

## **WLUSP Board Meeting**

**Virtual Conference:** Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, | 12:00 PM EST

**Secretary:** Nate Dawes

### **Attendance:**

Umaymah Suhail, President and Board Chair

Tusharika Tyagi, Treasurer

Shelby Blackley, Community Director

Safina Jennah, Community Director

Nate Dawes, Secretary

### **Absent Membership:**

Jacob Segal-Rice, Vice Chair

Elisha Felician, Student Director

Madalyn Mostacci, Student Director

### **Gallery:**

Kurtis Rideout, WLUSP Executive Director

Sam Nabi, WLUSP Web Editor

Thando Bhebhe, The Sputnik Creative Director and WLUSP president-elect

Ayden Elworthy, WLUSP advertising manager

Bronte Behing, The Cord Editor-in-Chief

Randy Moore, WLUSP Finance Manager

Sheryl Wilson Madakkai, The Cord Editor-in-Chief in training

Harleen Dhillon, The Community Edition Editor-in-Chief

Oluoma Nasa-Okolie, Student Director-Elect

Zaynub Fasih, WLUSP Human Resources Manager in training

Piper Force, The Sputnik Editor-in-Chief in training

### **1.0 Call Meeting to Order**

- The Meeting was called to order at 12:12 PM.

### **2.0 Motion to Amend the Agenda from “Ratify” to “Approve” the Interim 25-26 Budget and Move the item up in the Agenda due to time constraints.**

- Motion: Shelby Blackley
- Second: Nate Dawes
- In Favour: Unanimous
- Opposed: N/A
- Abstentions: N/A
- Motion Carries and the Agenda is approved at 12:14 PM

### **3.0 Approval of Agenda: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- Motion: Shelby Blackley
- Second: Nate Dawes
- In Favour: Unanimous
- Opposed: N/A

- Abstentions: N/A
- Motion Carries and the Agenda is approved at 12:15 PM

#### **4.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

- Motion: Shelby Blackley
- Second: Nate Dawes
- In Favour: Unanimous
- Opposed: N/A
- Abstentions: N/A
- Motion Carries and the Minutes are approved at 12:15 PM

#### **5.0 Chair Report**

- *Volunteer Appreciation Night 2025*
  - Took place on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Refreshing Turnout from 40-50 people. President Suhail in particular recommends that the next VA night have awards for outstanding Keystone-Carnegie volunteers.
- *Publications*
  - The print publications, including the yearbook, have all submitted their final items for the year, and the Blueprint, who finished publication earlier, hosted their final launch party.
  - The president also here encouraged people to reexamine Laurier Student Poll's place in the organization once again.
- *Hiring*

- All of the department head roles for the next school were successfully filled, and the hope is that all of the management positions in each department are hired by the end of May.
- The interim budget for the next academic year has been established already.
- *Transition*
  - The next president has been trained in his position, and appears ready for his tenure over the next year at WLUSP.
  - Department head transition reports are officially going out, transition night is tomorrow (April 30<sup>th</sup>), to get Dept. heads accustomed to their peers.
- *Student Union update*
  - Not following through with the student union media training because we can't host it due to possible conflict of interest. The president recommends that people continue to work closely with the Student Union and make sure that the relationship is strengthened over the next year.

## **6.0 Executive Director Report**

- *Canada Summer Jobs*
  - WLUSP got approval from CSJ for all four positions for which it was requested, advertising assistant, HR coordinator, production assistant and Summer reporter. Over the coming weeks WLUSP will hire these positions, and applications are already coming in.
- *Access and training*

- The process of ensuring that everyone who needs access to the building has that access is underway.
- Transition night will represent the culmination of the pre-transition training process.
- *Grad Photos*
  - This year represents the most graduation portraits ever taken by Pegasus, our partner. This functionally means that the revenue from sitting fees will increase.
  - The issue with Brantford MA students who fell through the cracks has been addressed.
- *Balancing the Budget*
  - HR downloads automatically renewed, which represented a significant expense, although its expense was negotiated down significantly.
  - The budget as presented runs a deficit, and Executive Director Rideout requests the board's input on how to balance the budget ahead of the next year, considering that the organization will be pursuing a loan to buy new space.

## **7.0 Appointment of Student Directors**

- We've received two application packages from prospective student directors, Oluoma Nasa-Okolie, and Grace Moat.

### **7.1 Motion to approve Oluoma Nasa-Okoli:**

- Motion: Nate Dawes
- Second: Tusharika Tyagi

- In Favour: Unanimous
- Opposed: N/A
- Abstentions: N/A
- Motion Carries and Oluoma Nasa-Okoli was appointed to her role at 12:25 PM

## **7.2 Motion to approve Oluoma Nasa-Okoli**

- Motion: Shelby Blackley
- Second: Tusharika Tyagi
- In Favour: Unanimous
- Opposed: N/A
- Abstentions: N/A
- Motion Carries and Grace Moat was appointed to her role at 12:26 PM

*Grace Moat and Oluoma Nasa Okolie are appointed to their roles as Student Directors for the 2025-2026 school year.*

## **8.0 Presenting the Interim Budget**

- There have been significant cuts across the board, bringing the deficit down from the \$75,000 it ran last year, however further cuts should be expected.

## **8.1 Motion to Approve the Budget for the Year Ending in 2026: Tusharika Tyagi**

- Second: Shelby Blackley
- In Favour: Unanimous

- Opposed: N/A
- Abstentions: N/A
- Motion Carries and the Minutes are approved at 12:48 PM

## **9.0 Approve WLUSP's AI policy**

- Significant concern with the integrity of the proposed AI policy is raised by multiple board members (Blackley, Dawes), as well as by Editor-In-Chief Behling.
  - Specific issue was taken with its allowance for individual department heads and Administrative staff to unilaterally approve AI usage.
  - EIC Behling and Director Blackley favour an outcome that sees the policy reviewed periodically by the board to enact such changes as should be necessitated by the gradual evolution of AI in society and media markets, with each iteration footnoted with its date of last modification.
  - Director Blackley also notes that at some point in the future the board needs to discuss WLUSP's policy for the use of WLUSP content in AI training.
  - Treasurer Tyagi recommends that WLUSP examine comparable policies in industry leaders/peers to consider the organization's own steps forward.

The board elected not to vote, because there was an evident lack of confidence in the policy as written and people elected to revisit at the next board meeting.

## **10.0 Motion to Move the Update on Potential New Spaces and the Discussion About the Future of WLUSP to the Next Meeting.**

*Two board members had to leave the meeting for previously scheduled and communicated prior engagements, and as such, this vote was carried out by email vote,*

### **11.0 Meeting Adjournment**

*The Meeting was adjourned and ended without a motion*

**WLUSP Board Meeting for Tuesday, April 29th is adjourned at 1:11 PM**