The Publications Council, or the Pub Council for short, was comprised of the editors of eleven campus publications, along with faculty advisor Patty Roberts and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Constantine. One of the goals of Pub Council at the beginning of the year was increased transparency and more interactions with the student body.

The Pub Council first offered detailed explanations of recent by-law revisions on their new website. This website also posted meeting minutes and times, agendas and bylaws. Additionally, all meetings were open to the public allowing anyone the opportunity to see the proceedings. Another major bylaw revision allowed each publication the option of selecting the Editor-in-Chief within the publication, as opposed to the former method of going before the Pub Council.

Finally, in an effort to reach out to the student body, the Pub Council began a speaker series of topics in the spring semester pertaining to journalism. The first speaker was Niko Price, a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press whose parents were professors in the W&M anthropology department. “I’m hoping that Niko’s talk established a strong precedent,” Jonna Knappenberger, Chair of the Pub Council said. “If we can get someone like him to come talk on rather short notice, then hopefully we can get others from nearby or far away to come offer a glimpse and some inspiration into the life and decisions of a career journalist. The way I see it, William & Mary is too good a school to not have students learn about the major impact and changing role of the media in the world today,” Knappenberger said.

Despite controversy, the Pub Council strove to raise its standards as the supervising journalistic body to the College’s publications in order to encourage confidence and support in its efforts.