

## **Board of Student Communications Report to Faculty Senate**

Submitted April 29, 2015 by Megan Brown, BSC Faculty Co-Chair

**Voting Members for 2014-2015:** Angela Rogers (Student Senate, Co-Chair), Zachary Blevins (Student Senate, Technology Liaison), Benjamin Weinberg (Fall 2014 Student Senate appointee), Leah Thompson (Spring 2015 Student Senate appointee), Kristin Doherty (Student Representative selected by Editors-in-Chief), Jeff Inman (JMC), Rachel Caufield (A&S) and Geoffrey Bartlett (CBPA).

**Ex-Officio:** Meghan Blancas (Interim Director of Student Leadership)

**Non-Voting Members for 2014-2015:** Courtney Fishman (Editor in Chief, *Times-Delphic*), Linley Sanders (Editor in Chief, *Drake Magazine*), Rylee Maxwell (Editor in Chief, *DUiN*), Maria Hanson (Editor in Chief, *Periphery*), Taylor Larson (Editor in Chief, *The Annual*), and Amanda Horvath (President, Drake Broadcasting System).

**Elected Officers for 2015-2016:** Tim Webber (Editor in Chief, *Times-Delphic*), Melissa Studach (Editor in Chief, *Drake Magazine*), Megan Ellis (Editor in Chief, *DUiN*), Hanna Howard (Editor in Chief, *Periphery*), Emily Gregor (Editor in Chief, *The Annual*), and Mariah Lewis (President, Drake Broadcasting System). Procedures specified in the BSC Rules and Regulations were followed.

**Meetings:** October 22, November 6, December 3, February 18, and April 28.

### **Summary of Activities:**

#### **Fall 2014**

During the first half of Fall 2014, BSC needed to ascertain the budget process for student publications and broadcasting in the wake of Jan Wise's retirement, particularly given restructuring in the Division of Student Life. The October meeting was devoted to explaining to student EICs/Presidents the new "chain of command" for budgetary matters. (Also, due to staff turnover, the approved 2014-2015 budget was missing for two months. This issue was resolved in late October.) BSC still consults with student publications/broadcasting about emergency expenditures, printing bids, and significant financial decisions, while day-to-day budget operations go through Meghan Blancas, Gloria Lawless, and Sentwali Bakari.

Also in Fall 2014, BSC drafted and circulated a statement in support of Times-Delphic after 400 copies of the newspaper were vandalized.

#### **Spring 2015**

Meghan Blancas and the new Associate Dean of Students, Jerry Parker, are currently working with BSC, Human Resources, and Finance & Administration staff on streamlining the payment process for one-time/nominal payments to student writers and broadcasters. Much of the February 2015 BSC meeting was devoted to discussing possibilities for improving the process.

Also in February, a new student publication, *Drake Political Review (DPR)*, requested permission to join BSC. Policy documents and bylaws indicate that the process of adding a publication to BSC requires empaneling a subcommittee of two BSC members, two Faculty Senate members, and two Student Senate members. Jeff Inman and Linley Sanders (BSC), David Wright and Bart Schmidt (Faculty Senate), and Nicholas Jenderko and Kaitlyn Lacek (Student Senate) met March 30 to determine if *DPR* merits permanent funding under the BSC, if there is enough money to support the publication, and, if not, what other means there might be to support the publication. The subcommittee recommended that the BSC extend membership to *DPR*, but only if the student media fee is increased from the agreed-upon \$35.75 to \$37.75—\$2 per student. Voting members of BSC endorsed this recommendation, and then Student Senate approved. *DPR* will be part of BSC moving forward, starting in 2015-2016.

Elections for 2015-2016 Editors in Chief and Presidents took place at the March 2015 meeting. Budget determinations for 2015-2016, including for *DPR*, took place at the April 2015 meeting. At this final meeting, BSC's voting members also determined a number of action items for next year (please see below for more details).

### **Recommended Action Items for 2015-2016:**

- Overall, taking the 2015-2016 year to consider BSC's overall structure may be a useful endeavor. The body has many members from different populations around the university, and communication and scheduling meetings is quite difficult.
- Revisit BSC bylaws to clarify election procedures. A problem arose during April 2015 elections when an EIC candidate failed to disclose his intention to study abroad; BSC should state that EICs and Presidents must be able to fulfill the terms of their positions for a full academic year.
- Revisit BSC bylaws to clarify procedures for adding publications to and dropping publications from the organization. Responding to the *DPR* proposal described above would have been easier and more efficient if the rules had been clear.
- Continue working to clarify the relationship between BSC and the Division of Student Life, particularly given the changes in structure and leadership in that division.
- Continue to review budget allocation procedures with an eye towards standardizing travel and salary allocations for between publications. Consider declines in advertising revenue as well.

- Gather data from 2015-2016 editors and presidents to determine number of hours per week they spend working on their publications/broadcasting. This data should be useful in considering standardized salary figures in future years.
- Gather data regarding number of copies per issue for each publication; this year's BSC members are concerned about the number of copies that remain undistributed/unread.
- Consider a policy whereby all "special events" and "hospitality" would be funded by advertising revenues rather than through BSC budget allocations.
- Use BSC meetings as a vehicle to foster increased cooperation among the BSC organizations. For example, as organizations continue to develop a web presence, DBS could assist them in the development of visual media; organizations can publicize each other's ventures and publications; and organizations could collaborate on projects.

It is recommended that this report be provided to Jeff Inman, the incoming Faculty Co-Chair for 2015-2016.