

## **WLUSP Board Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Conference:** Thursday, October 10th, 2024 | 5:00 P.M. EST

**Secretary:** Nate Dawes

### **Attendance:**

Umaymah Suhail, President and Board Chair

Jacob Segal-Rice, Vice-Chair

Kurtis Rideout, Executive Director

Nate Dawes, Secretary

Madalyn Mostacci, Student Director

Shelby Blackley, Community Director

Andreas Patsiaouros, Community Director

### **Absent Membership:**

Tusharika Tyagi, Treasurer

Elisha Felician, Student Director

Brittany Kovacs, Community Director

### **Gallery:**

Randy Moore, Finance Manager

Brontë Behling, *The Cord* Editor in Chief

Mackenzie Worton, WLUSP Human Resources Manager

## **1.0 Call Meeting to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 5:10 P.M.

## **2.0 Approval of Agenda: October 10th, 2024**

- Motion: Madalyn Mostacci
- Second: Andreas Patsiaouros
- Motion Carries at 5:11 P.M.

## **3.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 26th, 2024**

- Motion: Jacob Segal-Rice
- Second: Madalyn
- Motion Carries at 5:12 P.M.

## **4.0 Appointment of the Executive Director**

- Motion to move in-camera
- Motion: Nate Dawes
- Second: Madalyn Mostacci
- Motion Carries at 5:18 P.M.

## **5.0 Chair Report Presented by Umaymah Suhail (President/Publisher)**

- New Executive Director hire
  - A new Executive Director of Wilfrid Laurier Student Publications has been hired!
  - The president has been working closely with the new executive director Kurtis Rideout to get the operations of the organization back to normal..
- A Keystone/Carnegie Editor-in-Chief has already been hired as well

- WLUSP still lacks a Director for Laurier Student Poll.
- Office move update.
  - WLUSP has officially accepted the offer that WLU made of new space on 32 University Ave. E.
  - However, due to continued concerns about accessibility, this does not look like a permanent solution and WLUSP continues to look for a more permanent home.
- Blueprint Magazine, The Cord, The Sputnik and Radio Laurier have all gotten back to their normal publication schedules after the beginning of the school year.
  - The publications have been working together and have been encouraged to focus further on cross publication, on their social media interaction.
- President Suhail will be going on maternity leave as of November 22nd at the latest, for at least a month, with health and circumstances determining exact return date
  - The president commits to completing performance reviews and one-on-one meetings before their maternity leave begins.
  - The president also notes that this wasn't sprung on the workforce and that there is a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that the organization is empowered to continue work without interruption while she's on maternity leave.

## **5.1 Comments**

- Director Patsiaouros reintroduces the possibility that the future of Laurier Student Poll as an active part of WLUSP should be reconsidered since it hasn't really been active in years.

## **6.0 Executive Director Report Presented by Kurtis Rideout**

- Director Rideout has begun their tenure by streamlining communication, contacting stakeholders and interested parties to address the void left by the temporary vacancy in the Executive Director role.
  - Furthermore, they have moved to fill the space left by their leaving the advertising and distribution departments.
- Director Rideout recommends that the advertising and distribution departments be combined into one, especially given the decline in printing frequency and consequently the declining revenue from advertising.
- A trip was made to 32 University by the Executive Director, the President and the Web Manager Sam Nabi, the latter of whom prepared a report on the matter.
- Executive Director Rideout has stepped into their role as Community Edition Publisher and was able to contribute to story planning and publishing from the beginning of this issue cycle.
- CU, a firm that helps sell ads for the WLU'er have been very helpful for revenue in that department, and they've expressed interest in helping WLUSP with advertising in other publications, so ED Rideout is pursuing this possibility by meeting with CU.

## **7.0 New Space Options**

- A report compiled by WLUSP web manager Sam Nabi was presented by ED Rideout at the meeting.
- 32 University Ave. E. is a fine landing place after the situation with WLUSP's previous home on Regina Street but isn't going to be a good long-term option, so WLUSP is looking for another potential long-term solution.
- Some options are available:

- 255 King St. N. offers multiple options that differ in many ways, but the in-person investigation by admin workers found that for various reasons (including, but not limited to, necessity of renovations, and lack of benefit compared to 32 University) these spaces weren't ideal.
- The possibility of instead paying for a Condo was proposed.
  - Options on Balsam and Hickory Street need some renovations, the 6-figure price and the necessity of renovations are limiting, but with those in mind, these were argued to represent the best option.
  - The most expensive, and the most favourable of these is at 61 Hickory St., 62 Balsam is another option.
- Finance Manager Moore presented in favour of investing in a condo space that WLUSP would have legal ownership of, especially given the unfeasibility of long-term leasing and a potential projected favorable buyer's real estate market in the near future.
- ED Rideout gives specific thanks to Web Manager Nabi, who has a background in commercial real estate, noting that his help was instrumental during this process.

### **8.0 HR Manager Parking Pass Approval**

- The HR Manager is based far enough away that they require a parking pass on the campus in order to properly carry out their duties, and they currently lack one.
- Motion: Nate Dawes
- Second: Madalyn Mostacci
- Motion Carries at 6:16 P.M.

### **9.0 Temporary Chair Signing Switchover**

- While the President is on maternity leave, someone will need to hold signing authority to ensure that WLUSP can sign cheques.
- The Vice-Chair and the Treasurer are based in Toronto, so despite their seniority, they're not ideal candidates for this function.
- Board Director Mostacci volunteered to fill this role.
- Motion to grant signing authority to Board Director Mostacci
  - Motion: Andreas Patsiaouros
  - Second: Nate Dawes
  - Motion carries at 6:23 P.M.

## **10.0 Adjournment**

- The Meeting is Adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

**WLUSP Board Meeting for October 10th, 2024 is adjourned at 6:23 P.M. EST.**