

University of Michigan Board for Student Publications

Minutes of the January 13, 2025 Board Meeting

Board members present: Ann Marie Aliotta (Chair), Jillian Berman, John Copeland, Susan Douglas, Geoff Gagnon, Jewel Gopwani, and Andrew Grossman

Board members absent: Robin Luce-Herrmann, and Walter Middlebrook

The Michigan Daily was represented by: Mary Corey, Ella Thompson and Zhane Yamin

The Gargoyle was represented by: Luke Homans and Charlie Splete

SHEI Magazine was represented by: Erin Casey and Dana Gray

The Michiganensian was represented by: Mishal Charania and Averyl Cobb

The Student Publications Staff was represented by: Kathy Ciesinski and Jack Sweeting

Others Present: None

Chair Ann Marie Aliotta called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Introductions

With new student leadership and staff, a brief round of introductions took place.

Minutes

A motion to approve the November 18, 2024 meeting minutes was made by John, seconded by Susan, and passed without dissent.

Public Comments

None

Publication Updates

The Michiganensian - Reporting by Mishal and Averyl

- Final night for Deadline 3
- Everyone is now working on Deadline 4
- Hoping to hire new writers and designers through Winterfest.
- 2025 cover finalized
- Commemorative ad sales in progress
- Successful fall Grad Extravaganza
- Looking to expand business staff and their responsibilities - second social media staffer and actively recruiting the next Ensian Business Manager

SHEI Magazine - Reporting by Dana and Erin

- Ouroboros print magazine distribution being planned
- Applications for new members opens today and looking to have new members by January 24th
- Started work on Winter 2025 print issue
- Restructuring of print team
- First-ever fashion film was shown at December's launch event
- New leadership is now in place on the business side: Operations Director, Erin Casey and Marketing Director, Grace Donnelly will also serve as Co-Publishers for the remainder of the year
- Looking at fundraising opportunities for W25 - reevaluating Winter Closet Sale and Improving Giving Bluesday efforts
- Possible student staff and alumni merch

- Focusing on greater collaboration across sub-teams and between edit and business

Gargoyle Magazine - Reporting by Luke and Charlie

- Successful launch of Issue 2 in December
- Applications for next year's Eboard will go out January 14th and training will begin in February
- Working on a design for a second merch run with possibility of including sales to alumni
- Successfully funded issue two with a grant from CSG

The Michigan Daily - Updates on the following items provided by Mary, Zhane and Ella

- New edit leadership have officially started in their new positions
- Year-end and holiday break projects: Year in Photo, Photographer's Favorites and Michigan winning Reliaquest Bowl
- First paper of the semester coming out Wednesday
- Successfully hired and trained new marketing and sales managers
- Collaborating on business and edit connections
- Working on new ideas for cross-team work and social events
- Preparing for special projects - Love Notes and Graduation Issue / Baby Ads

Committee Reports

Operations Committee:

Jewel reported that the key focus is board member recruitment, and anyone who is staying on the board that the Chair position for FY26 is open.

Finance Committee:

Jillian reported on the budgeting review schedule.

Development Committee:

Now that Jack is on board, the committee will identify a time to meet.

GM Report

Kathy welcomed Jack to the team. She also discussed board logistics, including the member contact sheet, updates to the Board page on the current Student Pubs' website, and the board member tenure sheet. Other items discussed included the FY25 Publications Revenue and Net Income numbers and updates on the new Student Pubs' website.

New Business

Save the date: Sunday, September 14th will be the first board meeting of the year; immediately following the annual Scholarship & Awards Brunch.

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

At 6:27 pm Chair Ann Marie Aliotta closed the meeting.

Actions Taken:

Motion to approve the November 18, 2024 meeting minutes: John Copeland

Seconded by: Susan Douglas

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to adjourn: Geoff Gagnon

Seconded by: Susan Douglas

The motion passed without dissent.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ciesinski

General Manager, Office of Student Publications