

**WEIU Radio & TV Center Advisory Board Meeting
October 6, 2022 at 12:00pm (In Person)**

Present: Matt Gill, Anne Thibault-Geen, Everett Lau, Daniel Corrie, August Biernbaum, Dean Barbara Bonnekessen, Jeff Owens, Ke'an Armstrong

1. Welcome & Introductions

Gill asked members to introduce themselves. In attendance were: Barbara Bonnekessen, Dean of EIU's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Matt Gill, Chair of EIU's School of Communication & Journalism; Jeff Owens, Interim General Manager of WEIU; Daniel Corrie, Corrie Appraisal & Consulting, Inc.; Anne Thibault Geen, Associate Professor of Theatre at EIU; August E. Biernbaum, EIU student representative); Everett Lau, WTHI reporter and weekend meteorologist; and Ke'an Armstrong, Publicity/Promotions Associate of WEIU.

2. General Manager's Report

Engineering projects finished:

- All are replacing equipment and software that is 10-15 years old or more.
- Avid Newsroom and Production systems
- Telestream Flip Factory upgraded to Vantage
- Caption-Maker upgraded

Current being updated:

- MC video servers
- MC automation system
- MC switcher
- EAS alert system
- FM video production system

Future plans:

- Studio Cameras
- Teleprompter system
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News Station Vehicles were purchased with COVID Cares funding to allow for transportation for news and television production.

Daniel Corrie asked what the lifespan was on the new hardware and technology that was recently updated.

Jeff answered with approximately 10-15 years with maintenance and service.

Dan also mentioned that he was glad to see that the COVID Cares funding was put to good use for WEIU.

News Watch updates:

WEIU – News Watch

May Graduates Employed:

Stephen Elmore employed – 5News – Fayetteville, Arkansas – Meteorologist

Tristan Thomas employed – KXMC – Sports Anchor Reporter
Jonathan Fong – News Reporter – WQAD News 8
Jackson Bayer – Promotional Videographer – Rural King Supply

Illinois News Broadcasters Association

Student Silver Dome Awards - Winners will be announced at the IBA2022 October 25th

Finalists

Best T.V. Newscast - News Watch

Best T.V. Package - Jenna Minor

Best T.V. Sports Package - Jenna Minor and Tristan Thomas are each nominated for separate stories

News Watch is enjoying and thankful for recent new equipment purchases including new camera gear, computers and vehicles. News Watch students spent the first two weeks of the semester training on new software. News Watch launched 30-minute shows on Monday September 12th. Currently, 20 students of various majors are volunteering in the news department.

Hit-Mix 88.9 WEIU FM Updates:

WEIU-FM

-Made the Adopt A Watt goal again this year - \$15,700

-Currently 33 students in the program

-Student led remote at the Charleston Fire Department Open House

-One students and two graduates up for IBA-U Silver Dome Awards

Heather Vosburgh (Sr. – Woodstock IL) – Best Radio Aircheck

Tristan Thomas (Graduate-Mahomet IL) – Best Radio Sports Story for Mattoon football coach Troy Johnson Retiring

Jonathan Fong (Graduate-Normal IL) – Best Radio News Story for Ukraine Russia War

-New cameras coming in the studio

-Started a Saturday two hour morning show

-Students getting involved in music programming

-Students very involved in Podcasts

Hit-Mix 88.9 Radio Remotes

Most recent Charleston Fire Department Annual Open House

Coming Up: EIU Homecoming Parade

TV Production:

Since May, the WEIU Production Team has been hard at work producing quality local television for our 22-county viewing area. This includes:

- Crawford County: This is Our Story, Program, Live Night, & Red Carpet Premiere

- EIU Spring Commencement

-13 episodes of Season 15 of Being Well

- 13 episodes of Season 12 of The Paw Report

- 11 episodes of Seasons 8 & 9 City Spotlight

- A live one-hour, call-in special called Being Well The Pandemic Panel: Live

-5 episodes out of 6 for Season 2 of Take a Hike: The Mini-Series airing in Spring 2023

In addition to a variety of client productions as well as creating WEIU's new mission statement and branding material for "Local With Purpose".

These projects had varying levels of help from our three WEIU-TV Summer Interns.

These productions also occurred through the upgrade of edit bays and AVID editing software.

August Biernbaum asked for more explanation on Crawford County program.

Jeff answered by explaining what the "Our Story" series was and that we have future plans for more episodes on surrounding communities/counties.

WEIU Passport

Promotional/Fundraising Campaign in progress to gain new members. This is a \$60 annual donation to receive thousands of streaming programs from PBS and American Public Television in partnership with PBS.

Dean Barbara Bonnekesen asked how WEIU handled Equity and Inclusion among our staff, students and programming.

Jeff answered by saying we are always working on ways and looking for new ways to diversify our student staff, professional staff and provide programs that are inclusive. He asked the board to share ideas.

Anne Thibault-Geen mentioned student involvement and focusing on anti-racism. Also mentioned involving students and student organizations on campus through the independent music scene to showcase students artists.

Jeff mentioned a radio show that has aired called "Illinoise" and how it has showcased local artists.

August Biernbaum asked more about the student opportunities, hands on training and recruitment.

Jeff answered by stating that Hit-Mix 88.9 radio offers informational meetings every Friday, they also teach responsibility along with broadcast skills. WEIU listens to students and tries to meet the needs/requests of students. WEIU also offers tours for recruitment and participates in EIU Open Houses.

Jeff also mentioned working with Ke'an Armstrong's 11 year old son, Brayden to produce a question/answer type of program with middle school aged students called School talk. Brayden will interview students and ask a variety of questions. This may be a television program or a social media program. TBD.

Jeff mentioned that WEIU has given 20 tours with 478 people since April 8, 2022

Future Goals

Move the fall meeting to later date in the Fall Semester, maybe first week in December.

Ask for more involvement from the Advisory Board as well as input and collaboration.

Next meeting Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 12:00pm in the WEIU Conference Room in Buzzard Hall

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm