



**Committee on Student Communications – Meeting minutes
Friday, September 11, 2015, 10:30 a.m., 25 Park Place (1127)**

Members Present

Boyd Beckwith (Executive Director), Bryce McNeil (Assistant Director for Student Media), Jeannie Barrett (ex-officio), Joey Redman (GSTV General Manager), Troi Charity (*The Signal* Editor-in-Chief), Stephanie Devine (Editor-in-Chief, *New South*), David Armstrong (faculty, at-large), , Raven Neely (student, at-large)

Members Absent

Greg Lisby (faculty, Department of Communication), Undergraduate Representative, Department of Communication (VACANT), Graduate Representative, Department of Communication (VACANT), Hannah Frank (WRAS General Manager), Stephen Cavallaro (student, at-large)

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Boyd Beckwith at 10:32 a.m.

CSC Bylaws

Boyd explained that the current bylaws were up for renewal within this semester. The current bylaws were distributed to the committee and Boyd opened the floor to discussion on modifications.

Raven asked why she and Stephen were appointed as at-large students rather than as leaders of *Underground* and the Digital Media Group respectively. Bryce explained that the current bylaws do not account for these groups and that this issue will need to be corrected in the next version of the bylaws. Raven suggested that a Spotlight member might be ideal for an at-large position while Joey suggested a SGA student to serve as a liaison for information. However, Bryce noted that having a SGA member with a voting interest would complicate media coverage. Jeannie pointed out that the at-large position wasn't always open to two students (it was once a single student) so the board should not limit itself to that possibility in this revision.

Boyd points out that an additional complication to the process would be the funding model for Georgia State University once consolidation with Georgia Perimeter College was complete. He explained that the expectation was that GSU and GPC students would still pay separate activity fees, therefore complicating whether a student attending a former-GPC campus could or should participate on the board. Bryce suggested that a non-voting representative of two-year campuses was an idea worth exploring, especially since there would be two-year campus volunteers for *The Signal*, at the very least. Raven inquired as to whether GPC had an equivalent to the CSC; Boyd replied they did not and that the only group that would be equivalent to a GSU Student Media group in terms of function and to whom they report would be *The Collegian* (student newspaper).

Boyd did feel that however the CSC was comprised, there should be at least one undergraduate and graduate student that are designated as "at-large." He also asked about the process of finding participants. Bryce noted that when such at-large positions were posted, few expressed interest. Joey

argued that an unconventional possibility would be to find a non-media major (e.g.'s science, law) to provide an outside perspective, which Bryce argued was a key part of the original vision for the at-large position. However, Boyd responded that the challenge was still finding interested students and this approach might not work for that.

Bryce argued that revised bylaws should allow for more accurate representation of the Communication department, noting that the chair of the department often cannot attend and that the student positions often sit vacant. He advocated for no more than two spots for the Communication department. Joey asked why Communication had positions on the Committee and Bryce noted that this was an especially valid question now with two literary journals in Student Media (i.e., why not a representative of the English department?).

David said he believed that if the Communication department was going to be listed as having positions, they should be filled. He argued a graduate student from the department at the very least would be beneficial since they have experience, but are also students, and are usually less likely to be a participant in any of the groups and thus can offer a reasonable outside perspective. Stephanie agreed and noted a philosophy of open meetings with a graduate representative would help increase advocacy for the graduate experience at GSU as it relates to media.

David also argued that the bylaws should have policies explicitly written out about proxy representation to avoid difficulties with quorum.

Raven advocated for keeping the six leaders and at-large positions and leaving that as the student membership of the board, noting that Communication students were still free to apply for those spots. David and Joey both agreed that this could be a possibility and David added that marketing students might find it appealing, which would help the leaders' gain perspectives on promotion.

Joey asked if there should be a recommendation process for new members but David and Boyd both cautioned that this could lead to overlooking applicants that are not connected to board members already. Boyd and Joey both suggested an interview process with incoming media leaders could be useful for selecting at-large members.

Boyd expressed concern about unqualified volunteers sitting as an at-large member because they are fee-paying students, but Jeannie argued that fee-paying does not necessarily require the board to select or allow for an unfit candidate.

Joey suggested having an annual meeting or something similar for the general GSU community. He also noted there could be the added benefit of explaining each group and function. He noted that the Communication's "GSU TV" initiative with Georgia Public Broadcasting has led to some confusion. David agreed with Joey about the annual meeting, saying that it should include some time for audience participation. Stephanie agreed but noted that the time for audience should be useful rather than dedicated to one or two complaints.

Bryce also raised the idea of having an uneven number of student members to avoid deadlock in voting and to emphasize commitments about the number of times the CSC meets. He also noted that the committee currently meets more than they are required to (once a semester), so the expectations should be more clearly laid out.

David asked for clarification for the CSC's role in GPB programming, if any. Jeannie clarified that the CSC is only entrusted with Student Media and not any of GPB's programming on WRAS-FM. The University exercised full authority whom to grant authority to air content over WRAS and its subchannels. Bryce noted that this distinction was why referring to the student radio station as "WRAS" in the CSC bylaws is problematic because WRAS-FM is no longer fully airing student-managed programming. He and Jeannie both noted that the revised bylaws would still need to extend voting on the radio station's General Manager to all CSC members, including non-students, because of the responsibility of airing content on subchannels 24/7 and nighttime on terrestrial channels. Bryce suggested using the station's brand ("Album 88") as its student group name might be a more useful and accurate means of describing it.

Everyone agreed that Bryce would send emails to the current members recapping some of the ideas suggested and that there would be time for the members to make their suggested modifications for Bryce to collate for everyone's consideration for the next meeting.

Media Group Updates

In lieu of time commitments, Bryce recapped developments with all of the Student Media groups. He reported that GSTV and WRAS website had each revamped their websites. *New South's* first issue for FY2016 was sent to the printer and *Underground* had held its first editorial meeting. Each were present at the Decatur Book Festival and gave away over 300 issues between *Underground*, *New South* and *New South* back issues.

A general meeting was held for media groups at Cinefest with over 35 people in attendance. The digital media group was tentatively set to name themselves "DMG" based on early feedback for name ideas.

Bryce also announced the addition of a Business Coordinator to Student Media, Wakesha Henley, who was already working with *The Signal* to increase its revenue. The paper received a nomination for an Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker award along with two individual ACP nominations for design (Emily Lasher, Anna Yang).

Additional Items

David noted that the department is interested in potentially screening *Spotlight*, a film about the *Boston Globe's* investigation of church scandals with a panel discussion of some of the people portrayed in the film. He believed that Student Media representatives could potentially be involved and that he would notify the committee if there were any further developments.

Boyd noted that Brandon Stanton would be speaking at the Student Center on September 21 and that Student Media would given time to meet with Stanton in a separate session.

Bryce added that the Modern Media Conference would be September 25-26 at Student Center.

The next CSC meeting was scheduled for October 9, 2015 in 25 Park Place, Room 1127.

The meeting was adjourned.