

**NC State Student Media Board of Directors
March 2024 meeting minutes**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024 • 7 p.m.
356 Witherspoon Student Center
(African American Cultural Center
Conference Room)**

Members present: Madeline Renneker, Caitlin Laye, Tim Werner, Dean Phillips, Tyler Dukes, Julianna Lopez, Jake Seaton, Scarlett Taylor, Robbie Williams, Milan Hall, Ethan Bakogiannis, Jameson Wolf, Garrett Gough, Jermaine Hudson, Erie Mitchell, Bran Poster, Patrick Neal

Absent: Christa Gala, Ryley Fallon

Staff and guests present: Ben McNeely, Abi Barefoot, Zanna Swann, Jamie Lynn Gilbert, Ray Black, Emilia Rivadeneira (via Google Meet), Emily Vespa, Allie Gervase, Carter Fields, Kate Denning, Emma Scott, Elaine Vespa, Josie Headley, Rose Kelley, Alianna Kendall-Brooks, Caleb Twigg

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of voting members present, board chair Julianna Lopez called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD SECRETARY

Jermaine Hudson agreed to serve as recording secretary for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Dean Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes from the Jan. 9, 2024 meeting, Tyler Dukes seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved them. Those minutes were included in the meeting package and are made part of these minutes by reference.

MARCH 2024 BUDGET UPDATE

Jamie Lynn Gilbert reviewed the March 2024 budget update, which was included in the meeting package and made part of these minutes by reference. She noted the following:

- We are now 67% through the fiscal year.
- Agromeck – We’ve been told from our outside ad sales firm that they are on track to sell 16 pages, which is in line with our budget. Payroll is at 57%, which is great.
- Nubian Message - Nubian now has \$4,800 in revenue, which breaks down to \$2,700 in kiosk revenue and \$2,100 in ad sales. Payroll is at 31%.
- Roundabout - Roundabout income is at 93%, and by our next meeting we should have met or exceeded our goal. Payroll is at 69%.
- Technician - Technician received a huge chunk of revenue this month, bringing it to 65% of

its goal. As with Nubian, this now includes \$2,700 in kiosk revenue. Payroll is at 64%, which is great.

- Windhover - Payroll is at 37%. Looks good. We were able to get a much cheaper printing quote so that will save several thousand dollars.
- WKNC 88.1 FM HD-1/HD-2 - Non-fee income is now at 63%, which includes \$3,300 in ticket sales from WKNC's Double Barrel Benefit 20. Payroll is at 37%. Some personnel changes were made to hopefully get that number higher.
- General Administration - Non-fee revenue from kiosk sales is at 24%, but the kiosks are fully booked out for the rest of the semester, so our original goal is still attainable. Temp payroll is at 37%. The Student Media Enhancement Fund has \$8,300, Technician Century Fund has \$48,300 and the WKNC Enhancement Fund has \$3,900.
- Jamie reminded everyone that tomorrow (March 20) was NC State's annual Day of Giving, and she encouraged everyone to give themselves and/or encourage others to give.
- Zanna added that both newspapers and WKNC were running house ads linked directly to their respective funds, and Jamie said WKNC had produced two videos to air that day.

STUDENT MEDIA CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM OUTCOME

Patrick Neal said that Student Media's amended constitution passed overwhelmingly, with 82% of the student body voting to approve it. The changes mean that Roundabout is now an official member of Student Media; the three at-large seats on the board will no longer be elected; the Student Body President will have until the first day of class each fall semester to make their appointments, and after that time the board would fill the seats themselves; and future amendments to the constitution will no longer require a vote of the entire student body. Patrick also noted that Caleb Twigg had run for one of the at-large seats, and he welcomed Caleb, who was present at the meeting. Caleb introduced himself, said that he was current IRC president, and said he was excited to start working with the board in 2024-2025.

VISUAL MEDIA AVISER POSITION UPDATE

Patrick said Student Media was very close to making an official announcement, but said they were waiting on University HR; he noted that both Student Media and DASA HR had completed their parts of the process as of last Tuesday, March 12. He said the student-led hiring process went extremely well again, and he thanked all the students who had served on the committee or otherwise took part in the candidate interview sessions.

SMART GOAL REMINDER

As part of Student Media's 2023-2024 assessment plan, Jamie said she emailed the 19 students who attended national media conventions in the fall to inquire about the outcomes of their goals. She said it was fine if students made little or no progress, saying the goal-setting process was what was being assessed. She asked them all to get their results to her by April 1 so she could report the results back to the board at its April meeting.

ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPOINTMENT OF 2024-2025 SENIOR LEADERS

- On behalf of the Annual Publications Advisory Board, Jermaine Hudson recommended Emma Scott be named Editor-in-Chief of Agromeck for 2024-2025. Robbie Williams moved to accept the advisory board's recommendation, with Dean Phillips seconding. Emma was unanimously approved.
- On behalf of the Annual Publications Advisory Board, Jermaine recommended Josie Headley be named Editor-in-Chief of Windhover for 2024-2025. Jake Seaton moved to accept the advisory board's recommendation, with Tim Werner seconding. Josie was unanimously approved.
- On behalf of the Roundabout Advisory Board, Jermaine recommended Bran Poster be named Editor-in-Chief of Roundabout for 2024-2025. Jake moved to accept the advisory board's recommendation, with Robbie seconding. Bran was unanimously approved.
- On behalf of the Broadcast Advisory Board, Julianna recommended Rose Kelley be named General Manager of WKNC for 2024-2025. Dean moved to accept the advisory board's recommendation, with Tyler seconding. Rose was unanimously approved.
- On behalf of the Student Business Office Advisory Board, Robbie recommended Carter Fields be named General Manager of the Student Business Office for 2024-2025. Tyler moved to accept the advisory board's recommendation, with Dean seconding. Carter was unanimously approved.
- On behalf of the Newspapers Advisory Board, Milan Hall recommended Alianna Kendall-Brooks be named Editor-in-Chief of Nubian Message for 2024-2025. Tyler moved to accept the advisory board's recommendation, with Dean seconding. Alianna was unanimously approved.
- On behalf of the Newspapers Advisory Board, Tyler recommended Emilia Rivadeneira be named Editor-in-Chief of Technician for 2024-2025. Tyler moved to accept the advisory board's recommendation, with Tim seconding.

When the chair asked if there was any discussion, Technician Co-Editor-In-Chief Ethan Bakogiannis read the following statement on behalf of himself and his Co-Editor-In-Chief Jameson Wolf:

“To preface our statement, we respect both candidates and the work they have done and continue to do for Technician, and we also respect the advisory board and the board as a whole for their work throughout this process. We will fully support whoever the board votes to appoint and will work to smoothly pass on leadership responsibilities over the next several weeks.

That being said, as the current Editors-in-Chief of Technician, we disagree with the Advisory Board's decision to recommend Emilia as the publication's next Editor-in-Chief.

We believe that having someone with strong journalistic ethics and a foundational understanding of objective reporting at the helm of Technician is vital to maintaining high quality content and credibility as a publication, and through her work as news editor over the past year, Technician's other candidate, Kate Denning, has proven to be intentional and motivated in each of these areas.

We have not seen the same initiative and commitment to journalistic ethics from Emilia and are concerned about her ability to be an effective leader and custodian of Technician. Namely, we are troubled by her lack of thoughtfulness and objectivity.

While not a disqualification from becoming EIC, we also want to make sure the board considers the reality and the difficulty of hiring, standing up and directing a new staff while Emilia is studying abroad in Spain for the rest of the semester.

Once again, we respect the process the advisory board goes through in making a recommendation, but we believe that the close margin and confusion surrounding the advisory committee's vote in addition to our above concerns, warrant further consideration from the board on this matter. Thank you."

At that point, Dean made a motion that the board go into executive session to discuss personnel, and that the executive session include both Co-Editors-In-Chief, Editorial Adviser Ben McNeely and Patrick.

Patrick asked the board to pause briefly so he could offer an explanation of what an executive session was, and also to sort out the proper parliamentary procedure for handling the two motions on the floor.

He said that North Carolina open meetings laws allowed public boards to go into executive (i.e., closed) session under a few narrow circumstances to speak privately, and that personnel was one of those recognized exceptions. He noted that the board could take no official action in executive session, and that all votes must be taken publicly. He said the board might also ask others to join the closed session, so he asked everyone to remain available in case they chose to do so.

With regard to parliamentary procedure, Patrick said Tyler would need to either table or withdraw his motion before the board could vote on whether or not they would go into executive session. Tyler moved to table his motion until the executive session was concluded. Dean seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to table it.

Dean's motion to go into executive session was seconded by Jake and the board approved it unanimously. The board went into executive session at 7:31 p.m. In that session, the board discussed the Co-Editor-In-Chiefs' concerns, and also asked that one of the candidates join them for a portion of the session so that the voting board members could ask them questions. Those included in the executive session were Julianna Lopez, Caitlin Laye, Madeline Renneker, Scarlett Taylor, Tim Werner, Dean Phillips, Robbie Williams, Jake Seaton, Tyler Dukes, Ethan Bakogiannis, Jameson Wolf, Ben McNeely and Patrick Neal.

The board concluded the executive session at 8:56 p.m., with Dean moving to return to open session and Jake seconding. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board then returned to the original motion to name Emilia Rivadeneira Editor-In-Chief of Technician for 2024-2025. That motion failed 0-9, with all voting members voting "nay."

Tyler then offered a motion to appoint Kate Denning Editor-In-Chief of Technician for 2024-2025, with Dean seconding. Kate was unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

With no addenda to the organizations' board reports (which were included with the meeting package and made part of these minutes by reference) Dean moved to adjourn the meeting, with Robbie seconding. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.