

# University of Michigan Board for Student Publications

## Minutes of the March 18, 2024 Board Meeting

Board members present: Ann Marie Aliotta (Co-Chair), Jillian Berman, Susan Douglas, Jewel Gopwani, and Walter Middlebrook

Board members absent: John Copeland, Geoff Gagnon, and Andrew Grossman

The Michigan Daily was represented by: Dana Elobaid, Samantha Rich, and Ella Thompson

The Gargoyle was represented by: Sarrah Ahmed

SHEI Magazine was represented by: Brooklyn Blevins and Apoorva Gautam

The Michiganensian was represented by: Mishal Charania, Averyl Cobb, and Ella Goulet

The Student Publications Staff was represented by: Kathy Ciesinski, Dave Richmond, and Evan Taylor

Others Present: None

Chair Ann Marie Aliotta called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

### Minutes

A motion to approve the January 29, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Susan, seconded by Jillian, and passed without dissent.

### Public Comments

None

### Publication Updates

#### ***SHEI Magazine - Reporting by Brooklyn and Apoorva***

- March digital releasing at the end of the week
- Print issue release in April
- Student art showcase with Music Matters on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Cahoots
- Print release and launch event (April 2024) Finalizing date and venue
- SHEI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration + print launch on April 17<sup>th</sup> at UMMA
- Sent two members to ACP and four members to CMA conferences in March
- Recent fundraising efforts: Giving Blueday and SHEI Thrift Shop
- Beginning to plan for leadership transition

#### ***The Michiganensian - Reporting by Mishal, Ella and Averyl***

- Finishing up 2024 yearbook this evening
- Work on next year's book has begun
- Carly, Mishal and Rachel attended Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) conference in La Jolla
- Editorial hiring for next year in progress
- First Grad Extravaganza of the semester resulted in double the amount in sales from March 2023
- Finalizing FY25 budget
- Raised \$555 from Giving Blueday

#### ***Gargoyle Magazine - Reporting by Sarrah***

- Issue 3 out March 13 and Issue 4 out April 10<sup>th</sup>. Also planning for a Graduation Zine
- Successfully fundraised for two new computers and a scanner
- Brainstorming potential advertisers for present and future
- Upload artwork to website for potential print sales

- Identified new business manager - Charlie and EIC - Luke, who will be at the April meeting

***The Michigan Daily - Updates provided by Dana, Samantha and Ella***

- Sent 10 senior and managing editors to ACP, CMA and NICAR conferences
- Working on implementing ideas from conference speakers and other student journalists (bylaws and hiring)
- Collected mid-semester feedback at 3/10 MDesk meeting
- Working on upholding positive office culture and defining expectations for all staff
- Preparing for Baby Ads and Graduation Edition
- Starting to build a physical learning resource center with step-by-steps, screenshots and videos to use in training/transition periods
- Working on FY25 budget
- Onboarding and welcoming new hires

**Committee Reports**

***Operations Committee:***

Jewel and Kathy reported on open board positions and the need for new Co-Chair(s) or a Chair / Vice Chair in FY25. Walter Middlebrook and John Copeland are eligible for and interested in standing for re-nomination for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024 and running through June 20, 2027. A motion to re-nominate John Copeland for a third three-year term and Walter Middlebrook for a second three-year term beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2024 was made by Jewel, seconded by Susan, and passed without dissent. There is one at-large board position open, and the committee has asked to have recommendations submitted by Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

***Finance Committee:***

Jillian reported on the status of the committee's progress and upcoming budget review. The University has asked for a five-year forecast in addition to the board-approved FY25 budget.

***Development Committee:***

Evan reported on the following items: DSIP Intern is Eilene Koo, Giving Bluesday had mixed results (most publications and SPUB had similar number of donors as 2023, but less in donations), YTD update on number of gifts and donors, changes to the name/purpose of a couple of funds, and attending campaign marketing meetings with Kathy.

**GM Report**

Kathy reviewed action items from the January meeting, shared FY24 publications revenue & net income and cash flow, provided FY25 budget updates, requested scholarship & awards application review assistance, mentioned the Daily's graduation issue is being passed out at the Big House again this year, and invited board members to the Student Publications' graduation open house on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business**

Kathy talked about a possible summer retreat. Discussion led to having more robust committee meetings over the summer. She will also share a list of potential meeting dates for FY25; to be discussed further at the April meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan, seconded by Jewel, and passed without dissent.

At 6:48 pm Chair Ann Marie Aliotta closed the meeting.

**Actions Taken:**

Motion to approve the January 29h meeting minutes: Susan Douglas

Seconded by: Jillian Berman

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to renominate John Copeland for a third term and Walter Middle brook for a second term to the Board for Student Publications. The term will begin July 1, 2024 and end June 30, 2027: Jewel Gopwani

Seconded by: Susan Douglas

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to adjourn: Susan Douglas

Seconded by: Jewel Gopwani

The motion passed without dissent.

**Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 29th, at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ciesinski

General Manager, Office of Student Publications