

AMS Governance Committee

Agenda for May 31, 2018

Present: Dylan Braam (Chair), Max Holmes, Piers Fleming, Katherine Pan (proxy for Evan Zhou), Nathan Bowles (arrived 18:34), Sheldon Goldfarb (non-voting)

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at ~18:15. At this time, there was no quorum present.

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda

Added Vice-Chair Election to before committee goals.

Executive Update

Max: Everything good on governance side. Policy I9 causing some timeline issues. Adding two more senior government positions: Sr. Student Services Manager and Sr. Finance & Administration Manager

Vice-Chair Election

Nobody present wanted to be the chair, so the election was pushed to the end of the meeting in case anyone late wished to seek nomination.

Committee Goals

Elections:

Dylan: This was assigned to the committee in the past. It was also suggested by Jeanine Malone via e-mail. Summer is a good time to do this (as pointed out by Jeanine) as this is the only time that elections are not occurring.

Full Review of Code:

Max: Code is bloated, there are unused sections and things that should be cut. There are also things that aren't correct. There are lots of things that never happen, such as reporting actions.

Sheldon: I am currently working on compiling a list of sections of Code that could be cut.

Full Review of Internal Policies

Sheldon: Certain policies are the responsibilities of certain committees. If not given to a committee they default to governance. Many are out of date. They also could have been superseded. Examples include the executive cell phone policy, the executive travel policy, and the sponsorship guidelines. The sponsorship guidelines are 6 years old.

Dylan: Do we want to review them all?

Max: We should review all that governance is responsible for, or no one is.

Sheldon: Several are supposed to be in the care of committees that no longer exist. I can review and provide a list.

Piers: we should make sure that responsibility is redirected to the most appropriate committee.

Adding Responsibilities of Senior Managers and Managers into Code

Piers: The responsibility of senior managers and managers are currently not in Code

Max: We don't have a lot in code about managers. We try to keep that out of code so that it's more on business and operations side of things. We don't talk about what the Senior HR manager does in code. However, for the services side of things it makes sense to have it in code.

18:34, Nathan arrives. Quorum is achieved.

Specific fee levels for AMS:

Sheldon: Code includes a list of fees. These we put in before fees became indexed to inflation. Every year it gets more out of date.

Max: There is an issue with our CPI indexing. We index on January's numbers. UBCO use May's. We should work on getting on track

Sheldon: According to Code, we apparently are supposed to use September. We should check with the Managing Director

Dylan: we need to find a way to list our fees without having to update them at AMS Council every year.

Max: This is more appropriate for finance to take care of.

Election Reserve Fund and SUB Fund:

Sheldon: Do we use these?

Max: I'm not sure if we put money in, but we take it out. This is something finance should take care of. This will also come up as part of general review.

Changing AMS membership requirements:

Sheldon: As Bylaws currently read, there is confusion as to whether student graduating in December, but paid fees in September are members and whether they can vote.

Dual degrees:

Max: There is an issue determine as to what constituency students in two faculties are a part of and whether they are able to vote twice. This was sent to University Council. The response was "we have to check" and they never got back. We have made an agreement on fees but we didn't figure out whether there was a referendum needed to implement that agreement.

Nathan: How many students does this even apply to, and of those, how many care.

Max: As it currently is being done, whichever faculty you joined first is the one you are part of. We could have issues with inconsistent membership rules. It is important to ensure that whatever we implement is technically possible.

Student Court

Max: When we last tried to eliminate it, we didn't do a good enough job advertising this. We weren't close to quorum.

Dylan: I have concerns about what happens when Code isn't followed. Is there any form of follow-up?

Following discussion, the below were adopted as goals:

- Review the Code policy on constituency elections;

- Full review of Code;

- Full review of Internal Policies under the care of Governance Committee (include those under Governance Committee by default);

- Full review of orphaned Internal Policies (those under Committees that no longer exist); and

- Looking into rules regarding AMS membership, especially with regard to graduation and membership in multiple constituencies.

The following items were deemed to be more under the purview of Finance Committee:

- Specific fee levels;

- Election Reserve Fund; and

- SUB Fund

The following items will not be adopted as goals but will be considered during Code review:

- Responsibilities of managers and senior managers in Code;

- Possibility of eliminating Student Court

CiTR Board Policy

Sheldon: Currently all appointees with the exception of the VP Finance must be Canadian Citizens. This was done to comply with federal law, but (at least) one person on the CiTR Board who is a non-citizen is allowed. There was a proposal some years ago about changing this. How should we proceed?

Voted by the committee: Sheldon to draft a specific exception for the VP Finance for approval of the committee.

Vice-Chair Election

Nathan Bowles elected Vice-Chair of Governance Committee

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned, ~17:30