AMS Legislative Procedures Committee

Report of July 2013

Business

- Election Bonuses: We have discussed this issue a couple times at committee, and I have gotten some input from Jenny Chen, last year’s elections administrator. At the July 22nd meeting, it was decided to recommend to Council to rescind the January 2012 motion with the bonuses. I am going to continue my conversation with Jenny and HR to look into changing the terms of employment of the elections committee.

- Voting from Afar: While committee members can currently participate in meetings from afar electronically, commission members cannot. A proposal was brought forward to make the rules the same as for committees. It was realized that the wording did not explicitly say that the member could vote from afar, so this was clarified.

- Bylaw changes: We have continued to discuss many potential bylaw changes that could be put to referendum. Sheldon will be drafting up some concrete wording, and we will look at this, in time for them to be put on the ballot in a fall referendum.

- Policy Guidelines: There are currently guidelines for policy creation within the AMS, but they have not been followed as much as hoped. To help this, Tanner Bokor brought forward a code change that requires all external policies to go through a process. The guidelines themselves will not be put in code, simply the process for creating and modifying them, and the need to follow them. They were discussed at a number of meetings before being sent to Council for approval.

- Constituency Aid: this was an issue recommended by Council. We discussed it several times and it was decided to remove the provision stating that $3000 must be put in every year. FinCom, as the body that deals with this fund, is going to be evaluating whether change should be made to how it is used and will bring proposals to LPC.

- Pay tiers in code: Execcom realized that some positions had been left out of the list when LPC codified the tiers. Kiran Mahal also raised the issue of why some commissioners are paid at tier one while others at tier two. LPC, while discussing this issue, realized that some positions had been approved at LPC for a certain tier level but had never been sent to Council for approval. These will be sent to the next Council meeting. The other discussions are ongoing.

- Notes on Contracts: Sheldon raised the issue of students taking their own copies or notes on contracts, which they are currently allowed to see but cannot be given a copy of. The
committee decided to draft a proposal saying that no notes or copies can be taken of contacts and send this to council.

- Committee Reform: This was first brought forward by the executive and I took it on. I drafted a proposed structure and presented this to council as a way of introducing the issue. The committee has been working on it since. The committee drafted questions to be sent to councilors for evaluating the current structure. We have received some responses, but we hope to receive more before looking at the responses. We have discussed many issues such as a two tiered system for committees, what to do with commissions, merging oversight and agenda com and whether to bring the code side of hiring (currently under LPC) and put it with extraordinary hiring. Many issues have been raised and on few issues has there been broad consensus. I have not brought forward any motions to the committee making any decisions about any changes, because I would like to wait until the survey results come in and we have a broader perspective.

- Non-partisanship: Tanner Bokor brought forward a proposal to put into the constitution or bylaws a note about being non-partisan. It was discussed what exactly being non partisan means and if there is a situation where we might want to be partisan. It was also discussed whether the limitation should be on the executive or on council. There was enough interest that Tanner will draft some changes and bring them soon for us to review.

Goals

- Have a proposal for changes to committees and committee structure ready for implementation in January.
- Have bylaw changes ready for a possible referendum or SGM in the fall.
- Bring forward a new Discrimination and Harassment Policy with the help of the Equity Commissioner.
- Meeting with the Resource Groups as a first step in evaluating and potentially changing the code to do with the Resource Groups.

Motions to Council on July 24th 2013

There will be motions at the meeting on the policy guidelines, notes on contracts, constituency aid fund and voting from afar. Please see those relevant sections about for explanation.

Anne Kessler
LPC Chair of the AMS of UBC
Tuesday July 23rd, 2013