Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP)

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2026
Time: 4:49 PM – 5:42 PM
Location: Online

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **4:49 PM**.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

2.1 Motion to Approve the Meeting Agenda

Moved by: Grace
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.
No abstentions or oppositions.

3.0 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

3.1 Motion to Approve February 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Grace
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.
No abstentions or oppositions.

4.0 State of WLUSP Address

President Bhebe presented the annual **State of WLUSP Address**.

Highlights included:

- Department Heads were hired during the summer, including positions funded through the Canada Summer Jobs program.
- The WLUSP Summer Conference successfully provided training opportunities through invited guest speakers.
- Sputnik and *The Cord* participated in the Get Involved Fairs, where all publications were well received.
- Sputnik hosted a bi-monthly **Hot Off the Press** event throughout the year.
- Sputnik's transition to a magazine format was positively received.
- *The Cord* primarily published 20-page issues.
- Sputnik published bi-monthly 26-page issues.
- Radio Laurier and Keystone Carnegie maintained full staff teams and made significant progress throughout the year.
- President Bhebe thanked all staff, volunteers, and Board members for their dedication and support during the fiscal year.
- President Bhebe noted that the Protective Leave Policy had not been ratified during the previous year.

4.1 Motion to Ratify the Protective Leave Policy

Moved by: Tusharika
Seconded by: Grace
Motion Carried.

5.0 Annual Financial Report

Finance Manager Randy presented the annual financial statements.

Key points included:

- WLUSP continues to operate with an approximate **$100,000 operating deficit**.
- Payroll remains the organization's largest expense, followed by publishing and printing costs.
- The annual audit was completed successfully with no significant concerns identified.

5.1 Motion to Ratify the Annual Budget

Moved by: Grace
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.

5.2 Motion to Appoint Auditors

Motion to appoint Clarke, Starke & Diegel as auditors for the next fiscal year.

Moved by: Grace
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.

6.0 Board of Directors Candidate Presentations

The following candidates presented their platforms:

Matteo

- Has been involved with WLUSP for three years, serving two years as Sports Volunteer and one year as Sports Manager.
- Priorities included:
  - Expanding cross-publication collaboration.
  - Improving relationships with external stakeholders.
  - Strengthening internal operations.
  - Increasing promotion and visibility among the student body.

Gabriel

- Introduced himself as a first-year Communications student and Radio Laurier volunteer.
- Priorities included:
  - Representing the student body effectively.
  - Growing alongside WLUSP throughout his university career.
  - Increasing promotion and student engagement.

Emma

- Introduced herself as a first-year BBA student concentrating in Accounting.
- Priorities included:
  - Increasing WLUSP's visibility on campus.
  - Supporting outreach initiatives.
  - Strengthening WLUSP's presence within the Laurier community.

Carissa Riley

- Introduced herself as a candidate for Student Director.

- Priorities included:
  - Improving communication across publications.
  - Amplifying student voices.
  - Encouraging collaboration and community engagement.

7.0 Board of Directors Candidate Question Period

Candidates responded to questions from members.

Relationship Between the Board, President, and Executive Director

- Matteo emphasized collaboration without hierarchy while recognizing the leadership responsibilities of executive positions.
- Gabriel described the relationship as one of mutual dependence and cooperation.

Supporting Brantford Publications

- Candidates discussed increasing communication between campuses and expanding digital collaboration.
- Emma proposed creating online communication channels to maintain a stronger Brantford presence.

Remaining Unbiased Between Campuses

- Emma emphasized consulting Brantford students before making decisions.
- Matteo highlighted the responsibility of Directors to represent the interests of WLUSP as a whole.
- Gabriel stressed the importance of maintaining in-person communication between campuses.

8.0 Incoming President Candidate Presentation

Incoming presidential candidate **Vlad Latis** presented his platform.

Key priorities included:

- Supporting WLUSP's long-term organizational goals.
- Creating an environment that supports students and volunteers.
- Increasing campus promotion and visibility.

- Establishing sustainable practices for future leadership.
- Encouraging open communication throughout the organization.
- Ensuring every member of WLUSP has access to support and mentorship.

9.0 Presidential Candidate Question Period

Vlad responded to questions from members.

Role of WLUSP and the President

- Stated that WLUSP's primary purpose is to provide accessible student media while supporting professional development.
- Described the President's responsibilities as:
  - Serving as a bridge between students and the organization.
  - Providing strategic leadership.
  - Acting as Publisher and maintaining quality control.
  - Leading development of a Strategic Plan and Artificial Intelligence Policy.

Greatest Challenge Facing WLUSP

- Identified limited campus visibility as the organization's greatest challenge.
- Strategies discussed included:
  - Collaborating with campus clubs and services.
  - Increasing campus presence through events.
  - Expanding social media engagement.
  - Encouraging cross-publication promotion.

Audience Question

- An audience member asked whether WLUSP would consider hosting more events at the Brantford campus.
- Vlad committed to maintaining a regular presence in Brantford and expressed support for hosting events there.
- Gabriel added that promoting Waterloo campus events in Brantford would strengthen campus connections.
- No further questions were received.

10.0 Election of Board of Directors

10.1 Motion to Approve the Election of the Board of Directors

Motion to approve the election of Matteo Beckles, Carissa Riley, Emma, and Gabriel to the Board of Directors.

Moved by: Grace
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.
No abstentions or oppositions.

10.2 Motion to Ratify the Election of the Board of Directors

Moved by: Zanib
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.
No abstentions or oppositions.

11.0 Election of President

11.1 Motion to Approve the Election of Vlad Latis as President

Moved by: Gabriel
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.
No abstentions or oppositions.

11.2 Motion to Ratify the Election of Vlad Latis as President

Moved by: Grace
Seconded by: Tusharika
Motion Carried.
No abstentions or oppositions.

12.0 Other Business

No additional business was brought before the meeting.

13.0 Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Tusharika
Seconded by: Grace
Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at **5:42 PM**.

Ayden Elworthy
Recording Secretary
Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP)