THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee
September 22, 2017 – 3PM

Members

Christopher Hakim (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Julian Villafuerte Diaz (Councillor), Kevin Doering (Councillor), Hadi Chaudhry (Member-at-Large), Sally Lin (Executive), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk)

Present:

Christopher Hakim (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Cameron England (Councillor), Hadi Chaudhry (Member-at-Large), Sally Lin (Executive)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm

Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Chris Seconded: Cam

Unanimously approved.

That the agenda be adopted.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Moved: Cam Seconded: Jeanie

That Hadi be appointed as Vice-Chair for a period beginning immediately and ending after the first council in May.

Unanimously approved.
AMS Governance Committee

3. Goal Setting

We have a blank canvas of a sort for this year’s Governance Committee.

Leftover from the last GovCom:

- On recommendation of the Executive Committee, we need to draw up an Internal Policy for the procedures needed for biannual committee reviews
- Student court

[Chris]: Student Court is a big issue to tackle. Other potential areas – steering committee (when we face a problem with it, we suspend code).

[Sally]: Maybe we could direct an exec to consider implementation plans for it for next year?

[Chris]: Not necessarily policy problem, something in code. Need to look at start and end dates.

[Cam]: Summer attendance is an issue (people not in town, but still mandated to sit on committees).

[Jeanie]: Need to look at how we explain committees and reqs to apply to sit on one.

[Sally]: Procedural...

[Chris]: Mac sent me some internal policies he was reviewing and sent to me. Will look over them.

[Jeanie]: Mac wanted to change gender pronouns through whole code.

[Chris]: Sheldon also gave me a list of mostly housekeeping topics:

- Removing specific fee levels from AMS fees
- Speakers term (when they are hired) is listed as Apr 1st
- CiTR rules
- Elections reserve funds
- SUB repairs & replacement fund
- Endowment fund
- Definition of an AMS member (would be tricky.)
- Constituency/departmental clubs
AMS Governance Committee

- Student court

[Jeanie]: Make a calendar... let's space out the housekeeping ones so council only gets 1-3 coming to them per week. Keep the meatier ones separate.

[Hadi]: When I was joining this summer, many students didn’t understand the fees on the financial breakdown. Should be more info up there.

   [Sally]: Can opt out of some of them! Not all. Fees go through referenda.

[Sally]: Maybe – wait for Alim on the fees things?

   [Chris]: It is a housekeeping thing. There is a paragraph, very outdated.

4. Student Court

[Chris]: It is a problem. Last govcomm thought it was a problem. Should we get rid of it/change it/fix it?

   [Sally]: Doesn’t take anything away... not helpful. Generally we have not had issues that could be dealt with effectively by student court.

   [Chris]: Always causes trouble when it comes up.

   [Jeanie]: It is in bylaws. AGM, SGM, or referenda.

      [Cam]: Unlikely quorate AGM...

      [Sally]: U-PASS at March Referenda... this would be the year.

[Sally]: I will go check with Sheldon, Keith... may be related to Societies Act.

[Cam]: If we were going to have student court exist, we should at least make it harder for council to overturn it. Otherwise, it has no real power.

   [Chris]: Scary to give another body power over AMS Council. It could hurt us if they put us in wrong legal standing.

[Sally]: Not sure I like the rhetoric that it is a waste of money... if we are thinking about getting rid of student court, rationale should be that it is not what best serves the membership.

[Hadi]: It should stay – important, seems like it is not being done well. Implementation. It needs some sort of briefing about AMS, explanation about gravity of their decisions. I think it will get
defeated in referenda... hard to sell getting rid of a court. We need to make it look better, to recruit judges.

[Jeanie]: Lots of operational issues. Would need to be fixed. Ex: why only law students. Money - about $18k for us to hire from beginning of Feb to end of term. Would need to hire all year for effectiveness. Hiring when issues come up is impractical. I also think our council does have the expertise to gather all the bylaws.

[Chris]: Put aside costs. I really believe it is ineffective, we have most of the resources. Council, Sheldon, lawyers... lots of ways to resolve issues.

[Sally]: Not discussing getting rid of student court – is there something in the idea of having a student court?

[Cam]: Ombuds?

[Sally]: They report to council.

[Hadi]: What about issues that you’re angry with council about?

[Chris]: Student court... then back to council?

[Sally]: Also legit if we mess up we get sued.
AMS Governance Committee

Action Items

- Chris will email out lists from Mac & Sheldon!
- Chris will forward past minutes when Govcomm previously discussed student court
- Chris will bring a whole list of what issues happened in the past in student court

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be determined by a when2meet.

Adjourn

As the agenda was exhausted, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06pm.