

WLUSP Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual Conference: Monday, August 12, 2024 | 6:00 P.M.

Secretary: Nate Dawes

Attendance:

Umaymah Suhail (President and Chair)

Jacob Segal Rice (Vice Chair)

Aaron Waitson (Executive Director)

Brittany Kovacs (Community Director)

Shelby Blackley Community Director)

Elisha Felician (Student Director)

Nate Dawes (Secretary)

Gallery:

Brontë Behling (Editor-in-Chief of The Cord)

Makenzie Worton (WLUSP Human Resources Manager)

Sam Nabi (WLUSP Web Manager)

Kurtis Rideout (WLUSP Advertising Manager)

Harleen Dhillon (Editor-in-Chief of The Community Edition)

Absent Membership:

Tusharika Tyagi (Treasurer)

Madalyn Mostacci (Student Director)

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:02 P.M.

2.0 Approval of Agenda: August 12th, 2024 (Agenda dated August 6t due to failure to meet quorum on that date)

- Motion: Jacob Segal Rice
- Second: Brittany Kovacs
- Motion Carries: 6:03 P.M.

3.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 14th, 2024

- Motion: Jacob Segal Rice
- Second: Brittany Kovacs
- Motion Carries: 6:04 P.M.

4.0 Chair Report Presented by President and Publisher Umaymah Suhail (6:05 P.M.)

- WLUSP Conference 2024 was held in person in the Academic Bricker Building. Attendance met expectations Friday and Saturday but fell short on Sunday. In future years the Chair recommends a later date when more prospective attendees are on campus in hopes of raising attendance.
- Canada Summer Jobs Update: The summer positions which were partly made possible through CSJ funding facilitated the WLUSP conference, WLUSP's summer production schedule and other ongoing projects.
- The organization has begun experimentation with and use of Citation Canada, formerly HR Downloads, to aid with internal Human Resources processes.

- New Equipment and furniture have been purchased based on need for WLUSP facilities in Waterloo and Brantford
- Hiring is Ongoing for the Director of Wilfrid Laurier Student Poll and Editor-in-Chief of the Keystone-Carnegie yearbook
- For the Meeting Minutes, Chair Suhail Notes that due to the week's delay in meeting, there had been updates in some matters which the report addressed.
 - A candidate stepped forward for the position of Keystone-Carnegie Editor-in-Chief.
 - There were disappointing personnel issues connected to one of the CSJ positions.

4.1 Comments and Discussion

- No Comments

5.0 Executive Director Report Presented by Executive Director Aaron Waitson (6:20 P.M.)

- The production of the WLU'er student handbook has been finalized and printing is progressing on schedule, expectations are optimistic. Hopes for WLU staff collaboration to distribute the handbooks were noted.
 - Advertising sales have also grown compared to recent years, which Executive Director Waitson credits partially to the decision to shift from magazine-format to ring bound books.
 - The company who currently prints the WLU'er has been historically difficult to work with, and an alternative has reached out. The alternative, Barney Printing, behaves professionally and come with "glowing recommendations." The WLU'er

Production team will continue to explore options for the best partner for printing the WLU'er.

- Board of Directors Community Director Hiring:
 - WLUSP alumnus Andreas Patsiaouros had expressed interest in the position. Andreas was recommended by Executive Director Waitson, with an immediate positive response from other directors familiar with the applicant.
- The Community Edition update
 - The August issue of The Community Edition had to be reprinted due to significant errors in the edition that went to print. There was some user error involved, but TCE is internally instilling safeguards against the issue occurring again. Notes that TCE commits to reallocating part of their budget toward remediating the situation, so as not to impose further deficit on the organization.
- WLUSP office move update
 - The Board is aware that WLU has indefinitely pushed along the move to new WLUSP offices, and that the school recently provided the organization with an option for a potential new home, providing no alternatives, and making it clear that this was likely the only option they would receive.
 - Executive Director Waitson also informed the board that WLUSP had also unofficially been made aware that Laurier would be likely be moving forward with selling and demolishing the present location of the WLUSP offices, presenting the organization with a functional ultimatum.

5.1 Comments

- Executive Director Waitson referred a question regarding whether or not WLUSP could identify anything specific that had led to the significant rise in advertising revenue, to Advertising Manager Rideout, who noted both a gradual return to pre-pandemic levels and the draw of the new printing format.
- With Regards to the Move:
 - Multiple Directors had thoughts on the move, both logistically and from a human resource perspective, including the significant problem with accessibility the new place has. Before these concerns were resolved into open discussion, the meeting moved on to its next item, a comprehensive discussion of this topic.

6.0 Discussion of WLUSP Office Relocation

- Responding to comments from the end of the previous item, Chair Suhail echoes the questioner's concerns about accessibility and privacy, and echoes the possibility of pursuing a space outside of those offered by WLU. They also note the problem that Laurier's lease with the new location ends in five years in 2029.
- Executive Director Notes that WLUSP had voiced their preference for other buildings in the past, and 32 University Ave. E. is a suboptimal option and that it could be made to work but it would require significant conversation, work and restructuring

6.1 Comments

- In open discussion, the board noted that
 - The rent is likely to be comparable.
 - WLU has been largely unsympathetic and unhelpful throughout the process.
 - WLUSP may lack the legal option to rent a building not owned or leased by WLU.

7.0 Air Conditioning Units Ratification

- Motion: Jacob Segal Rice
- Second: Elisha Felician
- Motion Carries at 7:13 P.M.

8.0 Air Conditioning Installation

- Due to the impending demolition of the building, the board is informed that it is incredibly unlikely that WLU would approve any form of alteration to be made to the building.
 - Furthermore, even if they did approve it, it would still be a roughly \$2,200 expense to WLUSP for a building that's about to be demolished.

8.1 Comments

- After universal sentiment that the point is moot and the installation is futile, no motion is attempted to install the units.

9.0 Slate Budget Amendment Approval

- Changes
 - Move \$750 from line 306, Radio Laurier's Office Furniture budget to line 305, Radio Laurier's sound equipment budget.
 - Increase line 41 from the central department budget from \$400 to \$1,000 to purchase business cards.

- Move \$1,000 from line 141 to line 150 within The Community Edition's Budget from staff honoraria to accommodate the reprint.
 - The staff honoraria were going unused due to lack of summer staff.
- Increase line 26 the Central Budget for Office Supplies from \$465 to \$665.
- Motion: Brittany Kovacs
- Second: Jacob Segal Rice
- Motion Carries at 7:27 P.M.

10.0 Community Director Application

- The Board considers the application of Andreas Patsiaouros to the role of WLUSP Community Director
- Motion: Shelby Blackley
- Second: Brittany Kovacs
- Motion Carries at 7:29 P.M., and Andreas Patsiaouros is appointed to the role of WLUSP Community Director

11.0 Adjournment

- **Meeting Adjourned at 7:34 P.M.**

WLUSP Board Meeting for Monday, August 12, 2024 is adjourned at 7:34 P.M.