

## **Gazette Publications Committee**

Volume 111 meeting #2

Minutes of the GPC meeting on Oct. 19, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

### *Voting members in attendance*

- Jay Menard (chair)
- Nicole MacAdam (online — came in late)
- Aron Yeomanson (online)
- Sabrina Hundal (student representative)
- Sydney Scott (Board of Directors representative)

### *Non-voting members in attendance*

- Amy O’Kruk (editor-in-chief)
- Jordan McGavin (managing editor of design)
- Rita Rahmati (managing editor of content)
- Ian Greaves (advertising manager)

### *Others in attendance*

- Erin McCauley (USC secretary treasurer)

### **Motion 1: Call to order**

### **Motion 2: Adoption of the agenda**

- Approved

### **Motion 3: Introduction of Sabrina Hundal**

### **Motion 4: EIC report (O’Kruk)**

- Highlights of report:
  - September focused heavily on training — three formal training days for editors
    - Over the month tried to get editors to adjust to daily deadlines
  - September also focused on recruitment — open house was successful
  - Briefly mentioned Frosh Slosh — discussed in detail in motion 6

### **Motion 5: Manager report (Greaves)**

- Overall advertising revenue better than last year at this time
- Approximately \$1,000 deficit in September versus \$11,000 last September — partly due to the fact that we’re only printing once a week now

### **Motion 6: Letter re: Orientation Coverage**

- O’Kruk: briefly explained the controversy around Frosh Slosh and the Western TV video and acknowledged the criticisms

- O’Kruk explained her justification for publishing Frosh Slosh:
  - Aligns with the *Gazette*’s mandate to show the reality of the student experience.
    - Although there is a ban, many students still drink
  - Aligns with the *Gazette*’s mandate to entertain. Trusts audience ability to discern a graphic poking fun at students’ irreverence of dry O-Week from legitimate advocacy
  - There were other articles in the same issue that showcased safe drinking and how the dry O-Week policy has decreased the number of hospitalizations
  - Ultimately any total ban will be parodied, and the *Gazette* is the forum to do that on campus. Also acts as a forum for debate as demonstrated by audience engagement with the graphic on Facebook
- Yeomanson: O’Kruk’s reasoning is sound, thinks the graphic is fun
- MacAdam: publishing Frosh Slosh is in line with mandate, reflects reality, not meant to guide students
- Menard: although underage drinking is illegal he knows many students do drink, we have a responsibility to acknowledge it, thinks it was acknowledged in a light-hearted way
  - Doesn’t thinking it advocated drinking (as stated in the letter), as adults living away from home they are able to make their own decisions
  - When weighted against the other items in the paper it’s reasonable
- Scott: asks O’Kruk to talk about the Western TV video
- O’Kruk: WTV runs video ideas by her, and all students appearing on camera are notified of where they are appearing and where the video will be posted afterwards. Conscious decision not to include students’ names in the video anyway (won’t show up in online searches)
- Menard: asks if in the future we could look into having releases for when students names are used in a video, could be good for liability
- MacAdam: doesn’t even know if it’s necessary to look into getting a waiver, recommends seeking legal advice if the *Gazette* wants to do that; her video publication team never has people sign waivers
- Yeomanson: agrees with MacAdam, they’re adults talking publicly to the media, having to go through an extra step of signing of a waiver might even stop students from easily engaging, not necessary
- Menard: he will send a letter responding to the official complaint and include this discussion

#### **Motion 7: Inquiries and Other Business**

- Nothing stated

#### **Motion 8: Adjournment of Meeting**

- Meeting adjourned