

Journal Board
March 7, 2008
Minutes

Present:

Andrew Bucholtz
Erin Flegg
Chris Gusen
Angela Hickman
Lisa Jemison
Katherine Laidlaw
Katrina Ludlow
Anna Mehler Paperny
Adam Say
Matt Trevisan
Gillian Wheatley

Absent:

Colleen Davis
Jane Hilderman
Gabe King
Jane Hilderman
John Manning
Claude Sherren

Meeting was called to order at approximately 11:40 a.m.

The agenda was approved, with the addition of updates about policy changes and the SGPS fee and a discussion of upcoming transitioning.

Ms. Laidlaw and Ms. Mehler Paperny informed the Board that the Journal was continuing to collect signatures from SGPS members in order to get a fee referendum on an April ballot. At the time of the meeting, they had over half of the approximately required 300 signatures.

Mr. Say informed the Board that policy updates discussed in previous meetings had passed at the AMS Board of Directors level. He also told the Board about a new 'tier' system to be implemented by the Board of Directors in order to assess and monitor AMS services based on their financial standing.

The Board discussed the new honouraria grid and decided to implement a \$750 honouraria for the two Journal sales representatives. The honouraria will be supplemented by a 8% commission for all local ad sales and a 9% commission for national sales.

Honouraria will be raised according to CPI in future years, with any other changes coming through Journal Board.

Mr. Trevisan expressed a hope that the proposed honouraria grid is sustainable in years to come.

Ms. Mehler Paperny suggested tying the Journal's student fee to CPI and recommended that next year's editors in chief look into getting Board of Directors Approval.

The proposal for the sales representatives honouraria/commission was approved in principle unanimously by the Board.

Ms. Wheatley: Introduced discussion of the budget and informed the Board that the Journal is doing better than expected in terms of its year-to-date budget.

If we continue to meet goals to date, the Journal will have a deficit of \$11,000.

The paper did better in January because of small papers with high ad content

Ms. Mehler Paperny: Utilities costs are high because our heating is wonky. We might ask Queen's Housing to cover some of the costs

Ms. Wheatley: In the future, the Journal won't require a web designer, but we should maybe continue the archivist position

Ms. Mehler Paperny: It's up to next year's staff.

The Whig internships were also discussed and it was determined that the number of interns depend on who's hired for each position at the Journal.

Ms. Flegg: If we have a photo editor who is able to do the Whig internship, we may do that.

Ms. Jemison: Next item of business is a complaint I received from the Chair of the Engineering Society Board of Directors which was forwarded to the Board. Anna and Katherine, do you want to explain what happened?

Ms. Mehler Paperny: Erin e-mailed Kiyoshi for the article and he replied on a Thursday evening. Because it was later, his response didn't get put in.

We should have responded earlier, but we got Kiyoshi's e-mail late because it was put in the wrong mail box.

Ms. Mehler Paperny passed around correspondence between the Journal and Kiyoshi.

Ms. Mehler Paperny: The e-mail came six months after the article was published. We said he could send a letter to the editors. It doesn't merit a correction because nothing in the article was incorrect and the complaint came in so late.

We could send a letter of apology to the Engineering Board, but it wasn't slanderous or libellous. We're waiting to hear from Michael Hickey.

Mr. Trevisan: We can't do anything until we talk to Michael Hickey. There should be some response and the time lapse shouldn't be a factor. It's not libellous, but it didn't allow the other side a chance to speak. When Hannon made the allegations, was anything done to see if the Board did know about the special prices (looking through transition manuals, etc)?

Ms. Wheatley: If Board of Directors knows about something illegal going on below them, can they be held liable?

Mr. Trevisan: What was published would be defamation by proxy, so they'd have grounds for some kind of action.

Mr. Bucholtz: Could we publish a clarification.

Ms. Mehler Paperny: Something like, 'the Journal has no evidence the Engineering Society Board of Directors approved staff prices.'

It was decided no action would be taken until consulting with a lawyer.

The Board decided that the next meeting would be on March 20 at 4:30 p.m.

The timeline for hiring new Journal Board members was then discussed.

Ms. Wheatley: Asked about the possibility of hiring a new industry member at large.

Ms. Mehler Paperny: Suggested the Board could ask Ken Cuthbertson

Ms. Mehler Paperny: We'll start advertising for students at large in the next couple weeks and ask them to contact Lisa if necessary.

It was decided that interested applicants should submit a letter of intent and would be interviewed by the interviewing panel defined in the new Journal policy.

Meeting was adjourned.