Minutes of the Legislative Procedures Committee  
Friday, 22 January 2016, 11:00PM, The Nest, Room 3529

1. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda

Voting Members Present:
Mr. Benjamin Israel, Chair  
Ms. Samantha So, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Mateusz Miadlikowski, Vice President Finance (Arrived 11:40AM)  
Ms. Veronica Knott, Councillor  
Mr. Daniel Lam, Proxy for Mr. Jeffrey Pea, Councillor  
Mr. Liam Orme, Student-at-Large

Non-Voting Members Present:
Mr. Aaron Bailey, AMS President

Staff Members Present:
Dr. Sheldon Goldfarb, AMS Archivist and Clerk of Council

Regrets:
Mr. Jude Crasta, Vice President External  
Ms. Angela Tien, Councillor  
Mr. Tommy Reid, Councillor  
Mr. Ibraheem Dakilah, Student-at-Large  
Ms. Ananya Sengupta, Student-at-Large

These minutes were recorded by Mr. Israel and Ms. So.

Although quorum was not yet met, the meeting was called to order at 11:19 AM.

No amendments were proposed to the agenda.

A motion to adopt the agenda was moved by Ms. So and seconded by Mr. Orme.  
The motion was carried with unanimous consent.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

As quorum had not been met, the Committee was unable to approve the previous meeting’s minutes. The Committee unanimously agreed to nevertheless proceed to the subsequent agenda items.
3. Fees in Code

Code now lists the fees current to September 2015, and mentions that they will increase with the CPI. However, there is now a question of whether numbers should be mentioned at all, as it may make more sense to have Code mention a specific location where the Society would post the current fees and update them as they change. The concern is that students may be confused upon seeing different numbers in Code than on their financial statements.

A motion to postpone discussion of this agenda item was moved by Ms. Knott and seconded by Mr. Lam. The motion was carried with unanimous consent.

4. From Oversight Committee: Removing President’s Committee Requirements

The Oversight Committee requested that we amend Code to remove the President’s requirement to sit, as a non-voting member, on two standing committees as part of his financial incentive bonus (PAI). To do this, we need only strike the bracketed portion of Code Section VI, Article 1(8)(b)(ii).

A motion to direct Dr. Goldfarb to draft and send this Code amendment to the Agenda Committee and the Administrative Assistant for inclusion on the agenda of the upcoming Council Meeting on the recommendation of the Committee (noting that quorum was not met) was moved by Mr. Lam and seconded by Mr. Orme.

Votes In Favour (3): Ms. Samantha So, Mr. Daniel Lam (Proxy for Mr. Jeffrey Pea), Mr. Liam Orme.

Votes Against (0):


The motion was carried.

5. Bylaw Changes

The Committee noted that any Bylaw changes for which we wanted to run the (mandatory) referendum alongside the election would need to be approved by Resolution of Council on the February 10, 2016 Council Meeting. The discussion then proceeded to multiple potential Bylaw changes, with the understanding that a vote will likely not be held on these matters until closer to the February 10th Council meeting.
The incoming Societies Act allows us to make Special Resolutions only require a 2/3ds supermajority rather than 3/4s. The Committee agreed that the Bylaws should be changed to this specification.

Currently, the only requirement for Referendum questions to be run is that they are capable of being answered yes or no. Additional requirements were proposed, and the Committee noted the possible issue of decreasing the AMS’s free speech ranking if the requirements imposed are too onerous.

Ultimately, the Committee decided that the additional requirements imposed should be that the question not be leading (question prompts or encourages a particular answer) or illegal.

The Committee also discussed the role of the Student Court, and postulated whether it should be abolished as it has been barely used in recent years, and mostly overruled when recently used. A large part of this is that the Student Court was not connected to Council, and did not understand the context and history behind Council’s workings. Thus, the Student Court tended to misinterpret the purpose behind legislation, and make rulings establishing unwanted policy implications.

The Committee was of the opinion that these powers to amend or reject referendum questions should be vested with Council, who would likely seek legal advice if the matter was unclear.

Mr. Miadlikowski joined the meeting at 11:40AM.

The Committee discussed issues with membership fees. There are new programs that run from January to December, and due to the current Bylaws, they would end up paying for two full years of AMS fees in that period. Mr. Miadlikowski agreed to investigate what sort of language would solve this problem. A proposed solution would be that no student would be required to pay an amount higher than one year’s fees for any 12 month period.

Multiple “housekeeping” changes were proposed, including:

- Striking the word “clear” from Bylaw 3(2)(a)(i)
- Updating the list of constituents, such as adding the Vancouver School of Economics
- Changing the date which the Board of Governors and Senate representatives assume their seats on Council to coincide with the date they begin sitting in their respective body
- Amending Bylaw 5(4)(b)(ii) to allow for Board of Governors and Senate representatives to appoint proxies to Council (currently only constituency representatives can do this)
- Allowing SAC members to appoint proxies (Mr. Israel will confer with the VP Administration on this matter)
Striking the now-defunct Senate Caucus from Bylaw 9(1)(f)

Amending Bylaw 11(1)(b)(iii) to remove the restriction that only constituency representatives can hold the Councillor positions on the Budget Committee

Amending the mentions of the Student Union Building to the AMS Student Nest, and potentially extending this to AMS operated buildings to cover those parts of the SUB which are still in use

Striking the mention of associations from Bylaw 13 (Mr. Israel will confer with the VP Administration on this matter)

Amending Bylaw 19(3) to not require three copies of proposed Bylaw amendments to be posted on the Society’s website

Dr. Goldfarb will attempt to have the suggested Bylaw amendments drafted for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to attend to, the meeting was **adjourned** at 12:45PM.