

The Link Publication Society Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 2017, 4 p.m.
1455 de Maisonneuve W. Blvd.
Room H-649

Matt D'Amours, president of the Board of Directors, is chairing the meeting

1. Call to order at 4:16

2. Election of a secretary

Vince Morello is temporary secretary

3. Reading and approval of the agenda

Agenda approved

4. Reading and the approval of the 2016 AGA Minutes

Jonathan Cook motions to approve the minutes

Jon Milton seconds

Passed unanimously

5. By-law amendments

First: Presentation and discussion on magazine proposal

Summary of key points:

Clement Liu, former creative director and president of The Link BoD:

Liu spoke against transitioning into a magazine multiple times during the discussion. He asked about why online content was being pushed more now as opposed to 2011 when the first transition was made. As well, he asked what the specifics of the team's recruitment and advertising strategies were going to be. He also asked whether the survey that was conducted during Volume 36 was consulted for the transition (the answer was, not in its entirety). Liu said a weekly print schedule is important to making weekly content and that a newspaper is just a medium—meaning that anything can be done to make it look as nice as a magazine.

Carl Bindman, current creative director:

Bindman presented mockups of what he could do with The Link as a magazine. He said that the transition would make it easier to have a greater online presence. He added that he has advertising strategies in mind like creating pamphlets to put into Concordia Student Union orientation bags.

Tristan D'Amours, former sports online editor and current coordinating editor:

D'Amours said that the online content with a weekly print paper has been generally inconsistent. He added that the transition would allow the team to open up its online coverage.

Kelsey Litwin, former current affairs editor and current editor-in-chief:

Litwin presented a tentative production cycle schedule if *The Link* transitioned into a magazine and explained the new responsibilities of each editing position. She said during the discussion that there would be two workshops held each month to ensure that people still come into the office. She added that stories that while editors will have more flexibility now with the change in format, strict deadlines will still be upheld as much as possible.

Alex Bailey, former photo editor and current contributor:

Bailey also opposed the transition to a magazine. She spoke in favour of newspaper, explaining that having physical clippings of one's work, especially for photographers, is more valuable than having online printouts. She said she was in favour of transition period to have proof that a magazine works better than a newspaper. She added that online content is not taken as seriously in the grand scheme of *The Link* operations and that student fee-leivies should be going towards the interests of the readers as opposed to writers.

Laura Lalonde, former creative director and current director on the Board:

Lalonde said it's difficult when you have to create something at the same time as something else, referring to having to plan the special issues differently during regular weekly production cycles. She said that the team should jump straight into the magazine as long as the template is set up and everything is organized. Lalonde took over as secretary midway through the meeting.

Morag Rahn-Campbell, current graphics editor:

Rahn-Campbell said that a magazine is far more attractive platform for graphic artists and illustrators where they become more invested in than the newspaper structure.

Vince Morello, former sports editor and current co-news editor:

Morello said that online readership has surpassed print pickup, which is evident by the number of copies remaining on newsstands each week. Shifting the focus to online daily content, he said, is a good thing because it creates harder deadlines for writers. Morello tried to end the discussion and call a vote, which was shut down.

Harrison Milo-Rahajason, current sports online editor:

Milo-Rahajason said he has already begun the process to push for consistent online content daily. He did express concern for the seriousness of legitimate daily content.

Brandon Blagdon-Johnston, former photo editor, editor-in-chief, and current director on the Board:

In response to a claim that magazines aren't the best platforms to showcase photography, Blagdon-Johnston said that with the ability to have more photo essays and larger images, magazines make photos less secondary than in newspapers.

Ocean DeRouchie, former fringe editor and current copy editor:

DeRouchie said she could speak to both sides of the argument as to whether The Link should transition or not. She said that there is a disparity between online and print content in the current setup, referencing the phrase, “just online,” said when a piece doesn’t make it into print.

Alexander Milton motions to extend question period to 5:45

Ocean DeRouchie seconds

19 in favour

2 abstentions

Motion passes

Extension discussion period end reached.

Jonathan Cook moves to call to vote by public....

Alexander Milton seconds

Those in favour of secret ballots

4 in favour

Those in favour of raise hand vote

Majority in favour

Publicly vote

Reading the motion

MOTION TO CHANGE THE LINK'S STRUCTURE

Whereas the media industry is increasingly moving to digital platforms and *The Link*, as part of this industry, should be transitioning with it.

Whereas weekly print pick-up has been decreasing in recent years while printing costs have been rising.

Whereas as a student publication, resources and funding are limited and changes are necessary to position *The Link* at the forefront of a student media landscape.

Whereas our website and associated social media platforms have large and growing audiences.

Be it resolved that By-law Eight to be modified as follow:

Publication Requirements

Article One. ***The Link* shall decide its own publishing dates and copy deadlines.**

Article ~~One~~ Two. The Society shall publish at least **twenty-five (25)** ~~twenty seven (27)~~ printed and online issues of *The Link* during each publishing year **starting September 1** ~~starting the last week of August~~ **and ending mid April. At least (7) print editions must be published during each publishing year.**

Two (2) additional online issues shall be published: one will be completed by the beginning of June; a second shall be completed by the first week of August.

i) An online issue is defined as seven days of reporting and production.

Article ~~Two~~ Three. The Society may publish any other publications that it deems desirable and necessary.

Motion to adopt the changes by Jonathan Cook
Seconded by Jon Milton
In favour of motion: Majority
Rejecting motion: 2
Abstain: 2
Motion passes

Be it further resolved that in order to make the transition as described requires a series of amendments to by-laws, that the by-laws, except for by-law "FOURTEEN", are amended as presented.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE LINK PUBLICATION SOCIETY BY-LAW FOURTEEN

Whereas the Board of Directors need to make changes to the Lettres Patentes of the Society.

Whereas the Quebec law stipulates that these changes must be adopted during a Special General Assembly.

Be it resolved that BY-LAW FOURTEEN
Special General Assembly **to be modified as follows:**

Article One. Special General Assemblies may be called by:

- i) The Board of Directors of the Society.
- ii) A two-thirds vote of at least half the Staff.
- iii) The presentation of a petition of at least one hundred (100) members in good standing of the Society to the chairperson of the Board.

Article Two. Quorum for a Special General Assembly **called by the Board of Directors is thirty (30) people.**

Article Three. Quorum for a Special General Assembly called by a two-thirds vote of at least half the Staff or by petition is two-and-one-half (2.5) per cent of the members in good standing of the Society. ~~except for the filling of a vacancy on the Board as provided for in By-law Four which shall require quorum of thirty (30).~~
Reading of By-law fourteen (now thirteen)

Motion to adopt the changes by Carl Bindman
Seconded by Jonathan Cook
In favour of motion: Majority
Against: 0
Abstain: 2
Motion passes

BY-LAWS CHANGES (see attachment)

Reading of the by-laws and changes.

Highlights: Editing spelling and capitalization, change from "paper" to "publication", wording, no longer members of CUP, "The Link" to "Society Staff", By-law five Article Four removed, By-law five Article 12 removed, by-law eight Article Nine removed

Motion to adopt proposed by-law changes by Kelsey Litwin
Seconded by Jon Milton
In favour of changes in by-laws: Majority
Against: 0
Abstain: 3
Motion: passes

6. Board of directors report for 2016-2017
Brandon Johnston-Blagdon reads Matt D'Amours report.

POINT: Brandon Johnston-Blagdon explain that some people have to leave and wish to move agenda point 11 "Election of 2 members at large and 2 former staff for the Board of Directors" to agenda point 7
Julia Miele seconds
Majority in favour

7. Election of 2 members at large and 2 former staff for the Board of Directors
2 members at large
Johnston-Blagdon reading of Matt D'Amours letter.
Laura Lalonde reads her letter.

2 former staff
Marie Brière de la Hosserye reads her letter.
Brandon Johnston-Blagdon reads his letter.

Jonathan Cook motions to do omnibus vote for all.
Jon Milton seconds
Motion passes.

Jonathan Cook motion to elect all candidates
Carl Bindman seconds
In favour: majority
Abstain: 1
All candidates elected

8. Presentation of the 2015-2016 financial statements
Rachel Boucher present financial statements
Kelsey Litwin motions to approve the financial statements
Carl Bindman seconds
In favour: majority
Abstain: 2
Motion passes

9. Appointment of the auditor
Jonathan Cook motions to have same auditor, Sophie Houle CPA inc.
Seconded by Carl Bindman
In favour: majority
Abstain: 2
Passes

10. Presentation of financial statements as of the last day of February 2017

Rachel Boucher presents financial statements as of February

Jon Milton motions to approve the financial statements

Kelsey Litwin seconds

In favour: majority

Abstain: 2

Motion passes

11. Presentation of the 2017-2018 Preliminary budget

Rachel Boucher presents financial statements as of February

Deficit expected next year

Jonathan Cook motions to accept the preliminary budget

Kelsey Litwin seconds.

In favour: majority

Abstain: 1

12. Other business

No other business

13. End of the assembly

Motion to adjourn at 6:50 by Jonathan Cook

Seconded by Jon Milton

Adopted