

## **Arthur Newspaper Board Meeting - Minutes**

### **January 30, 2019**

*Meeting called to order: 5:09PM*

#### **Members present:**

Miranda Rigby (Secretary)

Max Niehaus (Treasurer)

Janette Platana (member-at-large)

James Kerr (chair) \*remote attendance\*

Lubna Sadek (co-editor)

Leina Amatsuji-Berry (co-editor)

Maeve de Savoye (President) \*late arrival\*

#### **Regrets:**

Berfin Aksoy, Jiahe Fan

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#### *I. Approval of previous board meeting minutes from November 15, 2018 & opportunity to suggest amendments for AGM meeting minutes*

- All members have reviewed the previous board meeting minutes.
- In regards to the AGM meeting's minutes:
  - Max noted that there were some errors in spelling (names).
  - Miranda stated that she will review the spelling.
  - James articulated that spelling should be reviewed but otherwise no changes are deemed necessary to prior to AGM 2019.
  - Lubna clarified that AGM meeting minutes did not need approval at this meeting, but will be approved at next AGM, James confirmed.
- Miranda motioned to approve board meeting minutes from November 15, 2018, Max seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## *II. Approval of agenda for current meeting*

- All members have reviewed the agenda.
- Max motioned to approve the agenda, Miranda seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## *III. Editor's Update*

- The following is a representation of what both co-editors reported:
  - Since previous board meeting, three new staff members have been hired utilizing remaining TIP and OWSP funding.
  - *Point of Information: James:* has all funding been utilized?
    - Yes, all possible staff members have now been hired.
  - Still working on office phone line.
  - Issue 8 has been released and feedback is welcomed.

## *IV. Discussion about changes to provincial government, re: announcements and how they affect post-secondary institutions & Arthur Newspaper*

- “For the Students” plan implemented by Premier Doug Ford means levy fees may be taken away and replaced by a refundable option which is cause for concern for Arthur’s operations. Editors are seeking guidance in regards to their plan of action. The following is a discussion of these changes:
  - *Point of Information: James:* have the editors talked to the levy counsel that Dwayne Collins is trying to start?
    - Yes. The levy counsell is currently drafting a levy policy which needs to be completed by 11Feb19.
  - Leina stated: there were already struggles with levy issues and the TCSA and the fact that the TCSA is stepping in is frustrating. Nona Robinson [Associate VP Students] wasn’t particularly optimistic about what Trent can do about the implementation. It’s important to us that we look into external funding without external control.
  - James stated: everything the Editors are feeling is the exact same at newspapers across Ontario, designed to destroy student media, while pursuing this situation: contact other newspapers in Ontario. Trent doesn’t care. Work with the other levy groups because you are stronger together. Work with other campus newspapers because you are stronger together. We need to begin discussing what Arthur would look like on 30% of current funding (i.e., scrap print entirely?), likely a bad idea, but what would Arthur look like. Suggestion: work with Dwayne Collins.
  - Janette stated: I don’t think the onus should be on the editors alone. Don’t feel defeated, don’t feel helpless.
  - Miranda stated: In the past Arthur boards have opted to “strike a committee” to handle these types of situations. I agree to use Dwayne as a resource as Dwayne has history with the paper, and I will contact him on the paper’s behalf.

- Max stated: Look at CUP? [Canadian University Press]
- Editors confirmed: contact Dwayne, work with levy counsel, and get in contact with CUP.
- *Janette, Point of Information:* Can we sit in on TCSA meetings?
- Editors stated: TCSA meetings are open to the public, however one has to email if they wish to speak at the meeting and we don't have voting rights.
- Janette stated: Trouble with changes is that it's being framed as a "cut" of 10% of University tuition costs. Arthur needs to lead the conversation. TCSA will dissolve as well with suggested levy cuts. The TCSA is not the enemy, nor the decision maker. It doesn't mean anything to go to their meetings. And the pig faced motherfucker [Doug Ford] 30% of Ontarians voted for (and those who didn't vote at all because they were too fucking hipster to vote) we will say goodbye to KSAC, goodbye to Sadleir House; bigger classes, fewer services. We need to present Arthur as a different physical beast.
- Editors stated: We want to avoid switching to online at all costs.
- Janette suggested: Universities don't know what it means to opt into and out of levies, Blackboard isn't set up for it. Arthur needs to convey real meaning in relation to these issues.
- Miranda suggested: Agreeance with Janette's sentiment and belief that Arthur needs to fight and make an emergency plan for the future.
- Janette stated: Has done an informal poll at Trent since began on board on if people read Arthur and why/why not. The answer received was that Arthur needs to have a clearer voice.
- Miranda suggested: The editors work on a levy edition. Specifically suggesting gathering letters from levy groups, re: "Fuck you, Doug Ford".
- Janette suggested: Since Electric City Magazine was bought out, Arthur needs to fill that gap.
- Miranda stated: Previous to volume 46 (my editorship) the staffing structure had section editors versus the writers we have now. There was a model of volunteer submissions. I had it changed because of a smaller budget from the previous year's overspending. It made sense then, because I was a designer and the editorship was able to be functionally changed.
- Editors questioned: how do we make the funding work?
- James stated: Arthur has been through a variety of model changes. Arthur was originally runned by an editor who wrote for free 15 years ago. Do we need staff positions? No. It can just change to a different model and maintain the same character.
- Editors asked if there were further ideas/thoughts/things that could be suggested.
- Janette offered her idea/thoughts/things: Canada Summer Jobs. Janette suggested sitting with Lubna this Saturday to start the application process for external funding.
- Miranda stated: We have received funding in the past.

- Janette suggested: Jobs can run until Sept 1. Typically they are looking for summer festivals and community events in Peterborough.
- Lubna stated that she will try to meet with Janette on Saturday.
- Editors stated: their job was to get ahold of CUP and Dwayne re: the changes in the funding. They wondered about what would Arthur do in the summer.
- Janette suggested: The summer program could bolster Trent Alumni to participate and this could also create funding. Compete with the Alumni association.
- Miranda motioned to create a “contingency committee” to help support Editors with their concerns re: changes in funding model and draft a plan to handle future lack of funding.
  - Max seconded, motion carried unanimously
  - Miranda stated she would contact Dwayne on behalf of the editors and look into a previous CUP membership.
- During this discussion Maeve joined the meeting.

#### *V. Any other business*

- Editors asked whether anyone else had business to discuss.
- James inquired: if the editors were considering a taxes issue and if so what has happened in that regard.
- Editors stated: Not far behind the idea for the levy issue, they will contact Sue Newman.

#### *VI. Adjournment*

- Max motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:58pm.
- Miranda seconded the motion, unanimous.