

AMS Governance Committee

Minutes for July 12, 2018

Governance Committee Membership: Dylan Braam (Chair, Councillor), Nathan Bowles (Vice-Chair, Student-at-Large), Max Holmes (AMS VP Academic & University Affairs), Jeanie Malone (Councillor) Evan Zhou (Councillor), Muse Greenwood (Councillor), Piers Fleming (AMS Student Services Manager)

Staff Support: Sheldon Goldfarb (AMS Archivist and Clerk of Council)

Attendance: Dylan Braam, Cameron England (proxy for Nathan Bowles), Max Holmes, Jeanie Malone, Muse Greenwood (by phone), Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

6:15pm

Land Acknowledgement

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting takes place on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territories of the hñq̓min̓m̓ speaking Musqueam people.

Approval of Agenda – Motion

Whereas: we have stuff to do,

Be it resolved that: Governance Committee approve the agenda for the meeting of July 12, 2018.

Motion passes unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Motion

Whereas: Jeanie can spell her name better than I can,

Be it resolved that: Governance Committee approve the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2018.

Motion passes unanimously.

Executive Update – Presentation

[Max]: Met with Stephanie Oldford (Academic Governance Officer) to talk about membership in VSESUS/AUS with respect to membership and how fees would apply etc for combined majors. The University Counsel has indicated that they will follow AMS determination of AUS/VSEUS when collecting fees. Will eventually bring a motion to council to place combined majors in economics will be members of VSEUS.

[Sheldon]: Unsure with what authority we will distinguish this – maybe VSEUS constitution?

[Max]: University Counsel pointed 27.1.2 in University Act re: fees. Without referenda, the AMS can move or determine membership that pay fees.

[Sheldon]: Article 17-4 defines what membership in a constituency is... enrolled in a faculty...

[Max]: Combined majors AUS/VSEUS agreed. Double majors, and major/minor they need to work out. Working on consultation.

[Sheldon]: Should we generally amend code to cover these cases?

[Max]: From Stephanie – not a ton of cases around this.

[Dylan]: Only 3 cases in BC Law – very rare

[Jeanie]: It would make sense for this to be in their constitutions?

[Dylan]: But they can change their own constitutions.

[Jeanie]: Consider enshrining in code membership for fee-collecting?

[Max]: Perhaps long term goal?

[Max]: Stephanie also raised definition of “active membership”.

[Sheldon]: Very interesting. Impacts elections.

[Jeanie]: How time sensitive is this?

[Max]: Needs to be done for Sept. Pass motion indicating which members are in VSEUS.

[Dylan]: We should make it clear that Council is the body to decide these matters.

[Cameron]: Of interest – AUS does not mention VSEUS at all.

The Committee agreed that Max and Sheldon, in consultation with Stephanie Oldford, will create draft wording of a motion to recognize combined major students as members of VSEUS. This will be brought to the next Governance Committee for debate.

[Max]: I-9 – executive discussed. Policy called for a rubric, it has never been in place. The incoming/outgoing VP Finances + HR managers are supposed to make this rubric. Governance Review Implementation Committee may have made this rubric? Unclear.

One idea is to have outgoing non-returning executives develop a rubric and it goes to Council for approval (not just Governance, but Council – avoiding re-creating Oversight Committee).

It also says that the reports need to refer to the strategic plan. We don't really have one.

Another issue is the timeline – May is a hard time to deliver goals. There is an expectation that as soon as you are elected you are meeting with staff and outgoing folks – which is during exams, and before the term started. It might be better to have “by the end of June”.

The executives create their goals and it generally gets passed by Council. No room for council to be involved in creation of goals. No time for feedback.

A lot of committees work with specific executives. No room for conversations there. Perhaps tie them in more (ex. VP Admin presents draft to OpsComm, VP Finance to FinComm...).

SSM is unique. They are an interesting case – they do follow this piece but don't have as much student government pieces like committees. Perhaps more conversation with Sr Services Manager.

There is November update and end of year report. Onus is on Council to hold accountable, to have deeper discussion.

Maybe needs to be more clear which staff members are relevant to goals for each executives. Clear for some – VP AUA to Policy Advisor, for instance.

[Jeanie]: Perhaps more fulsome discussion for next meeting? Would also like to see what is relation with budgeting process.

The Committee agreed that Max and Sheldon will create a draft of I-9 including these changes for Governance Committee to debate.

Land Acknowledgements – Discussion

[Dylan]: We start most AMS meetings with the land acknowledgements including wording around “traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories” and then identifying the particular indigenous groups relevant to the land that the meeting is held on.

Outside of the AMS, this is typically done first (right after the call to order). Could be done before the agenda is approved.

A student at large brought up that this land acknowledgement is brought into the Speaker’s Business mandated to be there by Code. The concern is this not common practice and pushes the acknowledgement farther into the meeting, I would like to consider moving this forward in the structure. I would like to direct Sheldon to provide some draft amendments to make this change.

[Sheldon]: Section 3 Article 2 Paragraph 19 – would be renumbering?

[Dylan]: And Paragraph 6 would be pushed to Paragraph 5. So the order of the agenda would be:

- (a) Call to order
- (b) Land Acknowledgement
- (c) Adoption of the Agenda
- (d) and onwards ...

[Sheldon]: This will mean splitting out of Speaker’s Business. Will bring back for next Governance Committee.

[Dylan]: Within the description of the Land Acknowledgement, can we add “ancestral” as part of the wording.

Sheldon will provide a draft of code changes to move the Land Acknowledgement to immediately after the Call to Order, and to add “ancestral” within the description of the Land Acknowledgement. This will be brought to the next Governance Committee for debate.

Constituency Elections – Discussion

Tabled to next meeting.

See Appendices A & B for items to be discussed (continuing from previous meeting's discussion).

Updates on Previous Business

[Cameron]: Spoke to HR Committee in relation to the EA hiring timeline and they were highly skeptical of need for EA in September.

[Jeanie]: I did speak to Hannah and indicated that we do need someone for Sept with respect to constituency elections assuming no drastic changes are made in the next two months.

[Max]: Of note – council already passed a recommendation to hire for September when I was EA. So HR committee is already being asked to do this.

[Dylan]: Max – please follow up with HR Committee to follow up on this! The rationale seems to be lost on them at the moment. Governance Committee is the “steward” of the Code and we are obligated to hold the Society accountable for following Code.

Max to follow up with HR Committee to ensure hiring of the Elections Administrator before September.

Other Business

Adjournment