

Texas Student Media
Board of Operating Trustees Meeting
November 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Belo Center for New Media,
KUT Community Room (BMC 1.108A)
300 W Dean Keeton St., Austin, Texas 78712

Voting Members Present: Jan Ross Piedad, William Smith, Pauline Berens, McKay Proctor, Heidi Toprac, Todd Ross Nienkerk, Robert Quigley, Jeff Cohen, Arjun Mocherla

Voting Members Absent: Forrest Wolfe, Matt Eastin

Non-Voting Members Present : Gerald Johnson, Claire Smith, Jack Mitts, Blake Gentry, Christian Young, Christy Zhang, Joshua Brenner, Shannon Geison, Peter Flynn

Non-Voting Members Absent: Andrew Serice

Guests Present: Frank Serpas, Peter Chen, David Maly (CANDIDATES)

Meeting Opening

The Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees meeting on November 20, 2015 was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Arjun Mocherla.

Approval of the minutes of the October 23, 2015 meeting of the TSM Board of Operating Trustees

Pauline Berens observed a stray preposition in the minutes. The fault was amended – Arjun Mocherla made the motion, Heidi Toprac seconded. The board then discussed the representation of the changes made to the handbook and their representation in the minutes. As the minutes proved satisfactory, the Board decided to move on. Arjun Mocherla moved to approve the minutes as amended. McKay Proctor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee report

The Executive reported that they awarded the Julia Jefferies Excellence Award to Danielle Lopez.

Trust & Handbook Committee report

The Trust & Handbook Committee expressed a desire to consolidate several chapters in the handbook and resolved to make major edits after the break.

The Committee also voiced a desire to change the editing timeline from its current yearly schedule to a less frequent interval.

Discussion and possible action regarding potential changes to the TSM handbook

The Trust and Handbook committee examined the escalation policy proposed by Gerald Johnson. The idea expressed was that Gerald would arbitrate in matters within his purview, but any students affected can appeal to the board as necessary.

Heidi Toprac said that she would like to see additional oversight and an option in case the issue in question deals directly with the TSM director. She proposed the Assistant Dean for Media Relations at the Moody College of Communication. Arjun Mocherla also proposed that the board should find a way to use language that hardwires a route to Student Judicial Services for some issues. The Board decided that it will have the option to review and take action on the director's report at its next meeting following a reported incident with both the director and the Assistant Dean having jurisdiction over the reports depending on the situation.

Heidi Toprac moved to accept the amendment to the handbook. Robert Quigley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Activity reports from the TSM Director and student managers

Gerald Johnson provided the TSM Director's activity report, expressing his delight that most of the outlets' new equipment had arrived, with the exception of some for KVRX. He explained the new Chartbeat real-time analytics system that each of the outlets has started to use. He also reported that the RFP for the digitization of the Daily Texan archives was nearly complete. Jeff Cohen expressed concern with the price of the digitization when the Texan was not paying all of its student journalists. Gerald responded that the gift had been given specifically for the digitization and Claire Smith said that it would cut down on the amount of time she spent fulfilling spurious requests. Gerald expressed delight at the success of the senior picture partnership with the Co-op and all of advertising's advances since the last meeting. He said that student sellers have done particularly well.

Blake Gentry delivered the KVRX station manager activity report. He said that KVRX's website is being reconstructed. He said that the show at Empire Control Room went very well and KVRX had audio production in the pipeline.

Christian Young delivered the TSTV station manager activity report. He stated that many of TSTV's ventures from video production to the writing incubator had had banner months. He said that the station is trying to finalize its automation set and adjust to all the new equipment.

Joshua Brenner was not present to deliver the Travesty activity report. The Board collectively longed for his wit and energy.

Christy Zhang delivered the Cactus Editor-in-Chief activity report. She said that the Cactus was in the midst of making all of its big spreads for the book. Everything was going swimmingly.

Claire Smith delivered the Daily Texan Editor-in-Chief report. She expressed satisfaction with her Texan Talks program and the dialogues it had fostered. She said

she was proud of the semester the Texan had. She thanked Managing Editor Jack Mitts for all his service to the paper.

Jack Mitts delivered the Daily Texan Managing editor Activity report. He examined the Texan's online very closely and guided the Board through some of his findings. The Texan and its social media footprint had been trending upward generally. He also talked about his own Managing Editor application, reflecting on all the time he'd spent in the Texan and thanked the Texan for all its support. Jeff Cohen thanked Jack on behalf of the board for his time and effort.

Discussion and possible action regarding filling upcoming TSM Board vacancies

Arjun Mocherla worried about the board being able to meet quorum with Jan Ross Piedad vacating her seat and Forrest Wolfe never showing up to his. Arjun proposed that the board appoint two members to replace them.

Robert Quigley said that since the seat vacated by Forrest Wolfe only lasts until the end of the semester since it is going up for election and the board will find out the election results after its first meeting of the spring semester, the board should just appoint the winner of that election to the seat. He affirmed Arjun's proposal that Jan Ross's seat be filled by appointment because it would not be filled by election for another semester and a half.

Arjun Mocherla moved to appoint a Board member to Jan Ross's seat and hold open Forrest's seat until the election results are known for the purposes of appointing the victor pending the Board's approval. Robert Quigley said that there is no need to make that motion because the board simply opens applications without any motions.

Jan Ross Piedad expressed the desire to see the open spots publicized well to find the correct people for the job.

Hiedi Toprac moved to adjourn. Arjun Mocherla seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Subchapter E: Personnel Conflict

1.61 Between students participating at TSM

- (a) The student(s) must report the conflict to the Media Advisor responsible for the media unit to which the student(s) report.
- (b) The Media Advisor will work with student(s) to resolve the conflict through remediation or reassignment and may involve departments outside of TSM, such as Student Judicial Services. In cases where the conflict violates TSM policies, the Media Advisor can recommend termination with approval of the Student Manager of the TSM entity.
- (c) Termination takes effect immediately, prior to any appeal process.
- (d) A student can appeal a termination through the Director, who has final say.
- (e) In cases where the Director upholds the termination, the student may choose to file a report to the Board through the Business Office of TSM.
- (f) The Board may choose to discuss and/or take action on the report at the next scheduled meeting.
- (g) The Director may suspend any student manager for violation of Board, TSM, or University policy. Suspension, without pay, takes effect immediately and can be reviewed at the next scheduled Board meeting. Director shall appoint interim student manager.

1.62 Between students and professional staff

- (a) If a student has a conflict with a member of the professional staff, he or she must contact the immediate supervisor of the employee to make a report.
- (b) Director shall determine final resolution for conflict involving a professional staff member.
- (c) If the conflict is between a student and the Director, student must report conflict to Media Advisor, who will work with the Assistant Dean for Media Operations at the Moody College of Communication.
- (d) Either the Director or the Assistant Dean for Media Operations at the Moody College of Communication will ensure that the Board is made aware of the issue at the next scheduled Board meeting.
- (e) The Board may choose to discuss and/or take action on the report at the next scheduled meeting.

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Voting Members Absent: Forrest Wolfe, Matt Eastin

Non-Voting Members Present : Gerald Johnson, Claire Smith, Jack Mitts, Blake Gentry, Christian Young, Christy Zhang, Joshua Brenner, Shannon Geison, Peter Flynn

Non-Voting Members Absent: Andrew Serice

Guests Present: Frank Serpas, Peter Chen, David Maly Nick Castillo, Amy Zhang

Meeting Opening

The Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees meeting on November 20, 2015 was called to order at 3:31p.m. by Arjun Mocherla.

Discussion of possible action regarding the appointment of Daily Texan Managing Editor

The Board asked each candidate for Managing editor to summarize their experience with the Texan and their plans for the Managing editor position. Each candidate in turn, Amy first and Nick second, provided their experience and discussed at length their vision for the Texan.

The members of the Board asked the candidates questions individually. Amy Zhang discussed the lack of cohesion between departments at the Texan and balancing her many extracurricular and academic commitments. Nick Castillo talked about the personal relationships he had developed.

Both candidates talked about having the Texan publish continually throughout the day to retain online readership.

McKay Proctor asked, since each of the candidates had worked together on the Texan's Pull-out football section, Double Coverage, what was the strength of the other candidate in operating that section of the paper. Amy Zhang talked about her respect for Nick's relentlessness and commitment to the making the section the best it could be. Nick

discussed Amy's ability to find quality photographs and deliver consistently with a calm, collected attitude

Recess into executive session to deliberate on Selection.

The Board weighed the relative merits of each candidate and selected Amy Zhang to be the next Managing Editor of the Daily Texan.

The meeting then adjourned at 4:21 pm.