

WEIU Radio & TV Center Advisory Board Meeting

November 7, 2024 at 12:00pm

Present: Matt Gill, Angela Jacobs, Everett Lau, Mason Tegeler, Dan Corrie, Ke'an Armstrong, Jeff Owens

Absent: Joe Gisondi, S.M. Walus, Jeffrey Snell, Provost Ryan Hendrickson, Dean Barbara Bonnekessen

1. Welcome & Introductions

Matt Gill – Board Chair welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

2. Updates from Jeff Owens, WEIU General Manager

WEIU-TV News Watch

News Watch is the winners of (2) National College Media Pinnacle Awards!

Best Newscast – Division II

Best Sportscast – Division II

31) students are volunteering in the news department this fall

(8) News Watch students graduated in May 2024

Of those, the following students are employed in broadcasting:

Chandler Smith WCHS-TV W. Virginia Producer

Drew Coffey WQAD, Moline IL Reporter

Harrison Belsanti WQAD, Moline IL Reporter

Payton Hagen Production WAND-TV Director

Awards

2024 Student Silver Dome Awards

2024 – Best TV Newscast – News Watch Team – 1st Place

2024 – Best TV Sports Package – Andrew Spaid – 1st Place

2024 – Best TV Photojournalism – Matt Williamson – 3rd Place

2024 – Best TV Weather – Will Redd, Ben Whitney, Emily Davis – 1st, 2nd, 3rd

2024 – SINBA Awards

2024 – Outstanding Television Newscast – 1st Place

2024 – Outstanding Television News Reporting – 1st Place – Olivia Bennett

2024 – Outstanding Television News Reporting – 2nd Place – Matt Williamson

2024 – Outstanding Television Sports Reporting – 1st Place – Jenna Minor

College Media Association, Pinnacle Awards
2024 – Finalist for Best Newscast and Best video Sportscast

(2) News Watch student will graduate this fall:

Cade Slaughter

Aidan Grady

A group of students helped record and edit Illinois Suite, a collaboration with Paul Johnston of the music department, which showcased his arrangements of several iconic Illinois songs. The documentary program aired several times on WEIU.

- Last spring, our News watch students covered two remarkable events in Central Illinois. Drew Coffey and Aidan Grady traveled to Marshall to cover the solar eclipse and the thousands of people that came to town to watch it. Matt Williamson provided exceptionally well-shot coverage of the funeral of an Arcola sailor killed in the Pearl harbor attack in 1941.

-Several of our graduates went on to jobs in the broadcast field. Jenna minor began work as a sports reporter for WQAD TV in the quad cities, covering. Caitlin Clark in the NCAA finals. Harrison Belsanti and Drew Coffey also began their careers as reporters at WQAD. Karyne Allen took a job as a producer at a station in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, John Wills began work as a producer for WAND -TV in Decatur, and Chandler Smith began producing for a station in West Virginia.

- A student, Olivia Bennett, was accepted into a prestigious summer internship program through Gray Media, and interned with an investigative journalism team in Cleveland.

- Kelly will have details of all the awards won by students, but news watch is also up for some awards through the college media association conference in New Orleans, which is underway now.

- Our news reporters at news watch who are heading out in the field, specifically Matt Williamson and Olivia Bennett, have really stepped up their game this semester and are producing deeply researched and well constructed stories on a weekly basis. At the same time, several of our sports students are taking on field reporting of teams and games around the area. This not only enhances our product, but it also helps them build stronger skills and a more competitive resume.

WEIU-FM

A record 38 EIU Students in the program, plus one kid studying in Japan this year. New Software – going in. Mics. Remotes. EIU Sports

2024 Matt Williamson Dan Marvin Scholarship

2024 Corbin Cox Dan Marvin Scholarship

2024 Marshall Mathers Dan Marvin Scholarship

2024 Olivia Bennett Dan Marvin Scholarship

2024 Nick Bays/John Wills: Outstanding Radio Senior - WEIU

2024: John Wills, Alonna Baisden, Ryan Bevers, Mitchell Cox. 2nd Place - Illinois Broadcasters Association University Silver Dome Award - Best Radio PSA

2024: Drew Coffey 2nd Place - Illinois Broadcasters Association University Silver Dome Award - Best Radio News Story

2024: John Wills 3rd Place - Illinois Broadcasters Association University Silver Dome Award - Best Radio Longform Entertainment Programming

2024: John Wills 2nd Place - CBI National Student Production Awards - Best Feature News Reporting

Lots of kids interning at fm & tv thru their classes. Mattson, Cameron, and Joe – thank you.

WEIU Engineering.

Sept 2023	New Weather Alert System installed
Nov 2023	WEIU is on HULU Live
Nov 2023	New HD Routing switcher installed. Large amount of old analog and standard definition equipment is retired.
Dec 2023	New Audio board installed in Production Control Room
Dec 2023	Students help with streaming Commencement
July 2023	Production Dept gets new JVC cameras and lighting kit
May 2024	Kevin retires, Dennis promoted
June 2024	Don hired as Broadcast Engineer
Oct 2024	Tower camera installed on Buzzard Hall tower
Nov 2024	New OMT software and computers being installed in FM
?	New microphones in FM studio
?	New audio board and mics in FM Production Studio

WEIU TV Programming and Production

From PBS:

Disco: Soundtrack of a Revolution **New 3-part documentary**

Gods of Tennis **New 3-part documentary**

The Green Planet **New 5-part environmental documentary**

Pompeii: The New Dig **New 3-part documentary**

From American Public Television (APT):

51-1 Thu 08/22/24 20:00:00:00 HDBA JANE ADDAMS - TOGETHER WE RISE: AMERICAN STORIES #0H **Documentary with an interview of local historian Stacy Lynn**

EIU Spring Commencement - All three sessions lived streamed by Production Staff, Engineering, and Student assistance on May 4th from Groniger Arena.

EIU Road to Success - Live recording on June 1st, from Groniger Arena by WEIU Engineering, of four EIU Football Legends returning to EIU for a one-night event, hosted by

EIU Athletics. Post-production by WEIU Production Staff, included many graphics and file video of the four EIU Legends. The finished product was an 80 minute program that aired on October 17th on WEIU.

Issues & Attitudes - Live radio program, on Mondays, recorded for TV airing. Student help on the punching of each taping with TV producer.

Being Well - Lacey Spence back as host. Season 17 taped 13 in-studio episodes, plus a one-hour special on FTD, Frontal Temporal Dementia.

Production staff and students worked together on many of these tapings.

The Paw Report - Kelly Goodwin hosted another season of The Paw Report, Season 14. 14 episodes taped in-studio, and on-location, including one in Indiana.

Record number, seven on-location episodes taped for The Paw Report. WEIU Production team, Staff, and Students, worked together on a various recordings of this season of The Paw Report.

City Spotlight - Rameen Karbassoon back hosting. City Spotlight is currently in Season 11 production. City Spotlight is up to 29 communities covered in this program, which began production in 2015. All episodes taped on-location.

Season 4 of **Take A Hike** tapings took place in September and October at various locations in Illinois. Production Staff recorded these episodes, Lacey Spence hosts. New season will debut next Spring, Earth Day, on WEIU.

EIU Fall Update - EIU President Dr. Jay Gatrell's Fall Update, live streamed from Dounda Fine Arts Center, by WEIU Engineering Staff. Live streaming occurred on September 25th.

Coles County Clash Scholastic Bowl - Recording of this 7th edition of this academic competition, took place on October 3rd, at the Dounda Fine Arts Center. Recording was done by WEIU Production Staff, Engineering Staff, Student assistance, and aided by the Dounda Fine Arts Center crew. Post-production took place the day after the recording, for the hour-long program to air on October 5th.

Currently, WEIU Production crew is working on the 19th Our Story program, **Altamont This is Our Story**. 18 stories will be featured on Altamont.

Stories were recorded in Altamont on October 22nd by WEIU Production, Engineering, and Staff. And one final story was recorded at WEIU studios, on Monday of this week.

Finished program will air live on WEIU, December 11th at 7pm.

Upcoming productions...

EIU Fall Commencement Ceremonies will be live streamed by WEIU Production and Engineering on December 14th at Groniger Arena.

And Season 3 of **School Talk** will be happening with student host, Brayden Armstrong back to interview fellow classmates about school related issues. Production will take place in early 2025.

G.A. for TV in the spring. Possible looking at hiring a 900 hr. assistant to Ke'an – who has taken on more work.

3. Updates from Ke'an, WEIU Donor and Community Relations

Hit-Mix 88.9 WEIU FM raised over \$20,000. We met our goal within one week and raised more than expected.

WEIU TV offered an October Entertainment Membership Package in partnership with Doudna Fine Arts Center and EIU Athletics. The package consisted of 2 tickets to any Doudna show, 2 tickets the Nov. 16th EIU football game and a 1-year subscription to PBS Passport. \$1000 was raised for this fundraising campaign.

Giving Tuesday is on December 3rd. Jeff Owens recorded a spot asking for people to give to WEIU on this special day of the year. The spot will run on tv, radio and online.

Jeff and Ke'an have been working with Matt Williams to develop a fundraising letter to mail to alumni by the end of November, early December asking for year-end gifts.

Currently there are over 450 activated PBS Passport subscription. Each subscription brings in a minimum of \$60 annually.

WEIU Kids Day has been scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 10am – 12noon in Buzzard Hall.

Dan Corrie asked about budget, and equipment. Jeff answered with positive updates by stating WEIU is staying within our budget and always working on fundraising efforts to meet the Corporation for Public Broadcasting requirements. The equipment is up to date, engineering has been installing new equipment over the past year to maintain forward thinking to take WEIU into the future.

Mason – asked questions to become more familiar with WEIU. Mason is a new member to the board and represents EIU Student Government. Mason also requested a tour of the station and spoke with many staff afterwards.

The next WEIU Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 12:00pm noon.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.