

Society of Professional Journalists
IUP Chapter
Meeting minutes
Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007
The Commonplace Coffeehouse

Convened:

8:09 p.m.

Present:

[Please review this; as the following names were compiled from memory, as no attendance sheet circulated. Please add names I forgot.]

Becky Walsh
Anna Goth
Jared Stout, vice president
Rose Huber, treasurer
Bill Harder, president
Will Rush
Anthony Fucinari
Landon Garside
Brandon Gill
Kendra Sledzinski
Scott Grandrino
Emily Nicholson Boots
David Loomis, faculty advisor, secretary ad hoc

Announcements, Committee reports

- **The Penn Committee**
 - θ Convention of SSHE campus newspaper editors
 - Anna Goth: Proposal to establish links to other SSHE campus newspapers.
 - Bill Harder: Over lunch on Feb. 20, visiting Pennsylvania Newspaper Association general counsel Teri Henning said PNA would be eager to host an annual (semi-annual?) meeting of SSHE campus newspaper editors to foster sharing of resources, convening of workshops, etc.
 - Dave Loomis has sent emails to PNA officials to begin the process of convening such a meeting, possibly as soon as this spring.
 - θ Recruiting of new staffers for The Penn

- Anna Goth suggested that professors (Journalism, et al.) be approached for recommendations of student prospects as staff writers, contributors, editors; that existing Penn staffers go into classrooms to recruit new staffers
 - Anna proposed “raising the bar” for Penn staffers, such as requiring demonstrations of familiarity with the Associated Press Stylebook, including tests for new staff members
 - Kendra Sledzinski cautioned that such an effort might eliminate good writers before they have had a chance to develop familiarity with the Stylebook.
 - Bill Harder suggested requiring workshop attendance for developing familiarity and facility with the Stylebook
 - Jared Stout: News section staffers need this the most; also, the News section has greatest need for staff. Sports and features sections are well-staffed by comparison.
 - Brandon Gill: non-Journalism majors should be recruited. Interested writers will respond to recruiting pitches, outreach efforts
 - Will Rush: in addition to professors offering extra credit at the beginning of the semester for students who write for The Penn, professors also should offer extra-credit opportunities for contributions to The Penn *during* the semester, as stories are needed to report for the news section. (Note: this will require communication between Penn editors and Journalism faculty, probably, but not exclusively, at the initiative of editors.)
 - Kendra: Contact Journalism alumni to provide testimonials to the value of involvement with The Penn.
 - Anthony Fucinari: This effort has begun. An alumni list has been compiled.
 - Becky Walsh: recruit current students to supplement this effort.
- **Publications Committee**
 - θ SPJ newsletter contributions
 - Brandon Gill suggested themed sections, topics such as those published in The Quill, the SPJ magazine sent to SPJ members.
 - “To Catch A Predator” – the ethics of such TV shows
 - Union papers
 - Internship interviews
 - Brandon: Deadline for contributions to the IUP SPJ newsletter: end of April. Stories were solicited
 - Rose, Kendra, Will, Scott proposed stories
 - Brandon invited tie-ins with Indi Week in Review stories
 - Emily: KDKA story

- **Fundraising Committee**
 - θ SPJ fundraising event tentatively scheduled
 - Rose reported plans for March fundraiser at The Brown Hotel
 - Music event, including performances by Bill Harder's band, Dave Loomis, et al.
 - θ SPJ T-shirt design by Penn graphic artist Jon Price to come

- **Alumni Committee**
 - Anthony Fucinari: no report

- **President's announcements**
 - SPJ brochure drafts
 - Spring '07 edition:
 - Evergreen edition:
 - Rose Huber has been invited to help introduce Eric Schlosser during his March 29 event, visit to IUP
 - Brandon: SPJ ushers to assist Schlosser visit
 - The Penn, 1:30-2:30 p.m. tentative workshop
 - Brandon:
 - SPJ Web site
 - Podcasts to come
 - Rename: new Indi Week in Review
 - Emily: send an item to SPJ/The Quill re: Teri Henning law, ethics visit

Adjourn: 9 p.m.