

# **MINUTES – CHMR-FM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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## **CALL TO ORDER –Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

### **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**

MOTION to adopt the minutes of the January 15, 2007 Board meeting (Giroux-Bougard/Magalios).  
CARRIED.

### **2. Reports Programming**

E. Rollmann presented a report from the Programming Department. He provided a brief overview of the report's highlights. He noted a dramatic increase in diversity programming, including both Japanese and French language programs produced live in studio, as well a growing variety of MUN course-based programming (produced as part of their coursework by students in the departments of French and Spanish and the Faculty of Education). He also noted the station had participated in the Kidz on Kampus program and had added additional popular review and literary programs.

Morris congratulated E. Rollmann on his report and said the station was doing excellent work in providing high quality and creative programming. He asked how many hours the station was currently broadcasting on-air. E. Rollmann replied that the station is currently broadcasting 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He said on average live programming is featured between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00am each day, and overnight programming is automated although most of it consists of locally generated in-studio programming recorded specifically for that purpose.

Morris said he thought CHMR-FM was doing a fantastic job of engaging and interacting with the wider university community. He suggested that it might be a good idea to contact Denyse Lynde who is involved in directing the Media and Communication Diploma program and seeing whether she would be interested in integrating the station into that program somehow. E. Rollmann noted that MUN Drama has also been doing live radio plays over the air, and that MUN Debating has been doing live performances over the air as well.

#### **News**

Giroux-Bougard reported that the Board's sub-committee had hired the new News Director. She said after the position was advertized, ten candidates applied for the position. She said Bob Earle conducted by far the best interview and was declared the successful candidate.

#### **Fundraising/Social/Music**

Rowe presented a report from the Music Department and included information on some of the station's recent fundraising and social initiatives. She briefly provided some of the highlights of her report. She noted that Rick Lambe has approached the station to solicit on-air advertizing in exchange for a percentage of the ad revenues and she has high hopes for this initiative.

Hutton asked how the new News Director was doing. Rowe replied that he was doing extremely well. She said he has expressed a great deal of enthusiasm and that the News Department volunteers have also been extremely enthusiastic about the News Department's new initiatives. She said he has already been holding regular News Department meetings and they have been well attended so far.

## **PAGE 2 – CHMR-FM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

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Hutton noted he missed the earlier part of the meeting and asked how many people had applied for the job. Giroux-Bougard replied that ten applications were received from across the country, and of these seven looked suitable and were given interviews. She said it was an extremely long and involved process and the interviews had been typically an hour or two in length and involved both written and oral segments. She said the process had been very thorough and Bob Earle had clearly excelled throughout the application process.

### **3. Bylaws and Ongoing Issues**

Giroux-Bougard provided information on an ongoing situation pertaining to CHMR's license renewal. She explained that two individuals – one former DJ and one current DJ – had indicated their intentions to submit an intervention with the CRTC over the matter of CHMR's license renewal. She provided further background on the two individuals, saying they appeared to have harboured resentment over the way the station currently operated for some time. She said they had encouraged the recent spate of negative stories in the Muse about CHMR. She said as far as she has been able to ascertain, the overwhelming majority of station volunteers are extremely happy with the way the station is currently operating and is currently structured, and these two individuals appear to represent a very small minority. She said that other DJ's have in fact complained about the conduct and behaviour of these two, and about the tension that arises due to their presence at the station. She said they have repeatedly been meeting and asking questions of the station staff and the Students' Union executive, and despite repeated meetings and answers they continue to seek meetings to ask the same questions. She said they had now submitted a letter to the CHMR Board of Directors, outlining the very same questions they have repeatedly been asking everybody. She said while she could answer some of the questions in the letter fairly easily, she felt that others required Board direction. She noted one of the issues they raised was whether Board meetings should be public or private. She noted that the precedent and the current situation was that the meetings are private.

Morris said he felt very strongly that the Board meetings should continue to be private. He said the business which is conducted should be public and should be publicly reported, but he said he felt the meeting itself should be private and only consist of Board members. He suggested posting the minutes of Board meetings publicly after they have been ratified.

The general consensus supported Morris' comments. It was determined the minutes of Board meetings would, on a go-forward basis, be posted publicly following ratification. Morris noted that although the conduct of the Board in regards to meetings has in the past sometimes been more informal, the Board has consistently acted with good intentions and people should not feel concerned about the allegations raised by the two DJ's.

Hutton asked for further information on the two DJ's questions and on current station operations. Rowe explained that the station has significantly formalized both its operations and its training over the past few years. They noted that whereas staff used to be democratically elected volunteers, that has evolved over the decades into a permanent complement of full-time paid staff. Morris said these processes are natural ones and that they have dramatically benefited the station. He said he supports the current structure very strongly. He said the two DJ's have every right to ask for some sort of a collective decision-making structure, and that the Board has every right to decline their request.

Giroux-Bougard confirmed that the consensus was that Board meetings would remain private but the dates of future meetings and the ratified minutes of previous meetings would be posted publicly. She asked what people thought about the idea of holding an annual general meeting which would be public. Considerable discussion ensued on the pros and cons of holding a public general meeting. Morris said he thought it might be a good idea and provide people an opportunity to get together. Magalios said her impression was that station members already get together on a regular basis. Rowe confirmed that there are regular departmental meetings held within the station among volunteers interested in those particular areas, and that volunteers also regularly organize social events which are open to all volunteers. She said these processes are open to all volunteers and that they are very well-attended and very collegial and collaborative. Morris said that while he liked the idea of general meetings in principle, his impression was that at this time holding one might prove more disruptive than beneficial. He said that right now if people have problems or issues they should either go to the station management with their issues or approach

the Board if need be. He said these mechanisms should be sufficient to meet the needs of station members.

Giroux-Bougard then raised the suggestion that term limits be established for each of the seats on the Board. She noted that from this point on, the Students' Union seats would be held by the Director of External Affairs, Relations and Communications and the Director of Campaigns (James Farrell and Stella Magalios, respectively).

It was suggested that the terms for CHMR representatives on the Board be staggered 2-year terms beginning in the fall semester 2007. It was suggested that one of the current sitting CHMR representatives step down in the fall and the other one remain on until next September, so as to ensure adequate continuity.

Giroux-Bougard raised the issue of determining a selection process for the CHMR representatives on the Board. Following some discussion, it was determined that holding a general election for the seat among volunteers would not be an appropriate or positive method of selecting the representative. It was decided that interested candidates would apply via a letter to the Board. Giroux-Bougard noted that the two individuals who were submitting an intervention on the license had complained vociferously about the lack of democratic elections for these seats. Morris stated that they were dealing with a Board of Directors, not a constituent assembly, and their demands were inappropriate. He said if they feel they are not being represented adequately by the representatives on the Board, then they should write a letter to the Board explaining precisely what their concerns are.

Giroux-Bougard asked what people thought of the processes surrounding the other representative seats on the Board. The general consensus was that it is often more difficult to find community and faculty/staff members who have sufficient time, interest and background to contribute to the Board and selection and terms for these seats should probably be handled differently.

Giroux-Bougard raised the issue of the continued use of 'MUN Radio Society' in the license application which also appeared to be causing some confusion in the eyes of the two individuals. She said she also found it difficult to explain the continued use of the name. Peterman explained that the name was used solely out of a sense of historical tradition. Morris confirmed this and provided further background information. They felt it should not be as big an issue as the two individuals were making it out to be. Morris noted the use of the name was similar to the way in which 'The Works' is the publicly promoted yet completely unofficial name of the Memorial University Recreation Complex Inc. He said it is normal to come up with catchy names to use instead of long and boring incorporated titles. He said that is normal marketing technique and does not imply any attempt at subterfuge.

Hutton agreed that it made sense and that it should be explained to the two individuals that 'MUN Radio Society' was simply being used for historical purposes, while for real legal purposes the name of the station was CHMR-FM.

Giroux-Bougard said she would write a letter reflecting all the discussion and views of the Board on these issues, and would email it to the Board for approval prior to sending it to the two individuals.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.**