid work system within WLUSP. Staff and volunteers are encouraged to work in-office to utilize our equipment and resources, but are also able to work remotely if they are more comfortable that way. Allowing staff and volunteers to complete their work comfortably, and do it from a space that they enjoy, as well as protect the health and wellbeing of others.
- This hybrid system of work was also beneficial for our Canada Summer Jobs students who helped us complete the newest edition of the WLU'er, which was distributed all over campus and in residences for all of the new first year students that joined us this Fall.
- There are also several big organizational-wide changes that occurred over the Summer months.

- Began the summer with an all-new department heads and teams, we also said good-bye to a long-time staff member and volunteer of WLUSP, Care Lucas, our previous Executive Director.
- During this period, our current Executive Director, Aaron Waitson, was hired. Change in Executive Director.
- The team has also re-structured how they communicate as an organization. Thanks to the efforts of Kurtis Rideout, our current Advertising Manager and former Interim Executive Director, we went from meeting virtually on Zoom and connecting over Slack, to streamlining communications through the merging of departments and the utilization of Microsoft Teams throughout our organization.
- Continue to utilize Zoom for accessibility due to its familiarity as a platform, and its capacity for accommodating larger meetings.
- This year, we also changed Grad photo companies which changed how grad photos, yearbooks, and composites are completed
- WLUSP ended their long-time contract with LifeTouch, and signed with Pegasus School Images. WLUSP worked with their staff Sean Rutherford and Erin McMullen previously when they worked under LifeTouch.
- Conducting grad photos on both the Waterloo and Brantford campuses over the last few months, as they are currently working on composites, and will be assisting with Keystone/Carnegie Yearbook orders.
- This year also brought us the opportunity of permanently moving our Waterloo office location. Over the years, the WLUSP Admin has been in conversation with Laurier about moving into a different space.
- Searching for a space that is able to provide students with an accessible and independent space, close to campus, where students could easily find and access our building.
- The University has selected 187 Albert Street in Waterloo for us to use as our own office space, and will hopefully be ready for move-in come the Fall of 2023. We visited the space during the summer and fall to meet with Nikolaus Schmidt, the Coordinator of Space Management, and Junmeng Liu, our Project Manager, both of whom work for Laurier.
- After WLUSP Admin has been talking with Nikolaus and Junmeng, as it is projected that we will move into 187 Albert Street as early as September 2023. This gives WLUSP the opportunity to evaluate the furniture and office supplies we currently have and see where things will need to be updated.
- Technology upgrades over the summer, as the team was able to reflect upon the space and evaluate the equipment for the coming fall, when students would be back to running production in office.
- Purchasing 6 new Canon EOS 6D II camera bodies, 10 iMacs, and reconstructed the Radio Laurier studio. The studio now has a new computer, monitors, and sound board, and will make training volunteers easier, more streamlined, and they will be able to gain experience with a cool piece of equipment.
- Since the return to campus, WLUSP has been working on building back up our presence on both campuses.
- The Cord, Radio Laurier, and The Sputnik all boothed at the volunteer fair during September, and saw huge increase in volunteer numbers. With all publications boothing and hosting events again in-person, we have been able to gain a whole new group of

student volunteers that have been working very hard to create quality content for print and online publishing.

- The Cord and The Sputnik have returned to printing a physical newspaper on a monthly basis.
- As the Print Publications have continued to grow, there has been an opportunity to move to bi-weekly printing, however this will be evaluated approaching the new fiscal year.
- The Cord continues to publish weekly articles online, and The Sputnik bi-weekly.
- The Community Edition continues to print on a monthly basis and grow their presence within the Waterloo Region through their meaningful content for and about the community.
- Their Editor-in-Chief, Harleen Kaur Dhillon, has been working hard to continue to foster a connection with the Kitchener-Waterloo Community through her journalism workshops hosted throughout the month of February 2023 at the Kitchener Public Library.
- Blueprint Magazine is in the process of creating a mini-print. Blueprint is back with an all-new staff team and volunteers. They have been active on the Waterloo campus, and have recently closed their submissions for their newest mini print edition.
- As for administration, they have been able to increase spending this year on new capital asset improvements, which included cameras and iMacs.
- Plan on hosting another fun-filled Volunteer Appreciation night, in-person, to thank to all of our staff and volunteers for their hard work.
- After the AGM, we will begin working on our 5-year Strategic Plan for the organization and connect with many different stakeholders within WLUSP to gain feedback before the production of the final product.
- Acknowledging all of the hard work that has been attributed to WLUSP and its publication over the last year, thanking all membership!

- Motion Carries: 7:33pm

6.0 Financial Report/Approval of Auditor

- Qualified position to decipher financial allocations to departments as a non-for-profit organization.
- This audit report is for the last fiscal year 2022 WLUSP finances.
- \$570,073 revenue.
- Owed \$76,389.
- \$650,248 ending financial assets.
- Significant increases of honorarium \$500 to \$800 for 2022.

- First: Kash Patel
- Second: Deni Pivac
- Motion carries for Approval for Auditor: 7:43pm

7.1 Board of Director Q&A

- Jack Vrolyk BOD Candidate.
- Engaging with the Laurier Community and ensuring EDI is adhered to.
- Relationship with the University.

- Unbiased reporting for Radio Laurier and Print Publications.
- Benefiting from a relationship with the Laurier Community and the WLUSP Administration.

8.0 President Q&A

- Serena Austin WLUSP President Candidate.
 - Accommodating both the Brantford and Waterloo Campuses to ensure they are both equally supported.
 - Editor-in-chief of the Sputnik.
 - Cross publication content to accommodate both campuses.
 - Engaging with plagiarism.
 - Open communication among all department managers.
 - Would like to see more news reporting for Radio Laurier seen as a new approach to storytelling.
 - Reviewing content of all the publications to ensure that they are diverse.
 - Knowledge in Print Publication.
- Motion Carries: 8:09pm

9.0 Motion to Approve BOD Candidate

- First: Amelia Arlen
- Second: Jackson Wells
- Motion Carries: 8:10pm

10.0 Ratify Acclaimed Directors

- Motion Carries: 8:11pm

11.0 Ratify Serena Austin as WLUSP President

- First: Nicholas
- Second: Deni Pivac
- Motion Carries: 8:11pm

12.0 Motion to adjourn the AGM

- First: Amelia Arlen
- Second: Aala Ibrahim
- Motion Carries and the WLSUP Annual General Meeting for Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 is adjourned at 8:12pm.