

May 3, 2017 – Mass Communications Advisory Committee Minutes

Present: Dale Wetzel, Mary VanSickle, Mike Mabin, Tom Gerhardt, George McDonald, Stacy Sturm, Ken Rogers, Steve Wallick, and Kilee Harmon

Absent:

Instructors Present: karen Bauer, Dusty Anderson, Cole Bernhardt, and Kimberly Crowley

Program Progress and Updates for Spring:

Wetzel: Handed out a letter re: reduction in program funds from student fees.

Bauer: Gave an update on the program, including the number of and tentative list of new editors for the 2017-2018 school year.

Bernhardt: Explained updated system for The MYX this year and that students have been more involved. The new programs are more user-friendly. Overview of students who are graduating/leaving and an estimate of the number of current students who are staying.

Anderson: Update on MystiCast, including lack of returning students for fall semester. Students struggled early in the year but have come around. One student will likely return next year, and the program has one especially talented videography student.

Crowley: Just finished the 25th anniversary edition of *Figments of Imagination*. Magazine was distributed to committee members.

North Dakota Student Media Association Information:

Bauer: Introduced committee members to the ND Student Media Association that was formed this year. A retreat is scheduled for 20 May 17 as an introductory meeting. Steve Andrist of ND Newspaper Association is part of the group, as is Sue Skalicky (formerly of Legacy High School). Constitution is complete, by-laws still being revised.

VanSickle: Intention to do an annual event?

Bauer: Yes, workshops in the fall for students and advisers; competitions in the spring.

Van Sickle: Keep it in Bismarck?

Bauer: Yes. Either Bauer or Skalicky will be in the Executive Director position. Past events with NIPA here have been successful, so Bismarck as a location makes sense.

Wetzel: Highlights of what the NDSMA does?

Bauer: Greater protection for advisers.

Wetzel: Explanation of laws?

Van Sickle: C3 or C6 designation?

Mabin: Suggested a separate state registration for C3 or C6.

Van Sickle: Goes through IRS. Creators of association have legal help?

Wetzel: Legal help can be arranged through contacts here?

Bauer: ND has one of the strongest New Voices coverage in country.

Program Budget:

Wetzel: SGA Allotment/budget forms distributed. Budget cut for Mystician/Mass Comm budget noted to members.

Harmon: Clarification of process?

Wetzel: SGA votes on budgets/allocations, administration approves.

Wetzel: Explains that former SGA VP complained in a Letter to the Editor that SGA decisions are overridden by SGA advisers. (Bauer distributed copy of editorial piece in question).

Wetzel: Not NDUS system or legislative budget decisions in this case.

Bauer and Wetzel: Distributed handouts and explained how the funds are outlined and distributed (handouts attached).

Bauer: Explained budget questions originated with questions about travel funds for Mystician editors' trip to conference in New York. Questions started in Fall 2016. This year, the budget was cut.

Wetzel: Discussed options for remuneration for students outlined in distributed handout. Handouts describe job and stipends. Potential tuition reduction vs. taxable income?

McDonald: Foundation scholarship? Donations from companies could be used specifically for this?

Wetzel: Asked for input from committee. Do student editors deserve to be paid?

Bauer: At other schools researched, they are paid.

Harmon: Have discussions been held about this?

Wetzel and Bauer: Distributed letter (authored by Wetzel) to be delivered to Dr. Skogen about the issue.

Harmon: Suggested specific changes to letter to provide more evidence.

Mabin: All board members sign letter? (members agree)

Wetzel: Discussion of stipends.

Sturm: Letter (authored by Wetzel) seems final with no options for meeting. Suggests asking for meeting to continue the dialogue.

Van Sickle: Ask for explanation rather than provide all the attachments (those distributed to members).

Wetzel: Meeting with him, committee, and Skogen.

McDonald and Sturm: Will there be continued ramifications if stories are printed again?

Wetzel: Will change letter based on feedback and send to members via email. They can read and return with further edits. Will ask for meeting with Skogen and deliver the letter. Any objections?

Van Sickle: Send letter.

Harmon: Follow up right away with letter.

Wetzel: Any further discussion? (none)

Bauer: A personal letter (from Bauer) will be delivered with this letter.

Wetzel: SGA budget decisions affect the entire program.

Crowley: Recommends removing *Figments of Imagination* from the letter because it is part of the English Department and has a separate budget. To avoid any confusion, take *Figments of Imagination* out of this discussion.

McDonald: Review the history of program with appropriated funds for insight into current situation.

Other

Bauer: Reviews list of committee members. Wetzel will come back as chair.

Wetzel: Move to adjourn.

Harmon: Second.

The meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm.