AMS Governance Committee

Minutes of May 25, 2017

Attendance

Present: Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Cameron England (Councilor), Chris Hakim (Councilor), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Jeanie Malone (Councilor via telephone), Jakob Gattinger (Councilor via Skype) Kelvin Hsu (Member at Large)

Guests: Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk), Max Holmes (AVP AUA and former Elections Admin)

Regrets: None

Recording Secretary: Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Cam Seconded: Chris

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Election of a Vice Chair

Moved: Chris Seconded: Cam

That Pooja Bhatti be elected as Vice-Chair for a period beginning immediately and ending at the first AMS Council meeting in September.

The motion carries unanimously.

Priorities for the summer

Recommendations from Council:
Committee on AMS-Constiuency relationships

Recommendation 6 (Presidents Council)

- Mac: This should be easy; hopefully it can be on our next agenda.

Recommendation 7 (Constituency Metrics)

- Jakob: Financial reporting can be put in code and any other reporting structures will fit best in an internal policy.

Recommendation 12 (Constituency Election Dates)

- Mac: This recommendation might require a bylaw change; changing constituency constitutions violates the spirit of the bylaw that allows them to hold elections in a manner of their choosing.

- Mac: We should look into whether constituencies actually want this.

Recommendation 4 (Constituency Media Protocol)

- Mac: The AMS currently lacks a communications manager, so we could put this off until then.

- Jakob: We could consult them and see what they currently have.

- Kelvin: Supply them with the current staff communications policy until we have something figured out.

- Kelvin: What about clubs?

- Mac: We should consider directing this entire conversation to operations.

Services Review

- Make SSM a Council Member.

- Sheldon: Not actually from the services review, but something Council has directed us to do.

- Mac: Should be an easy change.

- Mac: We should follow up on service review and make sure there’s nothing left.
• Elections Committee
  o Recommendation 2 (Split Events and Communications Officer)
    ▪ Max: There used to be two positions, this is similar to changing it back.
  o Recommendation 3 (Changing ElecCom)
    ▪ Mac: The specific recommendation is laid out in the report, it’s about a specific composition of ElecCom.
  o Recommendation 4 (Codify Conflict of Interest Rules)
    ▪ Mac: We can steal from the elections committee handbook to make this code (hopefully).
  o Recommendation 10 (Change reimbursement procedure)
    ▪ Max: Old code can’t be enforced under Condorcet voting; we need to make a decision on if we try to keep it or abandon it entirely.
    ▪ Mac: Why don’t we just abandon Condorcet for Borda Count?
    ▪ A discussion of Borda Count ensued. The Chair managed to name the only country that actually uses Borda Count.
  o Recommendation 11 (Review constituency election protocols)
    ▪ Mac: This recommendation is very broad
    ▪ Max: Broad oversight rules, we need more. ElecCom needs a standardized way to deal with constituencies.
    ▪ Mac: We should just figure out who should look into this instead of us (ElecCom might be a good place to start).

Other directives from Council
• Change goal process to be in line with I-9
  o Sheldon: To do this, all we need to do is remove Article 6-9 from code
  o Mac: Also the bit about Steering Committee
Sheldon: That falls outside of the directive from Council

- Policy on biannual committee review
  - Mac: We could give this to Steering Committee
  - Sheldon: It’s very vague. Are there any more specifics?
  - Mac: No.

Other business from elsewhere.

- Fix Steering Committee membership (idea brought forward in ExecCom)
  - Mac: Some chairs can’t sit on Steering Committee according to current code (i.e. Cameron England as chair of Advocacy)

- Petition privacy policy
  - Mac: This is continued from the previous committee

  - Sheldon: We’re ready for a vote on this, it was finished.

Mac’s ideas:

- Introduce gender neutral pronouns to Code.
  - Mac: This is a simple way to make code friendly to students seeking to get involved. The singular ‘they’ has become accepted.

- Find a place for Student Services Manager
  - Mac: The SSM is currently somewhere between Exec and Employee. We should look into pushing them in one direction. It’s weird to treat a hired employee as an executive so we should either treat them as a staff member or have them elected as a VP Services.

- Student Court.
  - Mac: Student Court needs to be fixed when it isn’t a problem. If we wait until it’s needed, fixing student court becomes tangled up with the issue before Council. We should look into long term solutions now instead of waiting.
Other business arising

None.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is about two weeks from now.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.