



**Committee on Student Communication – Meeting minutes**  
**Friday, February 22, 11:00 a.m., Room 455, Student Center West**

**Members Present**

Katie Leaman (NeoN General Manager), Anna Sandy (*New South* Editor-in-Chief), Danny Varitek (*The Signal* Editor-in-Chief), Kenleigh Watkins (Album 88 General Manager), Grace Aldis (*Underground* Editor-in-Chief), Jody Brooks (faculty member, College of Arts & Sciences), Mabel Padilla (Undergraduate student at-large), Bryce McNeil (Director, Student Media), Wakesha Henley (Business Coordinator, Student Media), Boyd Beckwith (Senior Director, Student Center), Jeannie Barrett (ex-officio)

**Members Absent**

Faculty, College of the Arts or College of Arts & Sciences (vacant), Meredith Pruden (Graduate student at-large)

**Call to order**

Bryce McNeil called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

**FY2020 Budget Presentations (First Draft)**

Bryce opened the floor for student leaders to approve their budget. After each leader presented their first draft, the students agreed that the general allocations would work for a presentation. Anna motioned to approve the Media budgets as presented, Grace seconded, the motion passed unanimously. The committee agreed to formally sign the budget sheets prior to the March 1 budget presentation.

Bryce informed the committee that interviews for 2019-20 Media Heads would also be conducted on March 1. The interviews would start at noon in the Student Center. The committee would suspend activity to present budgets to the Student Activity Fee Committee at 3 p.m. The interviews would continue after the budget presentations, likely ending by 6 p.m.

**Media Head Updates**

*The Signal*- Danny reported that the organization was still in the process of hiring a distribution manager. Danny hoped this addition would improve *The Signal's* distribution above and beyond hand-to-hand distribution. *The Signal's* investigative team was scheduled to publish its first article in March and to continue with stories biweekly. The SGA campaign was scheduled to begin February 23 and *The Signal* was committed to covering the campaign with NeoN, including live streaming the March 12 debate.

Album 88- Kenleigh reported that 45 applicants were in the process of training. The podcast initiative was still moving in a positive direction, along with revised Album 88 manuals. Her team is in the process of securing performers for WRASFest April 19, 7 p.m. at the Bakery. The staff was planning to feature seven performers.

NeoN- Katie reported that NeoN garnered several honors at the Southeast Journalism Conference, including a 1<sup>st</sup> place ranking in Best Television Reporter (Brianna Dahlquist). She was still working with Danny on the new website that would be launched for the NeoN brand. This site would embed online videos to create a similar viewing experience to Netflix or Hulu.

*New South-* Anna reported that she was completing readings and proofing for the upcoming issue. The organization was scheduled to attend the AWP conference in Portland, OR in late-March. They were scheduled to co-host an offsite reading at this convention. The “First Friday” reading schedule was fleshed out over a number of months with a graduation reading scheduled for May 3.

*Underground-* Grace reported that she is allowing five new art submissions for the upcoming issue. The issue should be ready by early-April at the latest. She was scheduled to attend AWP, marking the first time Underground has been represented at this event.

**Other Business/Announcements**

Boyd informed the media leaders to reach out to the Rialto if they are interested in having readings or showings there.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The Committee was scheduled to meet on Friday, March 1, to interview Media Head candidates, location TBA.