



Society of Professional Journalists
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Chapter meeting
March 31, 2006, 5 p.m.
Commonplace Coffeehouse
Indiana, Pa.

Minutes

Present:

Steven Catanese
Jenni Easton
Ashley Gurbal
Margaret Harper
Dave Loomis
Melissa Meadath
Kendra Sledzinski

Convene: 5:05 p.m.

Agenda items:

- Attaboys and attagirls
- SPJ chapter officers for 2006-2007 academic year
- SGA elections stories for The Penn
- Radio Penn
- Atwater Journalism symposiums
- The Penn, now and later -- and SPJ
- Next meeting: Friday, April 21, 5 p.m., Commonplace Coffeehouse (tentative)
- Hershey pix, other chapter photos, for Journalism Department Web site

Discussion

Attaboys, attagirls

Winners of recent journalism awards recognized

The Penn, editors, staff and contributors, Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Keystone Awards luncheon, March 29, Hershey, Pa., for 2nd place (tie), Public Service category, collegiate newspapers;

The Penn staff, Society of Professional Journalists Region 1, Mark of Excellence Awards. To be announced this weekend in Newark, N.J., at Rutgers University.

SPJ chapter officers for 2006-2007 academic year

Nominations requested before next meeting, tentatively set for April 21

President

Vice president?

Secretary?

Treasurer?

SGA elections stories

Reporters needed to cover election issues for The Penn. Jenni Easton volunteers.

Jenni Easton reports on focus-group research involving reader awareness of The Penn's coverage of SGA issues

Radio Penn

April 9, April 16 are scheduled for WIUP-FM, half-hour, Sunday-morning, public-affairs program focusing on local and campus issues. The April 9 show has booked SGA Vice President Gina Antonucci, candidate for president. The show will be anchored by WIUP-FM personalities (and SPJ members) Bill Harder and Jared Stout.

Atwater journalism symposiums

IUP President Tony Atwater has asked for plans to be drawn up for a continuing series of journalism symposiums, such as the journalism symposiums held in October at Eberley Auditorium and on March 24 at the HUB Ohio Room. The symposiums will be paid for by the president.

SPJ member Dave Loomis is preparing the plans. SPJ members are asked for topic suggestions and assistance in preparing the events. (SPJ members Rose Huber and Bill Harder are recognized for their help arranging and presenting the March 24 Sago symposium.)

The Penn now and later, and SPJ

Discussion of staffing of the news department at the campus newspaper included editor-in-chief Margaret Harper's concern that the fall news staff will fall short of needs. Former editors Jenni Easton and Ashley Gurbal said such concerns are recurring.

Loomis suggested that all SPJ members help with recruiting staff – particularly news staff – for the fall. Margaret Harper and Dave Loomis are scheduled to recruit Honors College freshmen in August.

Loomis also suggested that SPJ members should be aware of a window of opportunity to have a hand in the future of the paper's editorial independence. A study of the financial relationship between The Penn and the Student Cooperative Association board is on hold pending the conclusion of the current fiscal year in mid-summer. At that time, the study may proceed. That time may be opportune

for students involved with The Penn to have a hand in determining the future of the campus newspaper. Ashley Gurbal said the paper's problems have been long-standing and resistant to earlier efforts to repair problems.

Hershey pix

Photos of SPJ members' trip to the March 29 Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Keystone Awards luncheon will be posted on the Journalism Department Web site.

Next meeting:

Tentatively scheduled for 5 p.m., Friday, April 21, at The Commonplace Coffeehouse.

[Alternative times have been requested by SPJ member Anthony Fucinari, who hosts a radio show with SPJ member Jared Stout at the 5 p.m. hour.]

Adjourn: 6 p.m.