

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

IUP CHAPTER

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2015, 5 p.m., Stabely 101

Attendance:

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

Note-taker: Isaiah Warfield

Convened: 5:07 p.m.

AP style quiz: Which sentence is correct?

- A) I ran toward the wall.
- B) I ran towards the wall.

The correct answer is letter A.

Agenda:

1. Jake Williams and Bill Harder Scholarships
  - a. Kandace asked members for ideas on how to promote the scholarships in the Journalism department. Kandace suggested creating fliers and soliciting applications in JRNL classes.
  - b. Kandace said applicants would have to write a paragraph or two on why they need the money, and SPJ officers would review applications and decide who would be eligible to receive the funds. The scholarships are restricted to Journalism majors.
  - c. Kandace asked the Promotions Committee, represented by Jed Johnson, to create fliers by next week and to post them. Johnson said it would be done. Also, SPJ members would make announcements about the Williams and Harder scholarships.
  - d. Kandace said the scholarships have a combined bank balance of \$2,500 (Harder: \$2,000; Williams, \$500). Loomis said only about three students have received funds from the Harder scholarship. The Williams scholarship, created in 2014, has had no applicants.
2. Book Donations
  - a. Kandace stated that SPJ has book donations available for people who cannot afford or obtain books, and it's important to promote this as well. This SPJ

- textbook lending library was the brainchild of former SPJ President Jake Williams. It is aimed to assist JRNL majors who may need loaners at the beginnings of semesters to tide them over until their financial aid comes in.
- b. Ethan asked how many textbooks are in the SPJ lending library. Kandace told him SPJ has maybe 20 books. Ethan suggested creating fliers to promote the book loan. And the Promotions Committee was assigned the task.
  - c. Kandace said SPJ Promotions Committee members should focus first on creating fliers promoting the Jake Williams and Bill Harder scholarships, and then focus on making fliers for book donations so JRNL students will donate their texts at the end of the fall semester.
  - d. The lending library is in Loomis' office , Davis 421.
3. Get Down @ The Brown benefit/fundraiser
- a. Kandace said SPJ needs to contact the owner of the Brown Hotel about the annual music event.
  - b. Loomis will call Sean Howard, the owner of The Brown Hotel, and try to schedule the fundraiser in March 2016. Date TBA.
  - c. Ethan's band The White Crayons and Evan's band Here's to Toga are interested in performing. Others include:
    - i. Grist for the Mill
    - ii. Kandace Mecham and the Electric Hula-Hoopers
    - iii. Black Ridge (repeat from 2015; contact: [blackridgeofficial@gmail.com](mailto:blackridgeofficial@gmail.com))
    - iv. Kandace Mecham and the Electric Hula-Hoopers
    - v. William Forrest (repeat from recent years)
    - vi. Derek Papakie, son of Michele, standup comedy (tentative)
    - vii. Ellen Mattis, singer, guitarist with North Carolina band. Staff writer @ The Indiana Gazette; IUP JRNL 2013. (tentative)
4. Newspaper Tour
- a. Kandace said Loomis came up with an idea to arrange a gathering in Pittsburgh with Pittsburgh newspaper and magazine editors, reporters, executives and employers, using the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association in Harrisburg to sponsor and facilitate.
  - b. Loomis asked whether SPJ members wanted to take a field trip, make connections with potential employers/network or all of the above.
  - c. The consensus was to meet employers, et al.
  - d. Loomis said he needs a head count. The head count will occur at an upcoming SPJ meeting.
  - e. Loomis said he will contact Pittsburgh media and PNA officials.
  - f. Jed added that Paula Reed Ward (IUP JRNL '96) works at *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and she's another connection.
  - g. Kandace told SPJ that she emailed Indiana Gazette executive editor Eric Ebeling about a building tour, and he has not responded.

- h. Loomis asked if SPJ is interested in going to the Pittsburgh newspapers, and not going to *The Indiana Gazette*. Loomis said he would be able to contact Eric Ebeling and be able to schedule a tour.
  - i. Jed told SPJ that it could be a repeat trip for some people.
  - j. Let Loomis know if you want to go to *The Indiana Gazette*. Ethan and Kandace are interested in going to *The Indiana Gazette*.
- 5. Jake Williams and Bill Harder scholarships
  - a. Loomis asked what SPJ will do with the scholarship, if nobody wants it. Loomis suggested that SPJ should ask Jake Williams and Bill Harder could redirect the funds somewhere else. But where?
- 6. WIUP-FM local radio news program (The Hawk Report), sponsored by SPJ
  - a. Jack Sanders, a journalism student, has a WIUP-FM radio show every Wednesday, 5-6 pm. Sanders could help SPJ members get oriented in the studio.
  - b. Also, Jim Rogers, WIUP-FM station manager, could conduct studio orientations for interested SPJ members.
  - c. Kandace proposed a Day of the Dead/Dia de los Muertos story for The Hawk Report, when it does get on the air. Discussion ensued about what angle the story could take.
  - d. Loomis suggested a local angle since there's a celebration of this holiday in the Oak Grove, and Kandace should have multimedia elements in the article and provide on-air reporting.
- 7. SPJ Thanksgiving
  - a. Kandace would like to have SPJ members come together before Thanksgiving break and have a Thanksgiving dinner together.
  - b. Kandace plans on making black bean burgers and having her water fixed by her landlord.
- 8. Teaching
  - a. Kandace asked SPJ members if they were willing to stick around after the next SPJ meeting so that she could teach SPJ about nutrition, and SPJ members said yes.
- 9. Next meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 11, 5-6 p.m., Stabely 101
- 10. Adjourn: 5:38 p.m.