

## **Memo re: New Silhouette Staff Reporter volunteer position**

Hi Executive Board,

This is a quick note to elaborate on the **Staff Reporter Volunteer Position** job description that you have in front of you.

Right now, we have two completely opposite levels of involvement with the Sil: either you're a paid editor and are totally immersed in every step of the creative process, or you're considered a casual volunteer and have little stake or integration into the Sil's operations. This discrepancy has created an environment in which volunteers feel disconnected from the paper and have little incentive to write consistently or always follow through with submissions that they've promised. Subsequently, editors become overburdened by picking up the slack and creating content for blank pages.

Introducing the Staff Reporter job serves two purposes. For one, it benefits the Sil in that we will have guaranteed content, especially for sections (such as news) that are always starved for articles as the Reporter will be expected to rotate through sections. Secondly, it's good for students who want to feel more involved with- and appreciated by the Silhouette thanks to the incentives we'll be offering (desk space, reference letters, consideration for editorial positions in the spring, an upgraded title, appreciation nights and awards, etc.).

The reason I'm not doing this casually and want to have this posted on the MSU site is to maintain the professional and formal vibe that I want to be associated with this.

For context, this new “job” replaces an old but unfruitful system in which we quietly upgraded a person's byline title from “The Silhouette” to “Staff Reporter” if they wrote a certain number of articles per term. This formalizes the process and gives committed volunteers the status and recognition they deserve.

I already have committed writers who are interested and excited by this shiny new volunteer position. I hope you feel the same.

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