



11/06/25 – Advisory Board Meeting

Present: Matt Gill, Jeff Owens, Trish Coffey, S.M. Walus, Cameron Craig, Everett Lau, Holly Farley, Barbara Bonneken

-Matt Gill: Gave welcome

-Jeff Owens continued the meeting with updates on the future of WEIU regarding staffing, PBS, future, streaming, viewing options and news plan.

As of May, due to the layoffs, the station will be down to 3 employees with no engineers. Jeff, Ramin and Rob will be the remaining employees going forward. Jon Mattson (assignments), Josh Grube (production) and Joe Astrouski (Newswatch) have agreed to pick up the slack. The station will concentrate on Mattoon, Charleston and Effingham at this time unless something big comes up.

There has been talk of giving up the license and going to all online streaming. Dr. Walus is against that saying that it is beneficial to the students to have an actual station to broadcast to and is good for enrollment if we can swing it at all. He gave some suggestions to check in to.

Cameron said that the students will continue to break in for weather related alerts.

At this point the website is down. Jeff is working with Ryan Gibson on getting it back up and running.

- Awards: WEIU-T.V. and FM celebrated an afternoon at the Illinois Broadcaster's convention on October 27th by bringing home EIGHT broadcasting awards!

1. First Place for Radio Sports Package – Gabe Newman of WEIU-FM
2. Best Long Form Radio Entertainment – Alex Sitman of WEIU-FM
3. Best Long Form Journalism Radio – Sam Alcumbrac of WEIU-FM
4. Best Radio News Package – Matt Williamson of WEIU Radio
5. Best TV News Cast – WEIU-TV
6. Best TV News Package – Olivia Bennett of WEIU-TV
7. Best TV Weather Report 1st Place Ben Whitney 2nd Place – Emily Davis (Both WEIU-TV)
8. Best TV Sports Package – Andrew Spaid of WEIU-TV

The Mid-America EMMY student production awards were handed out in St. Louis on October 25th and journalism student Olivia Bennett received top honors in the category of News Craft (anchoring). Kelly Goodwin(Everett)/

The CBI National Student Media Convention honors student media across the country. This year, EIU's (Gabe Newman) was awarded first place for best sports reporting and students Matt Williamson and LJ Samuelson received a nomination in the category of Best Hard News Reporting (Video

- Programming:

Rolled out an all-new schedule without PBS content on 10/01/25. Two hours of vintage WEIU-TV programming is on Sunday nights. Our kids programming has been paired down but we are still airing 7 hours of kids programming M-F, and 4 hours on Sunday mornings. We are still offering great how-to programs as well as a wide variety of documentaries ranging from history to science and nature and everything in-between. Mac has a new schedule rolled out for November and Newswatch will air live at 5:30 and replay at 10:00. Following are some of the productions created since our last meeting:

Streamed EIU Spring Commencement Ceremonies on 5/10/25

Issues and Attitudes records live radio program for TV on Mondays...

The Paw Report Season 15 recorded 13 episodes, and is currently airing those new episodes now...

Being Well Season 18 recorded 12 episodes, and is currently airing those new episodes now...

City Spotlight finished Season 11 and currently is in Season 12 production... 30 communities now covered on City Spotlight thru 11 Seasons...

Streamed EIU President Gatrell's Fall Update from the Doudna Fine Arts Center on 9/24/25

Recorded 8th Coles County Clash Scholastic Bowl on 9/25/25 and aired on WEIU for first-time on 9/27/25

Currently in production of another longform documentary, on Charles B. Hall, who was from Brazil, Indiana, graduated from EIU in early 1940s, and was a part of the Tuskegee Airman... Aiming for a Spring 2026 airing on WEIU...

Will be streaming Winter Commencement Ceremonies on 12/20/25

And School Talk Season 4 is planning on taping in early 2026, for a Spring 2026 airings.

At this point we will get through the holidays and then reassess what needs to be changed if anything.

Engineering Update:

Tower light has been ordered, waiting on the tower crew to be assigned.

Lightning strike damaged several pieces of equipment at the transmitter site.

Primary STL is being repaired. Backup STL is on order. Running on old STL which has stability issues.

Set up streaming PC in Production Control so News Watch can be streamed live each night.

FM News:

- 38 radio students
- Record for Adopt A Watt - Over \$25,000
- 2 longform entertainment radio specials this semester (Wendy Perez on Sabrina Carpenter, Austin Perez on Grunge Music)
- Live Radio remote for EIU Homecoming involving 20 students
- Over 11,000 songs in our music library
- Gabe Newman doing football and soccer play by play for the Cromwell Media Group
- Sophia Artman responsible for adding new songs to the music library
- Chloe Harnitiaux is the social media coordinator