**Meeting Minutes: Journalism Advisory Committee (hereinafter, JAC) Agenda**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2023, 3:15 PM**

**Members in attendance:** Kimberly Kinsley (Chair), Marie McAllister, Farhang Rouhani, Eric Bonds (Secretary), and Sushma Subramania (Ex Officio)

**Guest:** Jess Kirby, Editor in Chief of the *Weekly Ringer*

**II. Approve the Minutes**

* The Feb 1, 2023 meeting minutes were circulated and approved by email.

**III. New Business**

* *Weekly Ringer* editor-in-chief Jess Kirby joined our meeting to discuss her efforts to obtain information through a FOIA request from UMW about the outcome of a disciplinary hearing regarding an assault on campus last year, something this committee has been updated on several times. UMW continues to deny the FOIA request, even with names redacted.
* Ms. Kirby has sought pro bono legal counsel, facilitated through the Student Press Law Center.
* Ms. Kirby requested that the Journalism Advisory Committee write a letter to the University Faculty Council in support of the *Weekly Ringer’s* effort to obtain information about the disciplinary outcome of the student conduct hearing regarding this incident.
* After Ms. Kirby left the meeting, members of the Committee discussed this request. We consulted our duties, as described in section 2.8.7 of the Faculty Handbook, and determined that such an action would be within our purview.
* We decided that sending such a letter to the UFC would be important.
  + We agreed with Ms. Kirby’s interpretation that releasing this information does not violate FERPA because it involves an incident of violence on campus and, what’s more, Ms. Kirby had submitted a second request asking that names be withheld.
  + We further determined that it is in the interest of a free press and the University community’s general interest in public safety for UMW to release disciplinary outcomes for violent assaults on campus when a request is made.
  + Finally, we concluded that this letter should request a resolution from members of the UFC in support of the *Weekly Ringer’s* FOIA request, and that it should also be sent to UMW’s FOIA officer.
    1. **A vote was held:** All members of the committee voted in favor of this course of action.
* It was decided that Kimberly would write the first draft of the letter, while other members of the committee would provide input on her draft.
* Sushma agreed to provide further background information to the committee as needed, for instance in regard to the Student Press Law Center’s primer on covering campus crime.

**V.** **Next Meeting**

* We decided that we would should meet again in April (as one last meeting in the semester) to follow up on this issue.

**The meeting was concluded at 4:00.**