



Services and Activities Fee Committee Meeting

January 30, 2026 | 1:00 PM | Husky Union Building 303

MINUTES

Call to Order

The SAF Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:59 PM on January 30, 2026.

Roll Call

No.	Name	Position	Attendance
1	Haley Chee	SAF Chair	Present
2	Aiden Reeder	SAF Vice Chair	Present
3	Grace Clarke	ASUW Representative	Excused Absence
4	Abraham Gibson	ASUW Representative	Present
5	Moises Jacobo	ASUW Representative	Present
6	Tammy Pham	ASUW Representative	Present
7	Riley Talamantes	GPSS VP of Finance	Present
8	Gen Conley	GPSS Representative	Present
9	Kayla Kenyon	GPSS Representative	Present
10	Helena Ochoa Morena	GPSS Representative	Present
11	Alec Solemslie	GPSS Representative	Present
12	Lincoln Johnson	SAF Advisor – Student Life	Present
13	Kristian Wiles	SAF Advisor – Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity	Present

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the January 30, 2026, SAF Committee Meeting was approved.

Motioned by Tammy Pham, seconded by Aiden Reeder; unanimous vote to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Public Comment

Nominations & Elections

Old Business

New Business

Discussion

1. Budget Presentations

Student Media

- Speakers:
 - **John Tomasic**, Publisher
 - **Diane Chang**, Co-Advertising Manager
 - **Prescott Jain**, Co-Advertising Manager
 - **Anikka Stanley**, Managing Editor
 - **Morgan Bortnick**, Editor-in-Chief

John and Morgan gave an introduction of Student Media.

SAF Committee Questions For Student Media

Aiden – Have you received pressure or threats from the university, federal, or state?

- **Morgan** answered no but acknowledged that it is something that's always looming over, given the current situation.
- **John** said that this was mentioned in the budget packet. If there's any funding crunch, people would look at Student Media because they don't like the coverage. He gave examples of other universities (ex: University of Texas, University of Georgia) that have shut down the student press.

Riley – What type of student professional development exists now?

- **Morgan** said that almost everything that happens at The Daily is professional development. She explained that she gained more hands-on experience at The Daily than in her communication/journalism class. Alumni connections, internships, and workshops also help people build up their professional skills.
- **John** said there is a lot of professional development in-house. However, there are also greater opportunities beyond UW, at conferences. He gave an example that it costs \$300 to send 4 people to a conference in Washington, D.C. Bringing outside speakers and putting people in an internship fair is also other opportunities.

Gen – Regarding professional development, how will these opportunities come back to The Daily and be shared with the campus community?

- **Morgan** shared that she has gone to three conferences. She learned a lot of materials, connected with professionals from prestigious institutions, and brought this knowledge back to The Daily staff and students. Resources include PowerPoints and things that she has learned.
- **Diane** said the Daily offers a unique way to learn about sales and advertising. She talked about the importance of funding for the eight account executives and the importance of students getting exposure to the Daily.
- **John** added that conferences offer intense workshops. It can cover how to cover a protest, journalism ethics, case studies from universities about administrative pushback, and networking opportunities.
- **Morgan** shared that she learned about how journalists stay safe while covering the George Floyd story and the procedure that their paper implements. She added that she feels safe passing this information to her staff now, given the current situation with ICE.

Tammy – Has Student Media attempted to integrate generative AI usage in its work? If so, in what ways? If not, why, and are there any plans on doing so?

- **Morgan** said she and Annika wrote and implemented an AI policy in their handbook. The Daily does not utilize the use of GenAI. However, they can allow it to be used for transcription, on the condition that it must be verified so that there is no misquoting or misrepresentation. GenAI takes away the integrity and truth from the product. The staff needs to take the learning steps and not use AI for everything, it's cheating the public and misrepresenting The Daily.
- **John** said that AI is developing fast. He explained that the human story is warmer and better, depending on journalists going out and talking to people. He also acknowledged that GenAI is a good tool that can help with headline writing. The question is how to use this tool best.
- **Tammy** followed up on whether the AI policy might change in the future.
- **Annika** said that they've talked to their staff and editors. At this point, they do not want GenAI in their work at all. However, this is an ongoing conversation. For now, they want to limit GenAI as much as possible, as it's unreliable, there is environmental danger, and true human reporting is where you get reliable information. At this point, they are happy with their strict AI policy. They will talk more with their editors and photographers.
- **John** added that it's not what they are producing that matters. It's teaching the skill, writing, producing, and contacting people. He noted that it's the people skills that really matter.

Aiden – What does the new graduate student position offer that is not covered by HUB financial services now that your accountant is gone?

- **John** said that Tom is leaving after 18 years. Tom taught them that they need a front office person for people coming in, students, parents, alumni, etc. He also collects the mail and does everything for the front office. That said, they need somebody there that know Student Media business and can liaise between the editor staff and the sales staff. They're not exactly sure what that position will look like, which is why they will take until the Fall to decide more about the position.
- **Diane** said that Tom was a good middleman for the team. She added that it was amazing to have a middleman between the sales room and the newsroom.

Moises – How do you decide on the compensation for graduate students? Responsibility?

- **John** – It's a part-time position; they want to pay them hourly and make it worthwhile. This is an equity issue; they want the graduate student to make a good salary and be happy. They also looked at how their colleagues in Student Life are paying their graduate students.

Alec – Knowing limitations that SAF has, what is the budget situation in the next two or three years?

- **John** submitted a Bloc Grant from STF and now get \$40,000 a year from them. This covers software licenses, things that must be paid for to keep the technology funding. They asked STF for a \$20,000 increase for their Bloc Grant every two years, and STF encouraged them to write the proposal, which they did. He added that STF will hopefully go up in the next two years. The ad revenue team can also sell more advertising for off-campus housing, Husky helpers, and Husky Marketplace. They've made \$40,000 from off-campus partnerships for housing ads. He noted that they project the revenue for ads to go up.

Haley – Can you talk more about Smirk and Huavoice, not just the Daily?

- **Diane** added that they offer a variety of options for their clients. Some prefer newsletters sent to emails, some prefer Smirk. Smirk has been helpful because it is on social media.
- **John** said that they support Husky Media Group. They do a lot of visitor guides for the campus, including public interest, communication, Dawg maps, and cherry blossom guides. Those do really well, and they can sell a lot of ads for it. For journalism students, this is an opportunity for them to expand their portfolio, with writing, marketing, communication, and PR skills that they can show their potential employer. He praised Smirk's success. They know what they do well, and it's fun to watch how they've established themselves. For Huavoice, they broadcast to the internet. He adds that being a part of Student Media gives them more credibility and acknowledges Huavoice's importance to Chinese international students.

Gen – Have you had any partnership with STLP to supplement technology or gear that you might need for your story?

- **John** said it didn't occur to him that they could do that. He thought that it was more for students and faculty and noted that he would look into it more.

Tammy – Curious if students receive priority for freelancing opportunities. How much are students compensated compared to other student news outlets?

- **Morgan** explained that they have 200 to 250 staff members. Without 22 editors, everyone else is a freelancer. All of their staff are paid per assignment, and every story is about \$15 to \$20. The pay can be adjusted based on how much research is involved or how many reads it gets. This is a discretionary process between the editors and the freelancer. She also explains how they do professional development and that The Daily strives to make sure that people feel comfortable with their expectations as they move into a staff position.
- **Annika** added that their photo section produced the most freelance work, and this takes up most of their freelance budget. With the introduction of three new sections, video, science, and archive. They want to make sure everyone is getting paid fairly for the section that they're writing for. She added The Daily also looks at sourcing and word count to determine payment.
- **Morgan** expressed that many editors she has met are getting paid 1/10th of what they're making and are expected to do twice as much work. She said that they are fortunate to be compensated. At UW, payments encourage and incentivize students to put out their best work.
- **John** added that \$15 or \$20 is not a huge incentive. But it's part of the culture, and students know that they are part of something that's real. These students would stay on, contribute, and go up the ranks at The Daily.

Discussion with Student Media Ended

- **Haley** reminded the Committee to send her a question and a comment for each budget packet, and that everyone must ask at least one question to the units every other week.

Announcements

- **Tammy** gave two announcements.
- ASUW EAC information forum
 - Date: January 30, 2026
 - Time: 5 PM – 6 PM
 - Location: HUB 250
- Queer Prom
 - Date: January 30, 2026
 - Time: 5 PM – 8 PM
 - Location: HUB

Adjournment

The SAF Committee Meeting was called to adjourn at 1:43 PM.

Motioned to adjourn by Riley Talamantes, seconded by Tammy Pham; unanimous vote to adjourn.