



**Committee on Student Communication – Meeting minutes
Friday, January 25, 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), Meredith Pruden (Graduate student at-large), Bryce McNeil (Director, Student Media), Wakesha Henley (Business Coordinator, Student Media), Boyd Beckwith (Senior Director, Student Center)

Members Absent

Faculty, College of the Arts or College of Arts & Sciences (vacant), Jeannie Barrett (ex-officio)

Call to order

Bryce McNeil called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

FY2020 Allocation

Bryce presented the allocation for the FY2020 budget for Student Media, in the amount of \$191,300. He confirmed that he would meet with each Media Head to devise a rough draft for each organization's share of the budget. The Media Heads agreed to present rough drafts of the budget at the next meeting, with formalized versions due on March 1.

Shantavia T. Reid-Stroud was scheduled to run the Student Activity Fee Committee meeting on March 1, 2019. All Student Media heads were welcomed to attend to assist with the presentation.

Department Updates

Boyd reported that he had met with Alison Calhoun Brown, the interim Associate Vice President for Student Success. He encouraged the Media Heads to be mindful of different ways that they can articulate their group's successes in terms of data. The students discussed various ways that they could achieve this, including counting attendance at events and tracking the number of volunteers within each organization.

Boyd also reported discussions on various ways to gather financial support for Student Media. He indicated that reaching out to the Alumni Association was the proper route to start an endowment. However, endowments work from accruing interest, so the students would need to collect a minimum amount of \$25,000 to create an endowment for scholarships and similar endeavors.

Media Head Updates

The Signal- Danny reported that the organization was in the process of hiring a distribution manager. The paper would continue to work with marketing classes in the Spring semester to focus on marketing strategies and hopefully increase brand awareness. He reported that he was also a student in this class. *The Signal* would open an investigative unit this semester.

Album 88- Bryce reported that the first application window had opened, and early returns were indicating a strong number of participants. The station was planning on using their newest production studio to record podcasts, with space to host the podcasts now on Libsyn.

The staff was still reaching out to various artists interested in playing WRASFest at the Bakery on April 19 with a start time of 7 p.m.

NeoN- Katie reported that the new NeoN site would soon go live. They had also talked with Spotlight about playing NeoN short films prior to featured movie screenings. The production team was in the process of shooting three new projects and there would be another premier screening in May, tentatively to be held at Cinefest as well.

New South- Anna reported that the annual national writing contest window was open and that the next issue was in production. The goal was to print the issue in time for the Association for Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) conference in late-March alongside with the fall issue. The First Friday reading series continued to be well received with new attendees each reading. The next reading was scheduled for February 1.

Underground- Grace reported that there was a soft opening for the submissions and that she was providing an initial deadline for March 4 with a firm deadline a week later. The staff was working on redeveloping the *Underground* website and Grace would be the first student to attend AWP on *Underground's* behalf in March.

Other Business/Announcements

Danny reported that *The Signal* would again be moderating SGA debates and encouraged the students at the meeting to forward any questions that they may have to him.

Bryce reported that the Georgia College Press Association had notified him that *The Signal* had received 17 rankings (1st through 3rd) in its "Better Newspapers" awards contest. The staff would receive full information on the rankings at the Georgia Press Institute event on February 15.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for February 22, 2019 in room 225 in 455 Student Center West.