

IUP CHAPTER
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2015, 5 p.m., Stabley 101

Attendance:

Tiffany Catherman, Evan Sakowicz, Jed Johnson (Vice Chair of promotions committee), Alexa Titchen (Promotions Committees Chair), Kirsten Schlorff (treasurer), Isaiah Warfield (secretary), Ethan Brogan (vice president), Kandace Mecham (president), David Loomis (faculty adviser)

Note-taker: Isaiah Warfield

Convened: 5:02 p.m.

AP Style quiz: Which sentence is correct?

- A) Is your party at 5 PM Ethan?
- B) Is you're party at 5 p.m., Ethan?
- C) Is your party at 5 p.m., Ethan?

The correct answer is letter C

Agenda:

1. SPJ's Last Meeting
 - a. Kandace informed SPJ that she had scheduled the next SPJ meeting on November 25 during Thanksgiving Break. However, clubs are not allowed to hold meetings during Thanksgiving Break, so Kandace told SPJ that its last meeting for this semester would be December 2, 2015 and SPJ agreed to meet on this date.
2. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
 - a. Kandace stated that not enough has been done this semester to promote the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette trip or other activities. Kandace would like SPJ to improve right away in the spring semester. For the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette trip, Kandace created a sign-up sheet for the newspaper trip, and she wants SPJ to pass it around in their Journalism classes. SPJ members would also have to give a pitch and discuss the trip itself. The more people we have attending the trip, the more likely the trip will happen.

- b. Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association is interested in sponsoring SPJ and IUP for the Pittsburgh road trip to the Pittsburgh Magazine, the Pittsburgh Tribune, and the Pittsburgh Tribune Review.
 - c. For more information contact, please contact Professor David Loomis. Email: doloomis@iup.edu. Interested news media: The Pittsburgh Tribune, The Pittsburgh Review, Pittsburgh Magazine, and other media and other universities. Tentatively planned for April 2016.
- 3. Get Down @ the Brown annual fundraiser
 - a. Kandace provided SPJ with the sign-up sheet for the Get Down @ the Brown Fundraiser, and performers have to sign-up with contact information. Kandace will give the information to Loomis once everyone has done it.
 - b. Get Down at the Brown Fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for March 18, 2016.
- 4. Book Donations
 - a. Kandace told SPJ that she has started making fliers for book-donations to the Jake Williams lending library Kandace hopes to be done with the fliers before the last SPJ meeting and Finals. If Kandace can get the fliers done sooner, then she will have them in Loomis' office and she will send a mass email to SPJ about the flyers. Kandace would like to have SPJ pass out fliers before Finals.
- 5. Jake William and Bill Harder scholarships
 - a. Kandace brought up to SPJ that Loomis and Alexa were working and communicating about the Jake William and Bill Harder scholarship fliers. Kandace asked if Alexa and Loomis would talk about what they were talking about with SPJ.
 - b. Alexa said that she was close to finishing the fliers and would send it to all of the SPJ members to view it. Alexa stated that she would like more information about the scholarship.
 - c. Kandace explained to her that both scholarships are endowed with \$2,500 from annual fundraisers.
 - d. Loomis pointed out that \$500 was raised for the Jake Williams Scholarship last March, and \$2,000 was raised at earlier fundraisers for the Bill Harder Scholarship. Loomis said that it was up to SPJ to divide up the scholarship money.
 - e. Kandace wanted to set a limit on the scholarship amount on the flier. She wanted a maximum amount of around \$300. For more information, email David Loomis at doloomis@iup.edu.
- 6. More Stories at SPJ meetings
 - a. Kandace informed SPJ that this club is supposed to write. Kandace wondered why no one has brought in stories to share in SPJ. Next semester, Kandace would like members of SPJ would bring stories that they enjoyed from their class, and share it with the rest of SPJ. SPJ members should strive to have their stories published in the Hawkeye for their resumes.

- b. SPJ members agreed to bring in stories for next semester.
 - c. Kandace asked SPJ if it were possible to bring in stories once or twice a month.
 - d. Alexa asked if SPJ could bring in writings that are in the process of being done, and Kandace replied that it was perfect fine and acceptable to do so.
 - e. Kandace asked if anyone in SPJ was published in The HawkEye, and Ethan was the only one in SPJ to be published in The HawkEye.
 - f. Kandace told SPJ members to not be afraid to bring in stories, and Loomis would like to see us all published in The HawkEye.
7. WIUP-FM radio news program
- a. Kandace asked SPJ if they needed more training and/or if they're interested in doing radio news.
 - b. Ethan explained that he is unfamiliar with radio, and would like to have more understanding of how it works.
 - c. Kandace and SPJ agreed with Ethan's statement and there should be more information about the whole thing.
 - d. Loomis said students who were involved with the campus radio station in the past years did not have experience as well. The radio station is willing to show people how to operate the radio station. WIUP-FM station manager Jim Rogers is happy to help new individuals with working on the radio station. Loomis would like the radio station to flourish in the spring semester and more stories to be talked about in radio stations.
 - e. If interested in broadcast radio, Kandace provided a sign-up sheet where SPJ would put their contact information.
8. Interviews
- a. Loomis said if SPJ members were worried about interviewing skills, then SPJ could have an open discussion about interviewing. Loomis brought up that another way to get good at interviews is by listening to efficient interviewers. One interviewer in particular would be NPR "Fresh Air" host Terry Gross. Gross has been around for about 35-40 years and is considered among the best interviewers in America.
 - b. Evan asked what makes Terry Gross a great interviewer.
 - c. Loomis said Gross is well prepared and asks reasonable, conversational questions.
 - d. Kandace told SPJ that it is nerve-wracking to ask hard questions and bring up important issues to an individual.
 - e. Loomis explained that Gross is not an investigative journalist, she is just simply profiling an individual when she is interviewing someone. C-SPAN's Brian Lamb is another great interviewer who interviews authors, and he asks the most obvious questions to authors. Gross and Lamb get astounding answers.
9. Indi Kids

- a. Kandace brought up the fact that daycare center Indi Kids may have to shut down. SPJ discussed how some stories would not be good television.
- b. Loomis said that the Indi Kids story could be a story for radio. Loomis asked these two questions. How could we do it? How would someone develop the Indi Kids story into an evergreen story?

10. Next meeting: December 2, 5-6 p.m., Stabely 101

11. Adjourn: 5:51 p.m.