

Board of Student Communications Report to Faculty Senate
May 2, 2013
Submitted by Dan Alexander, BSC Chair

Voting Members for 2012-2103: Rebecca Mataloni (Student Senate, vice chair), Joey Gale (Student Senate, Technology Liaison), Meghan Price (Student Senate), Sandra Patton-Imani (Study of Culture and Society), Bart Schmidt (Cowles) and Jeff Inman (JMC).

Ex-Officio: Jan Wise (Director of Student Leadership Programs)

2012-2013 Non-voting members of the BSC (Editors-in-Chief (EIC) or Presidents): Sean Conard (EIC *DUiN*), Jeff Nelson (EIC *Drake Magazine*), Kelsey Lepperd (EIC *Periphery*), Loren Horsch (EIC *Times Delphic*), Marina Shawd (EIC, Duh), and Erin Hassanzadeh (President, Drake Broadcasting System).

The following officers were appointed for 2013-2014: Samantha Baker (EIC *DUiN*) Kristin Doherty, (EIC *Drake Magazine*), Dylan Rollo (EIC *Periphery*), Taylor Soule (EIC *Times Delphic*), Morgan De Boest (EIC, Duh), and Grace Wenzel (President DBS). Procedures specified in the BSC Rules and Regulations were followed.

Meetings: October 11, November 8, December 6, January 31, February 21, March 13, March 26, May 2, and May 9.

Summary of Activities: Both Student and Faculty Senates endorsed the BSC Task Force Report (attached) in the fall of 2012. In the spring of 2013 both Senates ratified a change in the BSC Policy Document (attached) that contains procedures for the removal of a BSC publication. The BSC Policy Document was approved by the BSC and the Provost and certain provisions began to go into effect in Spring 2013.

The BSC also adopted revisions to its Rules and Regulations (attached) at its January 31 and February 21 meetings. Most salient amongst these changes are the addition of a fourth student representative to the BSC (which equalizes student and faculty voting membership) to be appointed by the BSC organization heads and changing the position of Student Vice Chair to Student Co-Chair, which means that the BSC will be presided over by Faculty and Student Co-Chairs. No changes were made in the manner in which the Faculty Senate Executive Committee appoints faculty members to the BSC. In particular, the Faculty Senate will designate one of the appointees as Faculty Co-Chair of the BSC.

Student Senate, whose prerogative it is to designate student organizations as Official BSC Publications designated Duh Magazine as a new official BSC organization in Spring 2013. Student Senate provided funding for Duh for the 2012-2013 Academic Year. The BSC Review Committee, chaired by Student Senator, Stephen Slade, whose members were appointed by the BSC (Jan Wise and Sean Conard), Faculty Senate (Mark Vitha and Claudia Frazer) and Student Senate (Slade and Joshua Schoenblatt), convened to consider a change in the Student Media Fee to fund Duh beginning in the 2014-15 Academic Year. It recommended on May 1, 2013 that the Student Media Fee be increased by \$0.90 beginning

with Fall 2014. According to the BSC Policy Document, this increase must be approved by Student Senate and the BSC. It is anticipated that this recommendation will go before the BSC and Student Senate early in Fall 2013. On May 9, the BSC will decide whether to endorse a joint funding of Duh in the 2013-14 Academic Year by the BSC (from its reserve fund) and Student Senate.

There is an issue with the wording in the BSC Policy Document. Some on the BSC Task Force interpret the role of the Review committees in Section 6 to **determine** an increase the Student Media Fee (that is, a Review Committee's word is final); others interpret the role to be a **recommender** (that is to recommend to the BSC and Student Senate a change in the Student Media Fee). The language is ambiguous. To avoid controversy, the Review Committee for Duh graciously decided to **recommend** an increase in the Student Media Fee rather than force the issue of whether it can **determine** an increase. It is recommended that this issue be resolved next year with a joint student-faculty-BSC committee.

Recommended Action Items for 2013-2104:

- (1) Allocate funds from the 2013-14 BSC Reserve Account to jointly fund Duh Magazine with Student Senate.
- (2) Develop more detailed financial procedures for the allocation of BSC funds from its reserve account. For example, new computers were approved for the TD and will be phased in the summers of 2013 and 2014. Replacements will most likely be need in 2017 and 2018. Similar planning should be undertaken for other BSC organizations in order to ensure a fair and prudent distribution of BSC funds for capitol improvements.
- (3) Develop a succession plan in anticipation of Jan Wise's eventual retirement.
- (4) Use BSC meetings as a vehicle to foster increased cooperation among the BSC organizations. For example,
 - a. as organizations continue to develop a web presence, DBS could assist them in the development of visual media;
 - b. organizations can publicize each other's ventures and publications; and
 - c. organizations could collaborate on projects and develop synergies.
- (5) Find a dedicated space for BSC organizations that do not have designated offices such as Duh, DUiN and Periphery. A location in Cowles Library or Meredith would be ideal.
- (6) Review budget allocation procedures with an eye towards standardizing travel and salary allocations for between publications. There is disparity among publications in both of these areas.
- (7) Review budget allocation procedures for projected advertising revenue, as this seems to be declining in recent years. If a publication is overly optimistic in its advertising projections, it runs a risk of depleting or exhausting funds before its year is over.
- (8) Review procedures for the recruitment of candidates for BSC editorial and leadership positions. It has been increasingly difficult to recruit potential editors

and organization heads. Except for one publication, there was only one applicant for each leadership position.

(9) Resolve the issue over the role of a BSC Review Committee discussed above.

It is recommended that this report be provided to the incoming Faculty Co-Chair for 2013-14. I will be more than happy to meet with this chair to discuss the above Action Items.