

Board of Visitors

April 24-26, 2019

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**WILLIAM & MARY
WCWM-FM ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019**

In accordance with the Board of Visitors' operating policies for WCWM-FM, the following report is submitted as an annual review of the station's operations for 2018-19.

WCWM-FM (90.9 MHz.) is a student-funded, student-run, radio station falling under William & Mary's Media Council. The operating budget for the FY19 is \$21,667, which is derived from the Student Activities portion of the General Fee allocated by the Media Council. This budget covers basic operating expenses such as a contracted engineer, license fees, streaming fees, electricity, phone service, memberships, subscriptions and computer leases. Major repairs, equipment purchases or replacement items, when necessary, are covered through the reserve fund maintained by the Media Council.

WCWM's membership consists of undergraduate and graduate students who show an interest in working at the station. The station actively recruits new freshmen and transfer students at Organization & Activities fairs (held in August and January). Those interested in becoming a member can also join by contacting the station and attending the weekly station meetings.

Training and orientation sessions for members are conducted each semester. DJ's are required to participate in pre-established training sessions and complete a required number of volunteer hours before they are allowed to go on the air. The volunteer hours focus on helping cataloging WCWM's extensive vinyl collection and staffing WCWM organized events. This training is vital to the success of the station. WCWM's leadership is primarily responsible for training. The contracted engineer, Mr. Joe Wetherbee (RDX Systems), holds training sessions for station leaders at the beginning of each semester to discuss FCC guidelines and general station protocol. This year 38 new DJ's were recruited and trained, bringing the total trained DJs to 71.

WCWM contracts RDX Systems to perform monthly inspections, measurements and calibrations and to monitor transmission frequency to maintain WCWM transmitters in accordance with FCC regulations. RDX Systems provides on call emergency repair service 24-hour per day, seven days a week. RDX Systems is also used for consulting in areas of equipment upgrades and purchases.

WCWM continues to host its annual WCWM Fest. This event attracts students from campus & the public. This year's Fest, held in October, featured Lucy Dacus & Vagabon. Shormey, a 757 native, opened the show along with campus bands Talk to Plants and Ruth. Media Council, Alma Mater Productions, and the Student Assembly Activities & Events fund financially supported the event. In March, WCWM brought Indie rock legend Mitski to campus and sold out the solo-acoustic show within days. Held in Commonwealth Auditorium, Media Council and the Student Assembly Activities & Event Fund also supported the event.

Other highlights from 2018-2019 include:

- Repair of the station and physical media after moisture damage in Fall 2018
- Revised DJ handbook to better explain to DJs how to resolve technical issues during their shows
- Continued progress with the Record Library Cataloguing project (collection can be viewed at: <https://www.discogs.com/user/WCWM>). Current library is being reorganized with creation of a database so DJs can more easily access the location of each record in the station
- Partnership with the Broadberry, a performance venue in Richmond, VA, to hold 3 ticket giveaways in FY19
- Distributed 2 successful issues of our magazine publication “Vinyl Tap” after its rejuvenation last year, which now has a staff of 15 people
- Identified gap in public filings as required by FCC due to outdated contact information; resolution is current and ongoing
- Engaging legal counsel as appropriate through agreement with the Commonwealth and university legal counsel

Under the leadership of Co-Station Managers Elizabeth Stephenson ‘19 and Varvara Troitski ‘20, the station also reviewed and revised its leadership structure to better meet the needs of the organization and station. In FY19, WCWM will pay close attention to the renovations taking place at Phi Beta Kappa Hall as the station transmitter and booster reside on top of the building. We are in close contact with Facilities Management for navigation of this process and any potential impact. RDX Systems also indicates that we will need to continue to pay attention to aging infrastructure (which contributed to the spring 2018 transmitter repair needs). Next year, WCWM will begin the process of renewing their license with the FCC prior to the October 1, 2019 expiration of the current license. In addition, the station will continue to be focused on engaging with and meeting the needs of the Greater-Williamsburg and William & Mary community through community-oriented Public Service Announcements, projects, and events.

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