

# University of Michigan Board for Student Publications

## Minutes of the November 17, 2025 Board Meeting

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

Board members absent: John Copeland

*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 and Bobby Currie

The *Michiganensian* was represented by: Sydney Lount

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

Others Present: None

Chair Jewel Gopwani called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

### New Attendee Introductions

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

### Minutes

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

### Public Comments

None

### Publication Updates

#### ***SHEI Magazine - Reporting by Erin and Bobby***

- Fall print edition - Fake Idols Club - has been finalized
- October digital release - Aether
- November digital release - Wrapped - now in production
- December/January independent projects issue will allow for members to collaborate with local businesses, industry professionals and showcase their own unique creative work
- Exceeded goals for grant funding, advertising sales and fundraising this semester
- Top priorities are the launch event and Giving Tuesday
- Working with Ben on alumni engagement through monthly newsletters
- Starting to plan for next semester and leadership transition
- Merch is in the works

#### ***Gargoyle Magazine - Reporting by Sabrina and Xolo***

- Successful publication of Issue 1 - 24 pages and major contributions by new staff members
- Currently working on Issue 2 - Theme: "Garg After Dark" and it will have glossy covers and a higher page count
- Issue 1 was fully funded by CSG grant
- Issue 2 printing will be paid for through CSG grant
- Working on social media and business teams to help with the workload and increase of the magazine
- Preparing for the first round of Gargoyle merch

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

- Demographics report released
- Planning Rivalry Edition with the Lantern - Video made, stories complete, print edition being laid out
- No targeted email for the Statement's Sex Survey, so working on other forms of promotion
- Sections have started picking their leadership for next year and EIC elections are Friday
- New managers, new business team members and transitioning for winter semester
- Successful Best of Ann Arbor and Rivalry advertising sales
- Elections, social events and last night of production
- Passing of the leadership baton
- Ordering merchandise soon

### ***The Michiganensian - Reporting by Sydney***

- Successfully submitted the first- and second-page deadline spreads; all 47 D0 and D1 spreads were proofed and are being printed
- Finalized this year's cover
- Submitted application for Winterfest
- Co-Head Design Editor will be abroad next semester; working to promote or hire a new Design Editor
- Getting prepared for December Grad Extravaganza - December 1 - 5 and 8 - 9.
- Business team is working on marketing for Jostens - paid for by Jostens.
- Senior portraits are down from last year, working with Lauren Studios on additional marketing

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Operations Committee:***

Jewel, Walter, Geoff and Kathy met on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jewel provided updates which included putting together a board member orientation guide and putting together a survey for students on their needs for today and support beyond graduation. Next meeting scheduled for 2pm, Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

### ***Finance Committee:***

Robin, Kyle, Jillian and Kathy met on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Prior to providing finance committee related updates Kathy shared that there are folders for each of the three committees in the main Board folder and each contains a rolling agenda from the meetings. These are accessible to all at any time. She also shared that there were some great questions asked at the meeting and that she and Kim would work to provide some information before the next meeting that would help answer some of these questions. Next meeting scheduled for 12pm Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

### ***Development Committee:***

Ben, Ann Marie Aliotta, John, Kyle and Kathy met on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ben shared the discussion included how to strategically promote a new planned gift, improving stewardship processes, and goal setting for Student Pubs as a whole and each publication. Next meeting scheduled for 4 pm Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Additional updates included: a successful *Gargoyle* reunion dinner in October, the monthly recurring gift matching program the University is offering, a reminder that Giving Tuesday is December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rivalry fundraising is launching soon, and fundraising for Q1 - taking out planned gifts - is up 27% over the same time in the previous year.

### **GM Report**

Kathy provided updates on building projects including exterior door replacement and LED lighting, requests from the U-M library to use the first 10 years of the *Daily* for an AI research project, and a start-up business regarding use of *Michigan Daily* content, as well as securing the lists of freshmen and transfer students to be

used for one of *The Michigan Daily's* Weekly Roundup newsletter. She also shared the FY25 and FY26 Publications Revenue and Net Income numbers and other financial information.

**New Business**

None.

A motion to go into closed session was made by Geoff, seconded by Robin, and passed without dissent.

A motion to end the closed session was made by Kyle, seconded by Robin, and passed without dissent.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ann Marie Aliotta, seconded by Ann Marie Lipinski, and passed without dissent.

At 7:55 pm Chair Jewel Gopwani closed the meeting.

**Actions Taken:**

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

Seconded by: Geoff Gagnon

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to go into closed session: Geoff Gagnon

Seconded by: Robin Luce-Herrmann

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to end closed session: Kyle Nowels

Seconded by: Robin Luce-Herrmann

The motion passed without dissent.

Motion to adjourn: Ann Marie Aliotta

Seconded by: Ann Marie Lipinski

The motion passed without dissent.

**Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 12, 2026.**

**Future meetings: March 16, 2026, and April 13, 2026**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ciesinski

General Manager, Office of Student Publications