

**URBANA PUBLIC TELEVISION  
COMMISSION**

**DATE:** September 13, 2004  
Monday, 12:00 PM

**PLACE:** City Council Chambers, Urbana City Building

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Barb Gladney  
Peter Resnick  
Dana Mancuso  
Kevin Maxson  
James Hayes  
Greg Boozell  
Kathy Jessup

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chris Foster  
Steve Holz

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Kimberly Kranich  
Randall Cotton

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gladney called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Resnick asked that we push the programming report back until after the policy discussion. UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster stated that he wasn't prepared to give the report and that they would push it back to the next meeting.

**STAFF REPORT**

UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster informed the Commission about the packets they had received for the meeting. Included in the packet was an updated version of the UPTV Commission Rules and Regulations, a copy of an amendment that added two new commissioners, Commissioner Boozell's possible policy changes, a letter regarding the legal issue with Mr. Martell Miller, and a letter from WEFT FM to UPTV regarding Democracy Now.

City Attorney Steve Holz felt it was unfortunate that the issue of Democracy Now was coming to the surface just as the commission was trying to establish a new set of rules to abide by. Mr. Holz felt that it was important for the commission to focus on the policies of public access and not on a particular program and that regardless of what someone thinks about the content of a program, policy recommendations should be geared towards neutral across the board policy recommendations. Mr. Holz added that the content of Democracy Now should be kept completely separate from the content of the policies that are trying to be established. The policies are intended to be in place for some time and to apply to everybody, not just those that want Democracy Now but also those that want any other type of programming. Mr. Holz recommended that the commission members keep a notion of what is a good program and what is bad program, separate from what the overall policies should be. Mr. Holz urged the commission members to stay away from questions that focus on whether Democracy Now or some other program should or should not be on the channel. Mr. Holz added that there have been difficulties with the procedures of the UPTV Commission and that the Commission has not been properly noticing or posting the agendas of meetings for up to seven years and they also had some members that were not even authorized to be members. These things needed to be fixed so that the action taken by the commission can be seen as a formal action.

Commissioner Boozell asked if Mr. Holz was describing the policies for public access or the policies for the governmental and educational channel. Since in the last meeting Democracy Now was being discussed in relations to governmental offerings not public access offerings.

Mr. Holz said the commission has no authority, except in very limited circumstances, to make recommendations about specific types of programming. One exception is if a public access program is complained about and is then pulled from the air by the administration, the commission has the power to overrule the administrations decision.

Commissioner Boozell stated that he had never received any governmental and educational polices and he wanted to make sure he received those.

Mr. Holz stated that he just saw them for the first time in the morning and it's all part of the same problem. The commission needs to figure out what the rules are and how the commission moves forward with establishing policies.

Chair Gladney asked if the commission was willing to meet again on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. All commissioners agreed.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

UPTV member Kimberly Kranich spoke on behalf of herself and Martell Miller. She submitted a complaint about the decision of the city administration to not air a video that was made by Martell Miller and Patrick Thompson documenting traffic stops by Champaign and Urbana Police. Mrs. Kranich requested that by city ordinance sec. 24-156, a hearing be held on the dispute between Kimberly Kranich, Martell Miller, there representatives and the City of Urbana administration about "restrictions imposed by the administration on a cablecast of specific programs on UPTV, after complaints had been received by the administration about the programs content". She requested that this hearing be held by October 16th.

UPTV member Randall Cotton stated that there was undeniable, documented, and considerable public support for the Democracy Now program and he encouraged the commission to move forward with whatever policy changes were necessary to allow the broadcast of Democracy Now. He also asked the city administration to refrain from further interference in the business of the commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

In the interest of time Commissioner Boozell felt the commission should just look at the policies that involved Mr. Cotton's request. He did state that the access polices were in need of an over haul.

### **Section 3.7**

Mr. Boozell made a motion to add satellite to the acceptable formats for public access programming. Commissioner Resnick seconded the motion. Commissioner Jessup asked who would incur the cost of the satellite dish. Mr. Boozell stated that the public access members were going to pay for it. Commissioner Jessup felt that an amendment was needed state who would pay for additional equipment. Commissioner Resnick amended that "any additional cost required for other equipment or live broadcast would be incurred by the member." Commissioner Maxson was concerned about asking the community to make upgrades to UPTV's facilities. He felt it would be better if the city paid for it then they could use it for whatever they want. The Commissioners voted on the following policy amendment.

**"Programs may be submitted in the following format SVHS, VHS, DVD, or other means and any additional cost required for other equipment or live broadcast will be incurred by the member."**

**The amendment passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

Commission Resnick asked how long it would be before the Commission heard back from the administration.

Mr. Holz stated that the city administration should be able to respond to the rule changes at the next meeting.

### **Section 3.2**

Commissioner Boozell stated that this was an effort to get UPTV practices consistent with what the policies say. UPTV has not been following what is in the policies because the staff has been practical about how they schedule the channel.

The policy changes read as follows:

**Staff will notify program submitters of the cablecast date of an individual program no later than two weeks prior to telecast date.**

**Following the last cablecast of a program, UPTV staff will notify the submitter to recover the tape. If the tape is not picked within 30 days of notification, the tape will be discarded.**

**Series Programs: A series is defined as a number of original episodes, under one single title regularly scheduled in the same time slot. Time slots may be daily, weekly or monthly.**

**An "original episode" is defined as a program that, in whole or in substantial part, has not previously appeared on UPTV.**

**Outside programming series must be sponsored by Urbana residents.**

**Program submitters are limited to scheduling one series at a time.**

**No more than 2 daily series time slots will be provided within the schedule.**

**Single programs will not be scheduled while the same program is scheduled as part of a series.**

**At least 20% of available time slots will be reserved for individual program submission.**

**Series Cancellation: Failure to provide original episodes for cablecast will result in series cancellation.**

**Failure to comply with any other program submission policies or procedures, content rules defined in Sections 3.3 – 3.6, or technical requirement outlined in Section 3.7 and 3.8 may result in cancellation of the series.**

Commissioner Maxson moved the amended Section 3.2 for approval and Commissioner Mancuso seconded the motion. Commissioner Jessup was concerned about a precedent, as far as the requests for time slots.

Commissioner Boozell said his policy changes show that the staff is responsible for assigning time slots.

Commissioner Jessup wanted to make sure that UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster was comfortable with that, and he stated that he was.

Commissioner Jessup asked if there needed to be a time restriction for daily series. Mr. Foster stated that he would not want a daily series to be longer than hour.

Commissioner Maxson felt that for simplicity sake no amendments should be added to Mr. Boozell's changes with the understanding that the policies would be revisited.

**The amendment passed with a 7-0 vote.**

Mr. Cotton asked if the rule changes were passed by the city administration, would that clear the way for Democracy Now to be broadcast on UPTV.

Commissioner Boozell stated that if the rules are accepted as passed it does clear the way.

Commissioner Resnick was still concerned about the contract that had to be entered into by the City of Urbana and Free Speech TV.

Outreach Coordinator

Commissioner Jessup asked how pressing the need for the Outreach Coordinator was; Mr. Foster stated that he would like to advertise for the position within a month.

A sub-committee was designed to help create a job description for the UPTV Outreach Coordinator. Commissioner's Jessup and Mancuso volunteered to help Mr. Foster put together a job description.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster stated that complaints had been received about the 2004 Martin Luther King Jr. program that UPTV produced and aired numerous times. A political figure running for office spoke on the tape and received a lot of airtime. Mr. Foster asked if UPTV needed to create a policy for political content in programs that are produced by UPTV.

Commissioner Boozell stated that under current policy if you get other requests from political candidates to have the government produce programs for them, UPTV would be obligated.

City Attorney Steve Holz stated that the problem might be that the keynote speaker Barack O'Bama was asked to speak but his opponents were not.

Mr. Holz thought that the Commission should further look into how UPTV will handle political speech programming.

Commissioner Resnick asked if all commissioners could receive a copy of the educational and governmental policies for UPTV, so they could review them for the next meeting.

### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster wanted to add that the UPTV Commission was now being broadcast on UPTV and that it may be necessary to change the meeting time to make sure that they are broadcast on a regular basis.

### **ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting was set for Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM