

Referenda/Bylaws 2017

A Collaborative Introduction

Bylaw Change #1

The Governance Review | Structure of Council

Senate and Board of Governors representation

-Eliminated as voting members

Raising constituency representative threshold

-3000 students per representative instead of 1500

Adjustment for creation of new constituencies

-Minimum population of 1% of total enrollment

The Governance Review | Managing Director

Changing title to Managing Director

-Formerly General Manager, reflects new staff structure

Slight adjustment to duties

-Aligning businesses with services, now all operational aspects

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AMS Financial Structural Changes

Bylaw Change #1 - Budget Committee

Old Budget Committee Duties

- (a) The budget of the Society shall be prepared and approved by the beginning of each fiscal year for that fiscal year, based on the proposed expenditures of the Society, including all administrative expenses, the proposed expenditures of Council, SAC, their committees, the administrative operations of the Society, constituencies, clubs, and all other organizations of the Society, and expenditures from funds referred to in Bylaw 11(2) and including an operating margin of not less than five percent (5%) of the discretionary funds of the Society as determined in the Code.
- (b) A budget committee shall be appointed by Council for the purpose of reviewing the budget prepared by the Vice-President Finance

Old Budget Committee Structure

- i) the Vice-President Finance;
- ii) three (3) active members of the Society
- iii) five (5) voting members of Council

Problems

- Very restrictive committee since its in Bylaws
- Honestly really did not do much work
- Does not fit into new committee structure
- The name budget committee is very limiting
- Too many people on committee very hard to meet quorum
- Really did not do much to help the society financially
- Not much accountability for finances of society



New Finance Committee Duties

- General:
 - Finance Committee shall provide oversight and accountability for the finances of the entire society and shall advise the Vice-President Finance and Managing Director. Finance Committee's activities shall include approval and preparation of preliminary and final budget for the society, monitoring of society financials activities, administration of society funds, society investment policy, and monitoring constituencies and club bank accounts.

New Finance Committee Duties

- (a) submit quarterly reports to Council in August, November, February, and May, such reports to state the Society's actual expenditures and business contributions, with the May report also having an extension to reflect year-end and the audit timeline;
- (b) make recommendations about dealing with deficits, surpluses, and unallocated revenue from donors and sponsors
- (c) have the power to approve short-term loans to Constituencies and Clubs
- (d) carry out such duties concerning the Society's Funds as are given to it in Section IX B of the Code
- (e) monitor the accounts of Constituencies and Clubs;
- (f) ensure compliance with the Code's Fiscal Procedures by all individuals and organizations within the Society;
- (g) review short-term performance of the Society's businesses and suggest improvements to the Vice-President Finance;
- (h) assist the Vice-President Finance in ensuring the financial health of the Society;
- (i) propose annual goals for itself to the Steering Committee and be responsible for completing those goals; and
- (j) have such other duties as are as are outlined in the Bylaws or the Code or assigned by Council from time to time.
- (k) stewardship over the societies investment policy
- (l) Approve and make any changes to the Club Finances Policy guide

New Finance Committee Structure

- Vice-President Finance
- One executive member who is elected from council
- Two – Students at large
 - One, two year term
 - One, one year term
- Three – Members of Council

Why the following changes?

- Make Finance Committee useful
- Improve accountability and transparency for all financial matters
- Ensure quarterly reporting to Council in regards to AMS student government and business expenditures.
- Have one body responsible for all financial matters of society instead of having Finance Commission, Budget Committee, and ABBA

Bylaw Change #2 - Investments

Current State

Fiscal Year	\$ Invested	\$ Return	% Interest
2015-2016	\$16.8 Million	\$152,534	.09%
2014-2015	\$15.8 Million	\$302,479	1.91%
2013-2014	\$13.8 Million	\$300,312	2.17%
2012-2013	\$14 million	\$224,600	1.6%

Total Interest last 4 fiscal year = \$979,925

Proposed change to bylaws

- **Bylaw 10:**
- (a) The General Manager shall:
 - ii) cause all funds of the Society to be held as deposits in a bank as defined in the Bank Act of Canada or a credit union authorized to carry on business under the Financial Institutions Act of British Columbia, **or invest according to an investment policy which has been approved by council in consultation with a fund manager. ~~invested in shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, securities, and other investments rated at or above "Single A" (A) rating, as assigned by the Standard & Poor's Corporation or its successor;~~**

Problems

- The policy does not make any sense
- It leaves it up to interpretation of MD
- Generates extremely low returns, barely beats CPI
- Unutilized returns
- Invested in 100% Fixed Income (Government bonds)

Proposed Investment Policy

- Increased interest rate from 1-2% to 5-6%
- Change policy to 70% fixed income and 30% equities.

Fiscal Year	\$ Invested	\$ Return	% Interest
2015-2016	\$16.8 Million	\$840,000	5%
2014-2015	\$15.8 Million	\$790,000	5%
2014-2014	\$13.8 Million	\$690,000	5%
2012-2013	\$14 million	\$700,000	5%

Total Interest last 4 fiscal year = \$3,000,200

Difference = \$2.1 Million Dollars

Increase bottom line next fiscal = \$400,000

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AMS SAC Structural Changes

SAC - Structural Changes

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- Elimination of SAC from bylaws
- Relic from 1960s AMS
- Improved efficiency
- Committee of staff, setting their own rules

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AMS Art Collection Referendum

Proposed Referendum

- - “Do you authorise the AMS Student Council to sell a maximum of three (3) paintings owned by the AMS at any time prior to February 28 2020, such paintings to be selected at the discretion of the AMS Council and sold at the most advantageous time?”
- Note: Proceeds from the sale to be invested in the AMS endowment, the interest from which to be used to purchase additional art and support other on-campus arts programming and initiatives”

Why?

- A. 4.5M Is a lot of art to insure, especially when students don't actually interact with the collection more than a few times a year
- B. Art will be better used and respected in a professional collection
- C. The interest income from investing the funds from the sale will go a long way in funding future investments in art and supporting arts-initiatives on campus
- D. WE CAN EVEN BRING BACK THE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM!

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Recreation Facility Referendum

Proposed Referendum

“Do you support the AMS establishing a graduated fee (“The Fee”) to contribute to the construction of a student fitness and recreation building at UBC Vancouver?”

- The Fee will not be levied until an agreement between the AMS and the University has been reached including but not limited to the terms of the financial contribution of the University, and construction has started.
- The amount of The Fee will begin at a rate of \$5. It will increase to \$10 the year following, and will continue to increase by \$5 per academic year up to a maximum of \$25.
- The Fee would be levied on all UBC Vancouver students on an annual basis.
- The Fee would continue to be levied until the AMS has completed all its financing obligations for the student fitness and recreation building.
- The AMS Council will establish a process for active AMS members demonstrating need to apply for a refund of The Fee.”



Why?

- A. It's now or never
- B. Separate conversation from \$21 fee
- C. Strategic influence and show of support for Board to match and propel the project forward

Questions

