

Committee on Student Media (COSM) Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Time: 9:32 AM – 10:49 AM

Location: SU 1.601 Conference Room / Microsoft Teams

Recorder: Audrey Venderbush

In-Person Attendees (12):

- Dr. McClain Watson
- Dr. Gene Fitch
- Jenni Hufferberger
- Jonathan Stewart
- Wade Crowder
- Jill Blevins
- Jimmie Markham
- Farhan Iqbal
- Joshua Kalakoti
- Sasha Wu
- Caleb Jenkins
- Lauren Rodriguez

Microsoft Teams Attendees (3):

- Jackson Logue
- Jane Burkhardt
- Audrey Venderbush

Total Attendees: 15

1. 9:32 – 9:37 Call to Order, Introductions

Facilitator: Dr. McClain Watson

2. 9:37 – 10:09 Critiques / Feedback to Student Media Leaders

AMP – Editor-in-Chief: Sasha Wu

What does *AMP* have going on right now?

- Instagram following has risen

- Interest in *AMP* has risen
 - Regarding *AMP*'s team members
 - They've had to turn people away due to overwhelming numbers
- Goals for the summer:
 - Reassessing how recruitment is handled
 - Updating *AMP*'s stylebook
 - Layout, copy editing

Suggestions for *AMP* from COSM members:

- Less swearing, rage-baiting, and mockery within the issues
- Mobile web page needs some work
- Consider crafting a mission statement on the website's "About" page

Radio UTD – Station Manager: Caleb Jenkins

What does Radio UTD have going on right now?

- Radio has a high DJ retention rate this year
 - 24 DJs returning
 - Transitioning from 3-hour programming to 2-hour programming
- Sense of community has been strengthened
 - Improved training processes
- Communication Innovation Initiative
 - Introducing a phone line where people can call into Radio
 - Altering the way Radio's comments work
 - Censoring certain comments
 - Collaborating with the other outlets to display a reel on TV within the Student Media suite
- Expected to have 16-18 trainees this coming semester
 - Sunday programming was removed, but with enough DJs it will be brought back

Suggestions for Radio UTD from COSM members:

- Take some trips to radio stations throughout the semesters
 - Experience how a professional radio station runs
- FM broadcasting?

UTD TV – Station Manager: Lauren Rodriguez

What does UTD TV have going on right now?

- Applied to 14 film festivals
 - Partnered with SUAAB for the Cosmic Film Festival
 - Biggest turnout in history at 18 films
- The plan this fall is to produce more short film content

- Anthology series
- Music video show
- Instagram reels
- Wants to continue prioritizing networking opportunities
 - Bring in more people from the industry
- Mentor/mentee program
 - Train new members that have never been on set

Suggestions for UTD TV from COSM members:

- Collaborate with *The Mercury* on a news show
- Be aware of members utilizing UTD TV as a platform of their own at the expense of campus coverage, etc.
- Create a UTD TV Student Media promotional video

***The Mercury* – Editor-in-Chief: Jane Burkhardt**

What does *The Mercury* have going on right now?

- A list of what is to be “tackled” first
- Ideas for organizing the list and creating a plan of action
- Recruiting members
 - Organization Fair

3. 10:09 – 10:28 Determine Process for Updating Bylaws

- There are certain items within the Student Media bylaws that need to be addressed, clarified, added, revised, and shaped up
 - Examples:
 - The use of AI
 - Ownership of Student Media social media accounts
- A subcommittee will be established
 - A co-leader will be chosen to run said subcommittee
 - The four outlet heads will be invited
 - Student representatives may be chosen if the outlet heads do not have time to participate in the subcommittee
 - The outlet heads will have the final say on whether or not they decide to take action on the bylaws
 - People outside the subcommittee will be allowed input
 - Must be somehow affiliated with Student Media
 - Anyone on COSM is also welcome
 - The subcommittee will meet 2-3 times over the summer before August’s COSM meeting
 - 60-90 minute meetings

- A Teams chat will be created to facilitate communication between the members of the subcommittee between meetings
 - Proposed revisions will be introduced before August's COSM meeting
 - Anything can be changed by COSM, or voted down
 - Let Dr. McClain Watson know if you'd like to serve on the subcommittee by 10:00 AM on Thursday, June 19, 2025
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4. 10:28 – 10:42 Discuss / Vote Archivist Request

Facilitator: Dr. McClain Watson

- Discussed pros of adding the archivist to COSM
 - Student Media/COSM would be able to work directly with the library to archive, digitize documents, etc.
 - It would streamline the archiving process
 - The library may be more motivated to assist Student Media/COSM in archiving
 - “Obligated”
 - The proposed archivist (Dr. Thomas Allen) has been a part of the library for several years and holds extensive experience
- Discussed cons of adding the archivist to COSM
 - It would be another individual on COSM that is not a student
 - COSM is fairly new and does not currently need to be adding more members
 - It is a process that includes going through the HOP Committee, stakeholders, etc.
 - Despite not having an official archivist, Student Media has done an adept job of archiving themselves throughout the years
 - The library hasn't offered to help Student Media archive in the past, despite several attempts from Student Media staff members
 - They may not have the right resources
 - Limited staffing, financial interests.

Motion: Jimmie Markham moved to vote on whether or not to add Dr. Thomas Allen to COSM

Second: ? seconded

Vote: Unanimously against

Outcome: Dr. Thomas Allen will not be added to COSM

Suggestion: Respond to Dr. Thomas Allen in a way that shows Student Media/COSM's interest in partnering with the library in the future

5. 10:42 – 10:47 Discuss / Vote *AMP* Fee Structure Change

Facilitator: Jenni Hufferberger

- Proposal:
 - *AMP* would like to split their Web/Copy Editor stipend position into two different roles
 - Web Editor: earning \$150/month for 9 months
 - Copy Editor earning \$150/month for 9 months

Motion: Jill Blevins moved to vote on whether or not the proposal will be endorsed by COSM

Second: ? seconded

Vote: Unanimously for

Outcome: Splitting *AMP*'s Web/Copy Editor stipend position into two separate stipend positions will be endorsed by COSM when the fee committee meets in the fall

6. 10:47 – 10:49 Adjournment

Facilitator: Dr. McClain Watson

Final question: Is there going to be another vote for *The Mercury* Managing Editor?

Answer: A Managing Editor for *The Mercury* will eventually be hired.