



**Committee on Student Communication – Meeting minutes  
Friday, February 9, 2018, 9:30 a.m., 258 Student Center East**

**Members Present**

Boyd Beckwith (Director, Student Center), Alec Prevett (*Underground* Editor-in-Chief), Bryce McNeil (Assistant Director for Student Media), Spencer Vaughan (Album 88 General Manager), Anna Sandy (*New South* Editor-in-Chief), Meredith Pruden (General student at-large), Jody Brooks (faculty, at-large)

**Members Absent**

Jeannie Barrett (ex-officio), Katie Leaman (GSTV General Manager), Christina Maxouris (*The Signal* Editor-in-Chief), Faculty, Communication (vacant), Graduate student at-large (vacant), Varsha Iyer (undergraduate, at-large), Nicole Motahari (Digital Media Group General Manager),

**Call to order**

Meeting was called to order by Boyd Beckwith at 9:34 a.m.

**FY2019 Budget Allocation**

Bryce recapped the total amount that the Student Activity Fee Council had recommended to the Media Fee Council for FY2019 (\$188,016). He then presented a draft to the Committee on how this money could be dispersed, based on his interaction with the media leaders. He opened the floor for recommendations on how to further alter this recommendation.

Boyd indicated that the proposal to increase stipends for Student Media Heads was technically within the current rules of the Code of Conduct. However, as these new stipends would be close to the highest stipend within Student Activities and might also create calls for increases within other groups, he recommended having alternative recommendations in case this proposal was rejected.

Alec felt the amount proposed for *Underground* was largely fine but if the Media Heads were to receive an increase, he felt a small increase for the Production Editor would be preferred. He also suggested that either in FY2019 budget or a future budget, new stipended positions for the *Underground* masthead should be phased in. He noted that the slush pile for the journal had doubled in a year, thus increasing the workload for the volunteer staff. Bryce suggested that an 8-10 month position could be a way to phase such positions in.

Spencer inquired about the absence of WRASFest from the budget presentation. Bryce noted that this line was traditionally kept at \$0 with a projection of breaking even (at least). Spencer suggested he would like to review stipends line-by-line, potentially raising the Assistant Program Director lines.

Christina supported the idea of media head increase but would like to reconsider whether *The Signal* could take on the entire increase (\$75 per month) given its budget difficulties. Meredith suggested that the summer issue could be used as potential audition of sorts for stipended positions, with the full postings being for 10 months rather than 12. Bryce agreed with this idea but Boyd cautioned against attaching titles to any summer magazine duties lest students misinterpreted this a job posting.

Anna said that she would like to review and alter *New South's* travel lines to account for a likely increase in the cost to travel to AWP, given the costs to travel to Portland. Meredith agreed that it was likely more would be needed for airfare.

Bryce agreed to review the first draft proposal with the leaders and full formal pitches would be brought to the next CSC meeting.

### **Media Head Updates**

*The Signal:* Christina reported that despite delays, the reboot of the *Signal* website was now live with good feedback thus far. The staff was working with Business Coordinator Wakesha Henley to decrease ad prices to incentivize purchase to improve advertising revenues. The staff received notice that it had ranked in eleven categories in the Georgia College Association's "Better Newspaper" and Southeast Journalism Conference's "Best of the South" contests, with more announcements possibly forthcoming. The staff intended to travel to one or both of the conventions.

Album 88: Spencer reported that the latest application window was a success with over 45 applicants. Several of these students were moving quickly through the training process, with a legal session scheduled for that afternoon. The WRASFest venue contract with the Mammal Gallery was finalized with the schedule for 10 bands on track. The staff was preparing to send four students to the South by Southwest convention in Austin, TX in March.

*New South:* Anna reported that Production Editor Ally Wright supervised the online publication of the "Hunger" themed mini-issue in January. The staff was preparing for AWP in Tampa, FL, in March, with five students representing the journal in collaboration with the English department (*Five Points*). The judges for the 2018 Writing Contest have been selected: Alissa Nutting for Fiction and Safiya for Poetry.

*Underground:* Alec reported that the deadline for students to submit was in nine days and the entries had been steady. Due to the switch to Submittable, the staff had been having to sift through non-eligible content. He would discuss with Bryce options to permanently use Submittable going forward.

Digital Media Group: Bryce reported that the scheduling of podcast recordings had provided a challenge although Sam from Album 88 had been notified of trying to clear weekend time to record. Danny Varitek was consulting with Nicole on how to modify or update the app for improvements. GSTV: Production Editor Ally Wright supervised the online publication of the "Hunger" themed mini-issue in January. The staff was preparing for AWP in Tampa, FL, in March, with five students representing the journal in collaboration with the English department (*Five Points*). The judges for the 2018 Writing Contest have been selected: Alissa Nutting for Fiction and Safiya for Poetry.

GSTV: Bryce reported that the Panther Report staff was recording full-length episodes again with two in the can and more forthcoming. Katie was continuing to work with staff on testing out feedback on a new name. Casey Williams was working on a design template for a new site.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for March 2, 2018 at a yet to be determined time and location.