Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee  
July 17, 4pm – NEW SUB 3529

Attendance

Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Jakob Gattinger (Councillor), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk), Max Holmes (Guest)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 pm

Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Cameron  
Seconded: Pooja

That the agenda be adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cameron  
Seconded: Pooja

That minutes from the June 20th and July 6th meetings be approved and sent to Council.

3. Elections Overhaul

Electoral Gospel

Max - most committees just pass the documents

CONflict of interest change:

- making it clear
- making it so technically, current staff members couldn't be appointed EA
- clarifying how we do members of a commission
- commissioner in academic department isn't appointed by council, but is by an executive

Members of the executive committee:
"The optimum committee has zero members"

- should be more clear
- got rid of the time frame
- members of the committee even if they resign from their position during that term
- during the AMS fiscal year
- the other one covered that?
- the other one said 'Samantha couldn't be EA'
- if pooja resigned to be EA, she couldn't
- mostly a semantics change
- not eligible for this year
- retroactively
- during an academic year in which they serve on an executive committee
- intent is just for the academic year
- why if we report to SSM? They are not elected?
- because student services have to be neutral
- but like AMS events? could the director?
- you can work for one of our businesses - anyone who does admin work in the AMS (advocacy, services)
- wouldn't cover the events or communication departments
- could add managing director to that too
- managing director --> add
- Article 1, 5, b - intention that no one on the admin side serve on elections committee, but had to fix some wordings
- in the event of a bielecction? Currently it says that election committee can be replaced by an outside body if you get rid of the EA
“The optimum committee has zero members”

-bielections - you can change the nomination period, length of campaign period
-bielections - do you have to appoint all these people? You’d have to suspend code

- oversee club elections? Unless admin asks, don't oversee
- Constituency - if they decide to use AMS resources - simply voting - oversee the election
- isn’t a definition - own elections, constituencies in which the elections committee is involved?
- what was there earlier? Lacking definition
- useful for what oversee means - isn’t clear in Article 9
- seems odd to allow a request for oversight to determine if someone can be on the elections committee
- as determined by the elections committee? No should be determining its own conflicts
- seems out of place because will deal with this this coming year
- tell the elections committee to put a definition on things
- any elections overseen - own elections, constituencies - ineligible to maintain or be members of elections committee
- 8. B conflicts - say the same thing?
- board and senate
- need to add subsidiary organizations to the previous change

Powers and Duties:
- report the performance of the election
- not report on specifics
- and overall evaluation, what went wrong, what went right, general opinions
- results and overview of the logistics of the election
“The optimum committee has zero members”

- record the results of executive elections - what kind of files of personal information?

- for example - nomination forms have signatures and such

- may be legally obligated to publish it

- now make people sign an agreement to agree to follow the rules

- can keep the part that the candidate signed, but should not for the ones with the nominees

- archives has plenty of confidential information - don't want someone to be able to walk in and ask for nomination forms

- wouldn't show it to them

- how long keeping it, why?

- Every EA destroys nomination forms

- 'with personal information removed'

- committee shall provide advice ... why we're changing it

- directly to do with recommendation with constituency relationships

- advice that gave in details

- decided this - SUS had a problem - said names of people with no Yes or No

- couldn't rule unless had an appeal

- this says that notice something wrong, that it is a violation, can tell EA that's not valid

- something that is not impartial - only a violation of article 9

- viewing results - no one should see the results before released

- if elections admin removed by council; external organizations?

- never seen that happen, don't know what the thinking was

- remove it because code is clear that it is outlined in code, but saying that it is fine to give to an outside body - seems odd
“The optimum committee has zero members”

- why get rid of information meeting? Over the past few years, information meeting attendance is basically nothing - more people that come to their office to ask questions than attend the information meeting; cost money because of food, early in the process

- informally, might be a good idea, shouldn't be codified

- changed candidates of who the candidates are - added board and senate

- board; don't need 50, need 10

- executive nomination forms - each candidate running for an executive position

- ...in accordance with? New conflict of interest rules in the code

- paragraph 8

- no control over what the paper publishes

- 200 words - hold each candidate to the same mandate

- didn't want to cross out all of 6. D - cross out 'before voting commenes'

- make clear that we have control over a few aspects

- neutrality is kept at the forum - can't allow the forums to not be impartial

- what if you remove in the middle of the elections?

- if wasn't being impartial, can ask to step down

- poster-ing

- publications to editor or articles - struck out - because it implies that you can pre-campaign

- didn't want people to do this before candidates are released

- polling station; define that

- idea is to allow secrecy of the voting

- take out; as determined by the poll clerks

- what if letting vote on computer? Am I a polling station?

- also have campaign team people
“The optimum committee has zero members”

- issue is if I'm campaigning, shouldn't be able to take laptop and go around

- shouldn't have candidate or volunteers


4. Notice of e-mail vote

Since the last meeting, an email vote occurred on the following motion:

“Be it resolved that Governance Committee recommend that AMS Council adopt the code changes entitled "Code Changes 2017: Steering Committee composition" and amend code accordingly.”

The motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 1 member not voting.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: TBD but in about 2 weeks.

Adjourn

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:08 PM.