

President's Report

prepared November 26, 2020 // Rob Hailman

With this Annual General Meeting, we're celebrating the end of PIP's third year as a not-for-profit corporation. Needless to say, the events of the past year unfolded in a way that none of us could have expected, in ways that certainly threw a wrench into PIP's ambitions and operations. It's impossible to say exactly what the future will mean for our operations, but no matter what comes I am confident PIP will remain a wonderful community of passionate podcasters.

As Ayesha's report summarizes the details of PIP's operations, I would like to highlight a few areas of the most significance from my perspective:

Relationship with Trent Radio

In partnership with Trent Radio, for most of the past year PIP continued to broadcast the Podcast Showcase on Sundays, featuring recent episodes of member podcasts. Sunday afternoons at Trent Radio also served as PIP's office hours and accessibility drop-ins, which I had the privilege of hosting for a few weeks in February, as well as a time for PIP members to use Trent Radio's production facilities.

While Trent Radio's studios are currently closed, these programs are currently on hold. However, this partnership remains of great benefit to both PIP and Trent Radio, as the goals of the two organizations are complementary - and there is significant overlap in our membership.

Trent University Levy Campaign

We had intended to pursue a campaign for a modest levy fee from the students of Trent University during the spring 2020 TCSA elections. Such a levy would provide significant stable funding for PIP, and allow us to foster a relationship with the student community at Trent.

However, while developing the plans for the levy campaign, we determined that our effort would be better spent postponing the actual referendum question by a year, and using the time to run a "soft" campaign to improve our outreach and awareness on campus. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this has not really been feasible to date.

This remains a worthwhile pursuit for the coming year, but exactly how it will take shape is impossible to predict. Independent of the success of any future levy campaign, increasing PIP's involvement in the university community is a worthwhile pursuit in its own right.

Thank yous

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Ayesha Barmania for their dedication and vision in sustaining PIP through such a strange and uncertain time, and to Jeffrey Moore for keeping the tech side of things alive and kicking.

I'd also like to thank my fellow board members for their creativity, care and passion for this wonderful organization - in particular, Valentina Kibedi and LA Alfonso, whose time on the board is ending with this meeting.