

Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees Meeting

The University of Texas at Austin

Jesse H. Jones Communication Center, Building A

Lady Bird Johnson Room (CMA 5.136)

2504A Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas 78712

February 3, 2017

Voting Members Present: Pauline Berens, McKay Proctor, Matt Eastin, Christian Trudeau, Karen M. Landolt, Mary Dolan, Mohammad Syed, Kat Sampson, Robert W. Jensen, Jeff Cohen

Non-Voting Members Present: Gerald Johnson, Alexander Chase, Akshay Mirchandani, Armando Maese, Aaron Bicart, Raven Cortright, Julia Cho, Peter Flynn

Non-Voting Members Absent: Max Friedman

Guest Present: Frank Serpas, Emily Cohen, Stewart Vanderwilt, Robert Zimmer, Peter Chen, Catrin Watts, Janhavi Nemawarkar, Laura Hallas

Meeting Opening

The Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees meeting on February 3rd was called to order at 1:03 p.m by Pauline Berens.

Approval of minutes from the November 18, 2017, meeting of the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees

The minutes were reviewed, no inaccuracies were found. McKay Proctor moved to approve the minutes. Pauline Berens seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion and possible action regarding the certification of candidates for Editor In Chief of The Daily Texan

Both candidates were asked to introduce themselves and state what changes they would like to see at the Daily Texan.

Janhavi Nemawarkar introduced herself then talked about her desire to increase the interaction students have with the Texan, especially student organization and voices that are not typically seen in the Texan.

Laura Hallas then introduced herself, commented on her past experiences in journalism and involvement in other UT organizations. Ms. Hallas noted that she would also like to increase inclusion at the Texan. Ms. Hallas stated that increased tabling, a work-study option, and reaching out to student organizations could help with diversity and that she would aim to work with other student media entities.

Kat Sampson asked both candidates what departments they had worked for in the past. Ms. Hallas stated that she had been a senior columnist, staff columnist and is currently out for a copy and design position. Ms. Nemawarkar stated she had been a columnist, senior columnist, associate editor and copy editor.

Ms. Berens noted that increasing diversity has always been a big topic and asked both candidates how they would manage the potential conflict that can arise with the increase in diversity. Ms. Hallas answered that consistent, well-thought-out, fair treatment is important, and that it would be essential that everyone is fairly heard. She also stated that it is important that the writing is relevant to current issues/topics. Ms. Nemawarkar answered that it is important that everyone is being treated fair consistently and that a baseline standard is established for what will go into the paper.

Mohammad Syed stated to the Board that both candidates are highly qualified and experienced.

Ms. Berens asked the Board if they believe it necessary to go into executive session.

Jeff Cohen asked if both applications had been audited to be certain that both applicants qualified for the position. Mr. Johnson responded that Frank Serpas and Peter Chen had both reviewed all criteria and certified that both applicants were indeed qualified.

The student election calendar/timeline and campaigning rules were reviewed by the Board. Mr. Cohen asked how those running a campaign are supervised in adhering to the \$500 spending limit. Catrin Watts, Chair of the Electoral Supervisory Board, explained the financial disclosures that are required to be submitted to the Electoral Supervisory Board (ESB) and the general rules about campaign spending.

Mr. Cohen makes the motion to certify both candidates. Mr. Proctor seconds. The motion passes.

Ms. Watts then talked to the Board about the appeals process. Ms. Watts clarified that there are only two reasons why an appeal by candidates to the TSM board would occur. First being an error on the part of the ESB, second being a potential violation of the code. Ms. Watts noted that it is important that the Board go through the appeals process to determine if the candidate or ESB was at fault. In order to protect the process of the appeal, it was asked that no member of the board who would be a part of the appeal attend the ESB hearing, as this can result in a potential bias.

Discussion and possible action regarding the certification of candidates for TSM Board

Ms. Berens stated that Zachary Head's experience with TSTV would be a welcomed edition to the Board.

Mr. Serpas noted that additional Board positions will be vacant and are assumed to be filled at the April TSM Board meeting.

It was clarified that Mr. Head's certification did not grant him an immediate seat on the Board and that he will still be technically running in an election even though he is uncontested.

Mr. Syed noted that the Board should aim to work better at filling Board positions in order to have a greater range of applicants to choose from. Ms. Berens asked all student managers to reach out to all students in their organizations. Mr. Syed offered to help promote awareness about the positions. Discussion on the diversity of the Board and the importance of having student members from different areas of campus was discussed.

Mr. Syed makes a motion to certify Zachary Head, Mr. Proctor seconds, the motion passes.

Activity Report from TSM Director and Student Managers

Mr. Johnson reported that the transmitter installation is complete and HD capabilities will soon be turned on. Amy, the past Managing Editor for Spring of 2016, has been hired as an office manager on a part-time basis and is documenting past participation in student entities. Zac's, senior technical support, job function has changed to accommodate the product manager's new part-time schedule. DiSC assessment has been completed. Paul Rascoe has been hired on a contract basis to continue the digitalization of the Daily Texan archives. Creative Services continue to grow in revenue stream. The Q1 financial report to the Regents has been sent. Moving forward, with the new changes in submission, new documents must be filed with the financial reports as well as future meetings will need to be moved around to comply with submission deadlines. Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Johnson to review the Assets section of the financial document. Expenses were then reviewed, and fringe benefits were explained.

Mr. Cohen applauded Mr. Johnson for the favorable financial report that is so encouraging. Mr. Johnson credited his team and students for their outstanding work.

Mr. Johnson then reviewed the advertising budget for UT Marketplace and uTexas.rent.

uTexas.rent is now up to 17 proprietries. Partnerships with the Department of Housing and Food Services and the grad school are in place. Mr. Johnson noted that the full staff, better-informed clients, and adoption of UT Marketplace have led to a rise in the projected budget.

Mr. Johnson stated that BurntX and LonghornLife will merge for more crossover digitally and print. All libel courses have been completed. Cactus StandOuts applications have been submitted, over 100 applications had been submitted.

Mr. Proctor stated that the ESB process went well, and that the ESB is in good hands. Mr. Proctor then left the meeting at 2:00 pm.

Armando Maese delivered the KVRX station manager activity report. Tabling has increased to fill-up DJ spots. Hoping to flip the switch to HD in February and hopefully have enough DJ to have a complete 24-hour schedule. Gearing up for SXSW shows and

social media presence has grown significantly. Cymbal was added due to the company reaching out to KVRX and it has been a beneficial partnership.

Aaron Bicart delivered the TSTV station manager activity report. Spring staff has been hired, just under 20 staff members. A half dozen new shows are underway, the writing incubator helped add to this. Production with ISOJ continues, it is one of the most financially rewarding productions of the year. Also producing videos for HornRaiser.

Cole Gerthoffer was absent for the Travesty Report.

Raven Cortright delivered the Cactus Yearbook activity report. Many events have been covered, and spreads are currently being completed. New writers are being hired, and a list of all students who are in the book has been compiled with emails being sent out. Currently on track to meet all deadlines.

Akshay Mirchandani delivered the Daily Texan Managing Editor Activity report. Hiring has finished and the staff is filled out, and on track to be slightly bigger than last semester. In the first week, the Texan has managed to cover the Inauguration, J20 walkout protest, and the Women's March along with several other big events. Continuing to play with the design of paper and consistently making production deadlines. The use of the live blogging platforms, embedded tweets, and photos continues. A reporter and photographer were sent to the volleyball Final Four. Mr. Cohen noted that the Texas Legislature has been cutting funding to higher education and asked Mr. Mirchandani what he plans to do in terms of reporting and watchdogging the actions of the Texas Legislatures. Mr. Mirchandani stated that they haven't been able to cover the Texas Legislature as much as he would have liked due to their skeleton staff, Texas Capital press pass issues and other news events. Mr. Mirchandani stated that in the future, better coverage would be done due to the now full staff. Mr. Mirchandani noted that he would like to show how the Legislature's actions are affecting students and would like to interview students and faculty for their perspectives. Larger social media coverage and more in-depth stories are to come. Mr. Chen commented that Mr. Mirchandani has done a great job so far with the limited resources he has had on hand and that Mr. Mirchandani is working towards further improvements.

Alexander Chase delivered the Daily Texan Editor-in-Chief Activity report. Mr. Chase noted that due to the current political situation many students want to do something, but don't know what. Mr. Chase stated that it is his job to help channel these students' passions into productive means. Mr. Chase commented that one of his most unique challenges has been finding more central and right-winged students to write op-eds in order to have a more balanced paper. Mr. Chase is looking forward to his staff who is well trained and veteran to the situations to come. Preparation for Student Government elections is underway and the editorial board is learning new design software. An editorial cartoonist has been hired. Mr. Chase noted that he continues to find more ways to work more smoothly with the rest of the newsroom and is excited for the semester.

Mr. Johnson asked that the Board be reminded of who is on the executive committee. Ms. Berens stated that an email reminder would be sent.

Mr. Eastin makes the motion to adjourn. Mr. Jensen seconds. The meeting is adjourned at 2:30 p.m.