

University of Michigan Board for Student Publications

Minutes of the March 17, 2025 Board Meeting

Board members present: Ann Marie Aliotta (Chair), John Copeland, Susan Douglas, Jewel Gopwani, Robin Luce-Herrmann

Board members absent: Jillian Berman, Geoff Gagnon, Andrew Grossman 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, Bobby Currie, Grace Donnelly and Dana Gray

The Michiganensian was represented by: Mishal Charania and Averyl Cobb

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

Others Present: None

Chair Ann Marie Aliotta called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Introductions

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

Minutes

A motion to approve the January 13, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Robin, seconded by Susan, and passed without dissent.

Public Comments

None

Publication Updates

SHEI Magazine - Reporting by Dana and Erin

- Introduced Grace Donnelly and Bobby Currie
- Winter print issue files going to the printer on Friday
- Collaborated with two fashion orgs on campus
- Working on a collaboration with the style section of *The Michigan Daily*
- Collaborating with a vintage market and sustainability committee
- Recently released February digital issue
- Introduced Bobby Currie - current Creative Director and FY26 EIC
- Business board applications are out today, and final decisions will take place the first week of April
- New DEI committee to be present at April shoots and editorial events moving forward to spearhead inclusion within SHEI
- Working on FY26 budget
- Three SHEI staff members attended College Media Association's ProCon in NYC
- ProCon sessions attended include making alumni connections, AI use in practical/ethical ways, effective leadership strategies, communication techniques within a publication

Gargoyle Magazine - Reporting by Luke and Charlie

- Successful launch of Issue 3 in February
- New Eboard candidates have been selected, and training is underway. Incoming EIC and BM candidates will be present at the April meeting
- Second merchandise order of the year has been finalized

- Gargoyle was represented at the Student Arts Orgs Summit and Pierpont poetry project, both through the Arts Initiative. Additional funding was secured as a result of attending.
- Giving Blueday is Wednesday

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

- Recruitment for winter semester recently completed and the cohort of new staffers is smaller than normal
- Working on a demographics/internal climate survey
- Edit staff has moved to an automated payroll system
- Investigative reporting continues
- Three students attended College Media Association ProCon in NYC
- Three students attended Associated Collegiate Press Spring Convention in Long Beach
 - Key take aways include design, AI, reorienting priorities, unique advertising clients and newsletters
- Working on FY26 budget
- Creative and marketing teams are working on Baby ads
- Looking ahead to summer staff and projects
- Business and Edit are working on Graduation Issue and reviewing printing costs

The Michiganian - Reporting by Mishal and Averyl

- Filled entire roster for regular staffers and did new editor interviews the previous week
- All 2025 book pages have been finalized, and proofing process is wrapping up
- The 2024 Michiganian is a Pacemaker finalist
- Sent future head design editors to the ACP conference in Long Beach earlier this month
- Commemorative ad sales finished lower this year
- Giving Blueday goal set
- Yearbook individual book ship list and pick up list has been finalized
- First week of spring grad extravaganza is this week - increased and diversified promotion of the event including a diploma frame giveaway

Committee Reports

Operations Committee:

Looking to fill two positions - Andrew's seat (Publications alumni) and Susan's seat (Campus community). Ann Marie is standing for renomination. Kathy reported that an email was sent to all publications' alumni along with a Giving Blueday save-the-date and eight alumni have submitted materials for consideration, with the deadline closing this evening. Susan provided names of possible faculty members for outreach.

Finance Committee:

Kathy reported that the first pass of budgets with professional staff is complete. The second round is with the finance committee. Proposed budgets will go out to the full board on April 7th.

Development Committee:

Kathy reminded everyone that Giving Blueday is Wednesday. Each publication has a fundraising page and Student Publications is focused on the Career Enhancement fund. She also informed everyone that she would be posting the Development position once she looks into the new guidelines for doing so.

GM Report

An update was provided at to the financial impact related to the decrease in senior portraits and yearbook sales this year. She also shared the FY25 Publications Revenue and Net Income numbers and updates on progress of the new Student Pubs' website. Additionally, she mentioned needing assistance with reviewing scholarship and award submissions.

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 Robin, seconded by John, and passed without dissent.

At 6:31 pm Chair Ann Marie Aliotta closed the meeting.

Actions Taken:

Motion to approve the January 13, 2025 meeting minutes: Robin Luce-Herrmann

Seconded by: Susan Douglas

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to adjourn: Robin Luce-Herrmann

Seconded by: John Copeland

The motion passed without dissent.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 14, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ciesinski

General Manager, Office of Student Publications