



Resolution 16.37: Resolution on the creation of a Media Publications Fund

Introduced: March 27, 2016

Passed: April 3, 2016

Sponsors: Jack Minton '18 (principal), Mattison Asher '17 (principal), Kate Cullen '16, Justin Kim '19, Claudia Kahindi '18, Jacob Maiman-Stadtmauer '19, Kush Sharma '18, William Maldonado '19, John Henry Vansant '18

Recognizing that there are inherent complications with a student government directly funding campus media publications

Appreciating the very important role of student journalism on a college campus

Acknowledging that the WSA has never attempted to defund *The Argus*

Understanding that publications such as *The Ankh*, *Hermes*, *Method Magazine*, *Arcadia*, *Unlocked Magazine*, *The Hangman's Lime*, among many others, also require funds to operate and improve distribution

Noting that at several of our peer institutions, student journalism is not funded by student governments

Working towards a lasting solution to ameliorate the conflicts faced in the 2015-2016 school year

Believing that as a campus we can come together in unity to support all student groups, including *The Argus* and the WSA

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wesleyan Student Assembly:

1. Establishes a stand-alone "Media Publications Fund" for the sole purpose of funding student publications
2. Suggests that \$60,000¹ be siphoned from the Student Activities funds at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year to endow the Media Publications Fund for one year
3. Proposes that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the Media Publications Fund is supported by a \$13 per-semester "student voluntary opt-out fee" modeled after the Green Fund²

¹ This number was carefully deduced after taking into consideration how much funding student media publications have received from the SBC in past school years, and by anticipating growth rates of operating costs, establishment of new student media publications, and inflation.

² The Green Fund received a yield of 87% of the Student Body who chose not to opt-out of the voluntary fee in the 2015-2016 school year.

- a. ** This proposal is subject to referendum in the Spring of 2016, and subsequently Board of Trustee approval during the 2016-2017 school year. If this proposal fails to receive support in both aforementioned regards, it is resolved that the Media Publications Fund be endowed in perpetuity by an annual sum of no less than \$60,000 siphoned out of the Student Activities funds at the beginning of each school year.*
- b. If less than \$30,000 is raised from the opt-out fee in a given semester, the SBC will make up the difference from its budget.
4. Notes that the Media Publications Fund will be separate from the Student Activities funds, and thus not under the purview of the WSA
5. Establishes that the “Media Publications Fund Committee” will be created, and given sole responsibility for all Media Publications Fund budget decisions
6. Advocates for said committee to be comprised of one representative from each established publication³, two WSA elected representatives, and the SBC vice-chair
7. Expects that the Media Publications Fund Committee will establish its own official bylaws
8. Proposes that *any* student group has the right to apply for funding from the Media Publications Fund Committee, with the Committee possessing sole discretion over whether or not to grant funding, and if so, how much
9. Notes that the *Digitization and Stipends Working Group* will advise the Media Publications Fund Committee
10. Recommends a reexamination of the Student Activities Fee in following years upon the implementation of this Resolution

The WSA resolves to remain actively seized in the matter.

BY A VOTE OF 23 TO 1 WITH 4 VOTES ABSTAINING ON THIS Day April 3, 2016

Kate Cullen ‘16

Name of President, President

Aidan Martinez ‘17

Name of Vice-President, Vice-President

John Henry Vansant ‘18

Name of Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff

Jack Minton ‘18

Name of Principal Sponsor, Sponsor

Mattison Asher ‘17

Name of Principal Sponsor, Sponsor

³ To be considered an *established publication*, a student group must publish at least two issues in a school year, and have been publishing for the prior 3 consecutive school years

A Resolution is a piece of legislation voted on by the Senate that states that the WSA will take action or urges the administration to take action on a particular issue. A House member may propose a Resolution for the Senate to vote on through the Committee ze works on. The author(s) of a Resolution (with the help of the WSA Communications and Outreach Committee) is responsible for bringing it to the proper administrators and reporting back to the WSA in the following GA meeting. The Administration must make an official statement in one week after it is made aware of the Resolution. Furthermore, at the end of each semester the WSA will submit an update to the student body on actions taken to address Resolutions passed that year.