The Student Media Board’s primary responsibility is the hiring and firing of student media leaders and their advisers. Student media leaders generally serve one-year terms. Media advisers serve continuous terms. The board generally meets twice a year, with an organizational meeting in the fall and an editor election meeting in the spring. Between meetings the board chair works with the Vice Chancellor of Student Development to deal with any new or ongoing issues and to call additional meetings if necessary.

The Student Media Board’s voting membership consists of faculty members, students, administrators, and alumni. The editors and advisers serve ex officio. The advisers have expressed a wish to become voting members.

The Vice Chancellor for Student Development controls the purse strings. In the past, this has led to serious issues. However, the current Vice Chancellor has been supportive of student media and no new financial issues arose this year.

The board this year began to raise the issue of the relationships that existed or should exist among the various stakeholders, namely the students, the administrators, the Communication Department (which plays a special role with all but one of the student media), the faculty, and the Senate. Some questions had been raised about these issues in the past, but this year the board members did not express concern, except the concern raised by media advisers that they were not now allowed to vote on the election of their own editors. (The voting membership has not requested the Senate to grant media advisers voting rights, and again did not do so this year.)

The board functions as a kind of publisher for the student media, dealing with any serious issue that may occur so that none of the various stakeholders feels obliged to become involved in any form of media censorship. So far it appears to have worked well in this capacity.