

MINUTES – CHMR-FM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, January 15th, 2007

CALL TO ORDER — Monday, January 15th, 2007 at 13:10.

In attendance:

Craig Peterman (Technical Director, CHMR-FM)
Peter Morris (MUN)
Katherine Giroux-Bougard (MUN Students' Union)
Hans Rollmann (CHMR-FM)
Kathy Rowe (Station Manager, CHMR-FM)
Fred Hutton (Community)
Stella Magalios (MUN Students' Union)
Ernst Rollmann (CHMR-FM)

1. Ratification of minutes

This item was tabled. The minutes from the previous meeting disappeared during the course of a serious accident experienced by the minute-taker.

2. Report from radio station manager

Rowe distributed copies of her written report for the semester, identifying some of the highlights for the Board and offering to answer any questions from Board members.

Morris reported that an additional highlight was the fact that MUN Marketing & Communications has begun producing podcasts this year in collaboration with CHMR-FM. The podcasts are produced by Marketing & Communications staff at CHMR-FM studios and with the assistance of CHMR-FM personnel. The podcasts are put online on the university website and CHMR-FM is also able to broadcast them on-air. He noted this initiative has been extremely successful and mutually beneficial.

Giroux-Bougard reported she has had a number of conversations with Dean of Student Affairs & Services Dr. Lilly Walker about how best to promote the station and to reach students. Giroux-Bougard said she proposed broadcasting CHMR-FM in the University Centre Food Court, which is now operated by the university. She said Walker responded positively to the idea and was interested in discussing it further.

E. Rollmann said if the only thing preventing the university from moving forward on this initiative was concern about the content of broadcasts, it would easily be possible to produce special programs for the purposes of broadcasting in the Food Court, so as to ensure that content was suitable.

Morris said he thought this was an excellent idea. He said it would engage the campus community even more with the station. He suggested pursuing this initiative in other areas on campus as well, such as the Engineering cafeteria and The Works.

Rowe said she thought this would attract a great deal more advertising.

Hutton said he was also very excited about this idea. He said when he attended university the station was broadcast in campus buildings and this was one of the main ways that students found out about CHMR-FM.

Giroux-Bougard said she would investigate the matter further and report back to the Board.

3. Composition of the Board

Giroux-Bougard reported she has been trying to contact School of Music professor Paul Bendsza but so far has been unsuccessful in reaching him. She said she heard a rumour he might be retiring. She noted that two Board meetings have passed with no contact. She said she was therefore looking for recommendations for another university representative to fill the vacant position.

E. Rollmann provided some suggestions including Jim Moore from Education and Janet Benger from the English As A Second Language Program, both of whom have integrated the station into their course or program offerings. Other Board members said they would try to think of additional candidates to suggest.

4. By-law Amendments

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Giroux-Bougard explained that the Students' Union was in the process of amending its bylaws, including the 'Student Media' section of the bylaws. She noted that this section included references to the Student Media Levy which needed to be updated. The current bylaws outline the process by which the levy is to be collected and disbursed to CHMR-FM and The Muse. She noted however that The Muse has since become autonomous and the university has arbitrarily taken a portion of the media levy and disburses it directly to The Muse. She said the bylaws need to be updated to reflect this new reality, and to indicate that the Students' Union no longer has control over either The Muse nor its half of the media levy. Various forms of wording were proposed and discussed at some length. Morris expressed strong concern that The Muse was able to arbitrarily divert a portion of the Students' Union's media levy. He said it appeared to him to reflect a loss of process.

Giroux-Bougard said she would further discuss wording options with the CHMR Station Manager and would email members with options if necessary.

5. Staffing Issues

Rowe reported that News Director Rory Hinchey has resigned his position. She said the News Director position is in the process of now being advertized. She sought advice on the hiring process and composition of the Hiring Committee.

Morris expressed concern at the prospect of the Board undertaking hiring. He felt this should not be the role of the Board and suggested the Students' Union's hiring committee should undertake the hiring process.

H. Rollmann noted that at a number of other campus/community radio stations it is typically the Board of Directors of the radio station which undertakes hiring.

Rowe noted that the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunication Commission has established strong policy around the roles and responsibilities of Boards of Directors of campus/community radio stations, and these policies suggest to her that it is the role of the Board of Directors to undertake the hiring process.

Rowe and H. Rollmann expressed their uncertainty over whether their membership in the same union local as the vacant position would place them in a position of conflict of interest if they volunteered to serve on the hiring committee, particularly due to the internal posting mechanism. No consensus was reached on whether or not this would be the case. Other Board members noted that time constraints would prevent them from serving on the hiring committee.

Giroux-Bougard and Magalios volunteered to serve on the hiring committee, along with former News Director Hinchey who had volunteered to assist with this process. They said they would report back to the Board on candidates in a timely fashion.

6. Fundraising

Giroux-Bougard said she had been discussing with the Station Manager the possibility of organizing a formal dinner in celebration of the 20th anniversary of CHMR going FM. She said she had checked out options. The Fairmont had a great deal of space however it was also extremely expensive to rent. The Junior Common Room in Gushue Hall on campus was significantly smaller but also significantly cheaper. She reviewed the prices for rental and catering options. She said the Junior Common Room appeared to her to be the best option. She suggested they could organize an event for April and invite CHMR alumni. She thought a ticket range of \$45-\$50 a ticket would cover all the costs and perhaps raise some additional funds as well.

Morris said he really wanted to see CHMR-FM get something positive and tangible out of an initiative like this. He said he wanted to ensure it really boosted alumni involvement and support of the station.

Hutton suggested getting in touch with some alumni first in order to see what they thought of the idea, and what kind of an event they would be interested in. He said formal dinners can be a great deal of work to organize. He said he receives invitations to such dinners all the time, and ignores most of them. He said he thought it would be more exciting to hold an event like a wine and cheese in the new station itself. He said he believed alumni would be more interested in, and likely to attend, an event that took place in the station itself.

Giroux-Bougard said she loved the idea of a wine and cheese in the new station.

Morris suggested that the university's department of Alumni Affairs would probably be willing to help out as well.

Giroux-Bougard said she would continue developing plans for this event and would report back at the next meeting.

7. Other Business

Morris asked whether the Board needed to approve the station's latest budget. Giroux-Bougard replied that had already happened at the last Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 14:25