

Texas Student Media
Board of Operating Trustees Meeting
Friday, February 14th, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
William Randolph Hearst Building, HSM 3.302
Austin, Texas 78712

Voting Members Present: Mary Dunn, Dave Player, Jordan Hawkes, Jason Lu, Vincent Cicchirillo, Heidi Toprac, Robert Quigley, Todd Nienkerk

Voting Members Absent: Samantha Carlile, Ray Ortiz, Jeff Cohen

Non-Voting Members Present: Frank Serpas III, Laura Wright, Mary Beth Mercatoris

Non-Voting Members Absent: Shabab Siddiqui, Joe Aragon, Ian Reese, Jaclyn Kachelmeyer, Nick Mehendale, Ted Sniderman, Bree Wiethorn

Guests Present: Riley Brands, David Maly

Meeting Opening

The Texas Student Media Board of Trustees February 14th meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Dave Player.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Certification of Candidates For Editor-In-Chief of The Daily Texan

Dave Player began the discussion by addressing the purpose of certifying candidates. Since TSM holds its own elections and shares a common website with other organizations at UT, the Office of the Dean of Students must be given the names of the candidates who are certified.

David Maly, one of the candidates for editor-in-chief, introduced himself to the board. David remarked on his past experiences, working with budget issues, moving the Daily Texan forward, and increasing the Texan's involvement with the student body.

Riley Brands, another candidate for the position, introduced himself. Riley discussed his past experiences, the importance of the Texan to the UT community, and working with the budget. Some ideas for the latter are included in his board report.

Dave Player began a question and answer session and started off by stating that the editor-in-chief only oversees the opinion page of The Daily Texan.

David Maly was asked questions pertaining to his past experience with The Daily Texan, how he would expand coverage in context of the editorial page, the difference between op-eds and

news stories, how long he worked with The Daily Texan, his willingness to complete the libel test, why the five editorial staff member signatures requirement of the editor application was not fulfilled, his prior discussions with staff at The Daily Texan about the application, and his experience with writing op-eds.

A major point of discussion was requirement number six, "Has the applicant obtained signatures from at least five editorial staff members of the Daily Texan...?". This requirement cannot be waived. Some board members highlighted the importance of obtaining the signatures. Another point was requirement number four: "...will the applicant have completed at least one semester as a permanent staff ... in opinion?". David Maly addressed why these requirements were not met.

For clarification, Franks Serpas III informed everyone that the editorial adviser is the person who circles the responses on the certification section of the application, not the applicant themselves. He and Dave Player also provided some historical perspective with regard to requirement number six.

In response to a question about working for both the Horn and The Daily Texan, Laura Wright clarified that the potential for conflicts of interest is the reason why someone cannot work for both The Daily Texan and a competitor at the same time. However, it is ultimately up to the discretion of the editor-in-chief or managing editor if an individual can work for both.

Riley Brands was asked about the structure of the copy desk, the role of a standards editor, reaching out to graduate students and the Greek community, the tone of the newspaper, his position on vetoing articles that he disagrees with, how he would deal with controversy, and his experience with working online.

Frank Serpas III confirmed that letters of recommendation continue to be a requirement for the editor-in-chief application and that transcripts for both candidates are on file, but were excluded from the board report to maintain privacy.

The board entered closed session at 1:29 pm.

The meeting was called back to open session at 1:51 pm.

Mary Dunn made a motion to certify Riley Brands to run for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan in the upcoming election. Robert Quigley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mary Dunn made a motion to certify David Maly to run for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan in the upcoming election. Dave Player seconded the motion. The motion failed to pass.

Meeting Closing

The next Texas Student Media Board meeting will be on February 21st, 2014.

Heidi Toprac made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 pm.