Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee
June 20, 2pm – NEW SUB 3511

Invited
Mackenzie Lockhart (Chair), Jakob Gattinger (Councillor), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Chris Hakim (Councillor), Kelvin Hsu (Member at Large), Pooja Bhatti (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk), Akhil Jobanputra (Guest)

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm

Agenda Items
1. Approval of the Agenda
   Moved: Chris Seconded: Jeanie
   That the agenda be adopted as amended.
   Carried

2. Approval of Minutes
   Moved: Cam Seconded: Chris
   That minutes from the June 6th meeting be approved and sent to Council.
   Carried

3. Committee Goals
   Moved: Seconded:
   That the Committee adopt “Goals Summer 2017” as the goals for this committee this summer.

4. Presidents Council
   Moved to allow designate to report -&gt; Chris, Seconded Mac
   Carried.
   Moved: Cam Seconded: Chris
   That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 President's Council” be recommended to Council.
   Unanimous consent

5. Election Job Changes
   Moved: Seconded:
   That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 ------” be recommended to Council.

6. Election Committee Restructure Remove ED
   Moved Jeanie Seconded Cam
   Carried
   Moved: Pooja Seconded: Chris
   That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 – Elections Committee Members” be recommended to Council.
   Unanimous

This is exactly what Max asked for – it’s been run by Max. We’re changing Elections Comm to how he asked
Should we remove Exec Director at the same time? I say yes.
This code also removes VFM, which I think is one of our jobs.

1. Election Endorsements
Moved: Cam Seconded: Chris
That the code change titled “Code changes 2017 – Election Endorsements” be recommended to Council.
Carried unanimous
This is what Council wanted

2. Media Protocol
Moved: Pooja Seconded: Jeanie
That Governance Committee recommend AMS Council direct Operations Committee to look into updating/creating a media policy for constituencies per Recommendation 4 from the AMS Ad Hoc Committee on Constituency Relationships.
Carried unanimously.

Mac - not a governance issue
Forming a media protocol is not a governance issue
Requires different people
Like to see operations look at it
Further extend the deadline? No

3. Election Date Standardization
Moved: Mac Seconded: Pooja
That Governance Committee recommend AMS Council direct Presidents’ Council to consult Constituencies on the feasibility of standardized election dates and the preferred implementation of those changes and to report their findings to GovCom.
Carries.
Mac:
Standardized turnover dates, changed bylaws
1. Kind of messy
2. Told in bylaws that constituencies can run elections however they want
3. Loophole - prefer to see them change their own
Standardize turnover - operations job is minimal, would only make the EAs job easier
Want this to go to president’s council, and constituency run a referendum

Feasibility - would like to see them - not sure if any constituency that election dates wouldn’t work; president’s council would be a good opportunity to discuss this

Hoping to do it themselves
Council endorsed in principle, not sure how practice would look like
President’s has the opportunity to deal with this at a detail oriented

Deadline - September 1st? Very little time
Mostly dealt with big picture levels
Council endorses recommendations that are good in theory, but maybe not good in practice

Sheldon
Does anyone care about standardize of election dates?

Max:
Turnover dates is what people care about

Pooja:
Should discuss in president's, doesn’t make sense

Jeanie
Disagree, we already discussed it

Mac:
Heavy handed

Chris:
This came up in council, talked about, while objection, it was still voted on based on majority, commentary, may get the same arguments
Redundant to send to a different body

Mac:
Two big changes - that was a recommendation, passed recommendation, then looked and said not feasible
Having someone look at feasibility look at it

Jacob:
Not a question of feasibility
Redundant, or can wait and have president’s council look at it, code change at the end of the day?

Mac:
Being asked to go in and change bylaws for our own convenience
Recommendation was to standardize all election dates, for a lot of constituencies, may not work, may not do election timelines (i.e.: Law)

Just because the big ones can standardize, maybe not the smaller
But president's council can make those calls better than other committees

Recommendations - in principle spirit of it
Worry - that committee wasn’t looking at individual responses, looking at overall responses
Some committees saying we don’t want to do it, looking at feasibility of standardizing election dates, have to consideration - may not a one size fits all

Don’t think that this committee is going to be the right group to see this happen
But presidents council represent all constituencies

Cam:
Motion is to add a layer of consultation, and constituencies go back and change their bylaws individually if they so choose

Chris:
Sending this to president’s council not just to hear from undergrad societies that are big that worked for them, 
What if they don’t show up?

Pooja:
That was their choice to not show up, we did the extra work in consulting with them

Mac:
Point was convenient, was to make sure started and trained at equal times - turnover dates fit the recommendation here
Turnover dates are the same and election dates don’t relate to the issue that was discussed
If we want to talk about election dates we should do more consultation, doesn’t seem that there was a specific reasons that there was elections and not turnover

Jakob:
Because governance committee is dealing with turnover

Mac:
Looking at data - a lot of people weren’t sure
People really didn’t want AMS to organize them
Feedback wasn’t definite

Max:
We even have requirements from constituencies to do things that they don’t do that

Mac:
Another recommendation, oversee constituency and club elections
Separate conversation on this
Can ask the committee/constituency to standardize own election dates/bylaws
A lot of stuff that is left to be done with this recommendation that isn’t done with goernance

Cam:
Maybe send to president’s council, and we make the final call if sent back
We did the consultation
Wasn’t fully represented by all constituencies
Some didn’t participate as much
This way we can ‘force’ all constituencies to give some sort of input so we at least some sort of baseline
Pooja:
Not to mention that opinions were made by people who didn’t go through with it, it was made by people who didn’t do it

10. Student Court (If time permits) Moved Jacob Strike 15 (1) (3) Second Jeanie
Carried without dissent

Chris:
State of existence and non exist which code and bylaws defines it but it’s not a formed thing
Controversy - courts exists for democratic reasons
People use the word for this but it becomes a controversial kind of thing
Governance should take on sooner rather than later
Should be tackling the problem sometime soon

Mac:
Good place to start - think about why it is in a state of disrepair
Problems as it currently exists
Then we can think about why it exists

Chris:
Feasibility
- Controversial issues
- Not formed, go through a whole process
- When people realize it exists, people come to it with issues

Mac:
It can’t overturn council’s decisions
No legal way to delegate power

Sheldon:
Bylaws said that student court ruling took effect when it would be sent to council
But if they didn’t like it they would pretend it’s not there
Council now has to discuss it

Max:
Always got overturned
Bring it back, same thing might happen, no power over them, undemocratic
Council is board of directors, having another organization making decisions can put us in trouble

Jakob:
Don’t want to put power to someone else
Student court needs to go
Aaron Bailey tried to run a referendum
Might be the way to go
Similar question

Mac:
Expensive, don’t want to give a body of power, and it’s sort of always going to be kind of weirdly functional
But referendum won’t be easy

Chris:
Biggest reason why it’s in existence and non existences

Majority agreement in governance committee
Democratic
Hard to justify it

Jakob:
AGM topic?

Chris: can be risky way to explain it

Max:
Representative people who are elected are making the decision

Mac:
Can have an ombudsperson who can

Law students are always drunk

Sheldon:
Looks good on their resume
Would import fancy theories of law

Jakob:
May not have a lot of context, not a lot of ruling to make the proper decisions

Can we delete the one line of code that says that the student court always needs to be filled?

MOVED BY Jakob, SECONDED BY Jeanie:
BIRT: Section 15 article 1 paragraph 3 ← remove

It’s Summer no one’s gonna come

Chris:
It’s shady

Mac:
Not in favour of students who make calls and don’t understand the AMS

Carries
Next Meeting: TBD but in about 2 weeks.
Adjourn
Moved: 
Seconded: 
That the meeting be adjourned at 3:04