



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AMS Governance Committee

Minutes for October 24, 2016

Attendance

Present: Ian Sapollnik (Chair), Jeff Pea (Councillor), Mackenzie Lockhart (Councillor), Mark Bancroft (Member at Large), Simran Brar (Member at Large), Samantha So (Vice President Academic and University Affairs), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist and Clerk of Council)

Guests:

Regrets: Jakob Gattinger (Councillor), Ava Nasiri (President)

Recording Secretary: Simran Brar

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The adoption of the agenda as presented was moved by Simran, seconded by Mackenzie, and adopted with unanimous consent.

3. Election of Vice Chair, Governance Review Committee representative

Nominees for Vice Chair: Simran Brar

Nominees for Governance Review Committee: Mark Bancroft

Moved by Mackenzie, Seconded by Samantha

That Simran be appointed as Vice Chair of the Governance Committee.

That Mark be appointed as Governance Review Committee representative.

Passed with noted Abstention: Mark Bancroft

4. Long term planning & purpose

Ian: By the end of meeting, aim to have brief terms of reference, what do we want from this committee?

Mackenzie: Do we want a working group to do code or should we as a committee be responsible for any code? Or delegate it? Big picture may be different. Ava seemed to push work WG called Legislative Procedures Committee (LPC)

Ian: It was governance review implementation thought LPC had work to do. How do we want to organize our structure?

Sheldon: What else is governance doing besides code & bylaw?

Mackenzie: Short Term: not as much; Long Term: no governance review committee, we are suppose to organize periodic review. May have room for LPC working group committee that focuses on smaller changes; governance committee can write new code in future

Ian: Code & bylaws not focus of committee; code & by-laws are means of how we get out goals; focus on big picture governance, ex. focus on undergraduate societies & our relationship

Mac: steering committee setting big picture goals, we're implementing the picture on code & by-law level; Focusing on we can better assist undergraduates is good idea, but Student Life Committee is asking similar questions. That discussion should happen in the steering committee

Ian: Steering committee hasn't met yet; should be able to propose our goals, don't really believe in the hierarchy of steering committee

Mac: Vice-chairs sit on steering committee; committee chairs report to council - based on flow diagram Our purpose to amend code & by-laws, budget committee has a lot of changes that would be considered small, but together make a big impact; need to see changes like that part of our overall purpose too. Have no working group, assign people to do stuff for specific parts.

Ian: Proposed structure: Don't create an LPC working group, work as full committee, and if anything comes up, need technical work, appoint 2-3 people to work on specific smaller stuff as need be and then they come back, keep committee as approval for big code changes.

Simran: Last summer, LPC proposed something similar. Agrees with Ian, better communication within committee, split work.

Mark: Smaller groups delegate specifics where we can change code and bylaws.

Mackenzie: Having a working group is more beneficial for larger committees that can have trouble having discussions etc. For smaller committee, like governance, agrees with Ian

Jeff: Agree with redundancies in discussions in LPC, have 1-2 work on wording of code, have continued discussions on to frame it; maximize how much we can do and hit all of our goals, I know we want to do non-coding stuff as

Sheldon: refers back to LPC, when they had 1 person working on looking into specific code; 1 person to be a working group

Ian: Last summer LPC looked into the idea of forming working groups of people focusing on one specific policy and then bringing it back to the committee. For Governance Committee, looks like we are looking to have our main committee where we provide input and goal of what we to do, have (2-3 people) explore options, do research, find a solution and come back to full committee, with a proposal and why they are suggesting it.

Sheldon: is happy to the write out the code

There is general consensus for this idea proposed by Ian. Sheldon can help write out codes.

We can formalize the process for governance committee in a document (informal). Can look

into long term structure, what other universities are doing, how to support undergraduates. Concern that this may fall under steering committee, should ask them. However, in our terms of reference, we can hypothetically look into it every 3 years.

5. Short term goals

There have been couple of times where meetings for committees that should be meeting regularly, have not been called. It is an **enforceability** issue. There was discussion on past by-laws when the president could call a committee to hold a meeting, which was later struck. Now, council can issue a directive, but the chair of the committee would be the person who would have to call the meeting.

Another goal, is to focus on communication, specifically **internal communication**. SLC committee does not focus on communication and none of the other committees do so, so there is a gap. We can focus on how to improve communication within council and the rest of the AMS. External communication would come under the president's portfolio, so we will not focus on that.

Will table the discussion on setting goals and strategies for this short term goal.

Reviews of certain aspects of how the AMS conducts their **elections** came up. This issue was raised in the governance review committee. The AMS policy advisor Kelsi conducted a survey of other student societies and how they conducted their elections and provided suggestions: abolish election committee or keep it especially for appeals and decisions more like a team that runs the election rather than one voting most of time. Governance Implementation Committee was given specific mandate to implement the governance review on time, but there are no recommendations under the review on elections.

Comfortable taking the suggestion that they are not looking at elections right now, so this is a general area of governance we can look at. Will check in with the governance implementation committee, and policy advisor.

The short list of focus areas is:

- Elections
- Enforceability of our code
- Communication between Council & internal AMS

6. Committee structure & regular meeting times

The committee decided that they will meet once a week for now and will gauge how often to meet based off need. Will send out a doodle poll this Wednesday.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm.