

WLUSP Board Meeting

Virtual Conference: Monday, August 26, 2024 | 5:02 P.M.

Secretary: Nate Dawes

Attendance:

Umaymah Suhail, President and Board Chair

Aaron Waitson, Executive Director

Tusharika Tyagi, Treasurer

Nate Dawes, Secretary

Elisha Felician, Student Director

Madalyn Mostacci, Student Director

Shelby Blackley, Community Director

Brittany Kovacs, Community Director

Andreas Patsiaouros, Community Director

Absent Membership:

Jacob Segal-Rice, Vice Chair

Gallery

Randy Moore, Finance Manager

Jack Vrolyk, *Radio Laurier* Station Manager

Harleen Dhillon, *The Community Edition* Editor in Chief

Brontë Behling, *The Cord* Editor in Chief

Mackenzie Worton, WLUSP Human Resources Manager

Kurtis Rideout, WLUSP Advertising Manager

Muhammad Abdullah Zafar, *The Keystone-Carnegie* Editor in Chief

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

2.0 Approval of Agenda: August 26, 2024

- Before the agenda was approved, Executive Director Waitson requested a motion to amend the meeting agenda to move item 5.0 *The Community Edition Publisher Transfer Proposal* to after item 7.0 *Letter of Concerns*, given the amount of discussion that the latter would likely require.
- Motion to amend:
 - Motion: Brittany Kovacs
 - Second: Madalyn Mostacci
 - Motion Carries: 5:03 P.M.
- Motion to approve amended agenda:
 - Motion: Brittany Kovacs
 - Second: Elisha Felician
 - Motion Carries: 5:04 P.M.

3.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 12, 2024

- Motion: Brittany Kovacs
- Second: Madalyn Mostacci
- Motion Carries: 5:05 P.M.

4.0 Blueprint Proposal

- Tusharika Tyagi, Editor-in-Chief of the Blueprint Magazine, presented a proposal to turn their part-time position as Editor-in-Chief of the Blueprint Magazine into a full-time one, from 15 hours per week to 35 hours per week
- For the record, it is noted that Tusharika Tyagi is also the Treasurer of the Board of WLUSP.
- Tusharika highlighted strengths and weaknesses of the magazine, noting its current minimal profile and footprint, but also its strengths and opportunities for growth.
- Editor-in-Chief Tyagi committed to producing 2- and 5-year plans going forward

4.1 Comments

- Discussion ensued, largely highlighting the potential fiscal pressure placed upon the organization by the shift, which could have significant hidden costs on top of the salary itself going into a year
- The Board elected to delay the vote until the budget had been reviewed

5.0 Operating Budget Approval

- Financial Department Changes
 - \$2,000 Simply Accounting budget eliminated
- Central Department changes

- CSJ advertising assistant position was not filled, \$1,941.03 salary budget eliminated
- SAC fee revenue higher than expected, a subsequent modification of period 2 and 3 revenue expectations eliminated about \$75,000 from the predicted deficit.
- \$300 Zoom subscription budget eliminated
- The Community Edition Department Changes
 - \$400 parking budget eliminated
 - \$4,400 cut from volunteer honouraria budget
 - Since Steel Rails isn't taking place, \$5,000 projected net gain from Steel Rails was amended to represent breaking even on the budget
 - Further expected revenues and sponsorships were cut from the event budget, resulting in a net loss of a further \$1,000 of expected profit
 - \$500 staff workshop budget eliminated
 - \$1,200 food expense budget eliminated
- The Cord Department Changes
 - Compensation Changes
 - The Creative director position saw its hours cut from 15 hours per week to 7
 - The News Director and Multimedia and Web Director positions were changed from salaried to honourarium based positions
 - Total budget for compensation of both positions cut from roughly \$15,000 to \$3,400

- There was discussion about modifying the compensation owed to the managing editor position, and whether, given the cord's infrequent publishing schedule and the looming deficit, it should also experience some form of the cutbacks the rest of the department was facing.
 - It is noted that one of the voices in the discussion, director Madalyn Mostacci, is also the current Managing Editor of The Cord, which is for the record a conflict of interest.
- Keystone-Carnegie Department
 - A \$200 budget was added to get the Keystone department a banner, as they lack one
- Blueprint Department
 - There was further discussion of Editor-in-Chief Tyagi's proposal, and general consensus that the scope of the proposal represented too great a gamble going into a deficit year without any guarantee of return on investment.
 - An alternative course of action of raising the hours to 20 to recognize the work put in by the Editor-in-Chief was settled upon instead.
 - Motion to increase blueprint EIC hours from 15 per week to 20:
 - Motion: Brittany Kovacs
 - Second: Elisha Felician
 - Motion carries at 6:37 PM
- Final Thoughts before the budget

- In response to questioning, Finance Manager Moore stated that this would unequivocally be the final year that WLUSP could run at such a deficit as it is facing
- Motion to approve the operating budget
 - Motion: Madalyn Mostacci
 - Second: Elisha Felician
 - Motion Carries at 6:48 P.M.

6.0 Letter of Concerns

- Given the sensitivity of the subject matter of the letter, the board elected to conduct this portion of the meeting in-camera
- Motion to Move in-camera to the exclusion of voting members and ED Waitson
 - Motion: Madalyn Mostacci
 - Second: Nate Dawes
 - Motion Carries at 7:01 P.M.

7.0 Motion to Amend the Agenda

- A motion, given the late time after moving out of camera, to table the discussion of agenda items 5.0 *The Community Edition Publisher Transfer Proposal* and 8.0 *Citation Canada Policy Draft Review* to a later date
 - Motion: Shelby Blackley
 - Second: Elisha Felician
 - Motion Carries at 8:48 P.M.

8.0 Adjournment

- Meeting was officially adjourned without a separate motion at 8:52 P.M.