

**NC State Student Media Board of Directors March 2022 meeting minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2022 • 7 p.m.**  
*Via Google teleconference*

Members present: Tyler Dukes, Sarah Gagner, Christa Gala, Jaylan Harrington, McKenzie Heavlin, Maddie Jennette, Camilla Keil, Madissen Keys, Patrick Neal, Nate Shorter, Charles Smalls, Mandy Stacy, Robbie Williams, Dean Phillips

Absent: Abi Hearn, Jake Seaton, Fatima Baloch, Elikem Dodor

Others present: Myra Bari, Arana Blake, Mari Fabian, Jamie Lynn Gilbert, Shilpa Giri, Ellen Meder, Sam Overton, Krishna Patel, Bran Poster, Tristan Tucker, Tim Werner

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND ELECTION OF MEETING SECRETARY**

With a quorum of voting members present, board chair Nate Shorter called the meeting to order. Since the meeting was being recorded, no recording secretary was appointed.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Tyler Dukes moved that the minutes from the board's Jan. 11, 2002 meeting be approved, with Dean Phillips providing a second; the board voted unanimously to approve them. Those minutes were included in the meeting package and are made part of these minutes by reference.

**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022 BUDGET UPDATE**

Jamie Lynn Gilbert presented the budget update through March 1, 2022. The update was included in the meeting package and included as part of these minutes by reference. Jamie noted the following:

- Agromeck's payroll is at 57% at 67% through the year, so that looks good. Non-fee revenue is still at 26%, but that does not include contract ad sales, which we should receive soon.
- Nubian Message's payroll is at 43%. Non-fee income for Nubian ad sales is at about \$1,200, which is 80% of its \$1,500 ad sales goal. This does not include kiosk advertising revenue; Nubian's share of that will be added before the end of the fiscal year. Starting with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, kiosk revenue will be moved to the newspapers' balance sheets monthly.
- While there was little budgetary activity for Roundabout since the board's last meeting, Jamie said that would change once they pay the printing bill and other expenses associated with the spring issue.
- Technician's payroll is at 39% and non-fee income is at 61%. As was the case for the Nubian Message, Technician's share of kiosk revenue is not reflected in this total, and their share will be added before the end of the fiscal year.
- Windhover neither spent nor received any money since the January budget update.
- WKNC's payroll is at 43% and non-fee income is at 38%.
- For General Administration, temporary payroll is at 44%. Fixed charges are over budget, as we did not originally budget for a group Buffer account. That will be added to the FY22-23 budget. The Student Media Enhancement Fund is at \$12,300 (which includes the \$8,500 in tower painting grant money) and the Technician Century Fund is at \$42,200.
- Finally, Jamie reminded everyone about the 2022 Day of Giving scheduled for March 23.

## **2022-2023 SENIOR LEADER RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

The board heard recommendations from its various advisory boards and named the 2022-2023 senior leaders for five of Student Media's seven organizations.

- On behalf of the Annual Publications Advisory Board, Mandy Stacy recommended that Krishna Patel be named Editor-In-Chief of Agromeck for the 2022-2023 academic year with the following recommendations:
  - Krishna should shadow the current EICs to better learn the position.
  - Krishna should take writing assignments for the current book and finish her writing correspondency.
  - Krishna should take on a mini-project for the current book. Specifically, she will take the lead role on the senior portraits section of the current volume.

The board unanimously approved the recommendations.

- On behalf of the Student Business Office Advisory Board, Robbie recommended Tim Werner be appointed General Manager of the Student Business Office for 2022-2023. The advisory board further recommended that Tim assume those duties effective immediately since the GM position is currently vacant. The board unanimously approved the recommendations and Tim agreed to begin immediately.
- On behalf of the Newspapers Advisory Board, Jaylan Harrington recommended that Shilpa Giri be named Editor-In-Chief of Technician for 2022-2023. The board unanimously approved the recommendation.
- On behalf of the Annual Publications Advisory Board, Camilla Keil recommended that Ryley Fallon be named Editor-In-Chief of Windhover for the 2022-2023 academic year with the following recommendation:
  - Ryley should shadow the current EIC for the rest of the semester to better learn the position.

The board unanimously approved the recommendations.

- On behalf of the Broadcast Advisory Board, Dean Phillips recommended that Maddie Jennette be re-appointed General Manager of the station for 2022-2023. The board unanimously approved the recommendation.

## **VACANT SENIOR LEADER POSITIONS**

Patrick Neal said no one applied for the Nubian Message or Roundabout Editor-In-Chief positions by the Feb. 3 deadline. He recommended that the board re-open applications for those positions until the end of business on Tuesday, March 15, or two weeks from the meeting date. He said that would give the relevant advisory boards time to convene, interview any candidates and make a recommendation to the board in April. He said that if either of the positions failed to garner any applicants in the second round, the board could discuss next steps at its April meeting.

## **FY2022-2023 BUDGET UPDATE/STUDENT COMPENSATION**

Patrick said that after working through the first phase of the budgeting process for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, he and Jamie had found a way to increase student pay starting this summer.

Patrick began with a brief history of compensation rates at Student Media, noting that standard student pay of \$8/hour began in the fall of 2017 and had not increased since. In the intervening five years, he said, the student labor market had changed and \$8/hour was no longer a competitive wage on or off campus, particularly in the current labor environment.

That being the case, Patrick outlined a new pay structure for all student staff as follows:

- Student positions that are currently paid \$8/hour will be paid \$10/hour.
- Student positions that are currently paid \$9/hour – generally second-in-command positions like managing editors and program directors – will be paid \$11/hour.
- Top EIC and General Manager positions will be paid \$12/hour.
- Pay for all flat-rate work will increase by 50% from current levels, so a story assignment currently paying \$10 will receive \$15, a \$20 will receive \$30, etc.

Patrick said these changes would actually go into effect once the current semester was over, so anyone completing a new job agreement for the summer and thereafter would be paid at the new rates.

In response to a question from Jamie about the plan's finality, Patrick acknowledged that he had received no feedback from the DASA Business Office on Student Media's budget submission, but he said he anticipated no problems on that front, as the budgets submitted forestalled any potential requests for a student fee increase well into the "out-years" of the five-year plan. Between now and then, he said, the goal would be to push any potential fee requests further into the future. As long as Student Media demonstrated that it could live sustainably within its means with the new pay rates, Patrick said there should be no issue with approval.

#### **DEAN PHILLIPS AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE NOMINEES AND PROCESS**

Patrick said the response to calls for nominations for the first-ever Dean Phillips Award For General Excellence had been outstanding, with nine students in contention for the honor. Patrick said Jamie had built a Google form for the balloting that included each nominee's name, the information provided by the nominators and links to the nominees' work that the nominators had provided.

With so many nominees, Patrick said it wouldn't be surprising if no single student garnered a majority of votes on the first ballot, so he asked the board to submit their initial votes by Tuesday, March 15 so that there would be time for a second round of votes if necessary.

Patrick clarified that all board members – both voting and ex-officio (i.e., the senior leaders and the Student Body President) – were eligible to vote (with Agromeck co-editors Mandy Stacy and Don Bui agreeing to cast a single vote together on behalf of the yearbook). He said neither he nor members of the professional staff would vote, and that Dean, as the namesake of the award, would only cast a vote to break a tie in the final round of balloting.

#### **ELLEN'S DEPARTURE**

Patrick and members of the board honored Ellen Meder for her seven-and-a-half years of service as editorial adviser to the newspapers. Ellen recently accepted a position as a Communications Consultant with Wake County, with her last day at Student Media being Wednesday, March 2.

Patrick said the newspapers had improved in every conceivable respect under Ellen's advisorship, and also noted her leadership for two major milestone events, the Nubian's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Technician's 100<sup>th</sup>. He said her efforts to ensure continuity in the days since she announced her departure were a perfect example of the extraordinary effort she had always shown in her work.

Patrick invited everyone to come have Howling Cow ice cream in the Technician newsroom from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and the board subsequently authorized Patrick to use funds from the Student Media Enhancement Fund to pay for the ice cream.

Patrick said that Student Media would not be filling the position immediately, as he wanted to avoid a

summer search and ensure that as many students as possible have ample input in the hiring process. Instead, he said he anticipated the search process commencing in the late summer/early fall semester with the goal of hiring Ellen's successor by the start of the Spring 2023 semester. He said he would be serving as adviser to the newspapers in the interim.

## **REPORT ADDENDA**

Board reports were included in the meeting package and are made part of these minutes by reference. Addenda to those reports were as follows:

- Mandy said Agromeck had decided to change the date of its 120<sup>th</sup> volume celebration from April 16 to April 23 to avoid the Easter weekend.
- Arana Blake and Ellen reported that Andie Alford had stepped back from the Nubian EIC position. 2020-2021 EIC Elikem Dodor will serve as EIC for the remainder of the semester, with Ugonna Ezuma-Igwe serving as Managing Editor. Tyler asked whether Elikem would be interim EIC, and a brief discussion ensued. Tyler said he thought the board should take action to formally reappoint Elikem as EIC to show that the board fully supports her as the Nubian's senior leader. With that in mind, Tyler moved to appoint Elikem EIC, with Dean seconding to motion. It passed unanimously.
- Charles Smalls said that the spring edition of Roundabout had actually come out a bit early and was already on the stands.
- Camilla Keil said Windhover's press deadline had been moved back a week and said she anticipated sending the page files within the next two weeks. She also noted that Windhover's Literary Editor had stepped back from the position and that Ryley Fallon would be serving in that role for the remainder of the academic year.
- Maddie Jennette said that WKNC had filled its two vacant positions, and that 22 students had completed the most recent DJ training session. Otherwise, she said WKNC was officially partnering with Technician on its Eye on the Triangle news programming. Finally, she reminded everyone of Double Barrel Benefit coming up March 11-12.

## **ADJOURN**

Dean moved to adjourn the meeting, with Tyler seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.