

University of Michigan Board for Student Publications

Minutes of the September 14, 2025 Board Meeting

Board members present: Ann Marie Aliotta (Chair), Jillian Berman, John Copeland, Geoff Gagnon, Jewel Gopwani, Robin Luce-Herrmann, and Kyle Nowels

Board members absent: Ann Marie Lipinski and Walter Middlebrook

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

The Gargoyle was represented by: Sabrina Barnes and Xolo Hernandez-Herrera

SHEI Magazine was represented by: Erin Casey

The Michiganensian was represented by: Sydney Lount and Gabby Noble

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

Others Present: None

Chair Ann Marie Aliotta called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Introductions

With the changes in student leaders and board members, a brief round of introductions took place.

Operations Committee

Two new board members elected during the summer were officially welcomed to the Board. Kyle Nowels is part of the campus community and Ann Marie Lipinski is a Student Publications alumna. They were elected to a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

A motion to nominate Jewel Gopwani to serve as the 2025 - 2026 Student Publications Board Chair was made by Geoff, seconded by John, and passed without dissent.

Minutes

A motion to approve the April 14, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Robin, seconded by John, and passed without dissent.

Public Comments

None

Publication Updates

SHEI Magazine - Reporting by Erin

- Bobby is the new EIC
- Print shoots have already started
- New member interviews are this week, and decisions will be sent out by September 19th
- Festifall was a success - a lot of interest in SHEI
- Business team interviews are being conducted this week, and decisions will be sent out on September 12th
- A grant position was created as part of the finance team
- Operations and finance will be in attendance at the Engaging Victors Fundraising Conference
- Launch event tentatively scheduled for December 12th

Gargoyle Magazine - Reporting by Sabrina and Xolo

- Issue 1 drops October 23rd with the theme Panopticon
- Large class of new members
- Almost 100 unignames after Festifall
- Big focus on learning from a writing and editing perspective
- Considering opening new positions: Asst. Business Manager, Social Media and Communications
- Gargalum reunion October 24th
- Applying for CSG funding
- Exploring new potential merchandise
- Expansion and innovation as themes for the year

The Michiganensian - Reporting by Sydney and Gabby

- New EIC - Sydney and New Business Manager - Gabby
- Hired new writers, designers a photographer and associate business manager
- Lots of interest shown at Festifall
- Working on credentials for all football games plus booking the appropriate flights and hotels
- Finalized the cover for submission to the printer
- First page deadline is October 20th - D0 and D1 are due
- Senior portraits are ongoing
- Grad Extravaganza dates are set for December 1st - 5th and 8th and 9th
- Working with Josten's on marketing leading up to Grad Extravaganza

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

- Getting back into the swing of things
- Fall recruitment - applications close on the 17th
- New event: Meet the editors
- Planning has begun for Best of Ann Arbor and Rivalry edition
- Best of Ann Arbor voting is open
- Successful summer for the business staff
- 200+ interest form submissions during fall recruitment cycle
- News rack sales
- Crossword ad, Best of Ann Arbor website ads and more
- Brainstorming additional revenue generating opportunities

Committee Reports

Kathy reviewed committee slides from 2023 when they were first established and asked board members to recommit, switch or volunteer for a second committee.

Operations Committee:

A motion to approve staff salaries effective 9/1/25 was made by John, seconded by Jewel, and passed without dissent.

Finance Committee:

Nothing to report

Development Committee:

Ben's updates included: the scholarship & awards brunch, Gargoyle reunion dinner in October, meetings with prospect and research team, meetings with student leaders, looking at student philanthropy efforts, working on one-pagers for MGOs and RGOs and consistency in messaging from the office.

GM Report

Kathy provided updates on personnel, the new Student Publications' website and building updates. She also shared the FY25 and FY26 Publications Revenue and Net Income numbers.

New Business

Kathy reviewed all the new meeting dates for the rest of the academic year.

John asked about how the Daily staff is doing regarding feeling supported in the areas of mental health & wellbeing. Zhane indicated the staff is doing better overall and that there were questions on the climate survey addressing these issues.

A motion to adjourn was made by Robin, seconded by Kyle, and passed without dissent.

At 2:22 pm Chair Jewel Gopwani closed the meeting.

Actions Taken:

Motion to nominate Jewel Gopwani to serve as the 2025 - 2026 Student Publications Board Chair: Geoff Gagnon

Seconded by John Copeland

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to approve the April 14, 2025 meeting minutes: Robin Luce-Herrmann

Seconded by: John Copeland

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to approve staff salaries: John Copeland

Seconded by: Jewel Gopwani

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to adjourn: Robin Luce-Herrmann

Seconded by: Kyle Nowels

The motion passed without dissent.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, November 17, 2025.

Future meetings: January 12, 2026, March 16, 2026, and April 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ciesinski

General Manager, Office of Student Publications