

AMS Governance Committee

Minutes for August 9, 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), Andre Wu (Councillor), Piers Fleming (AMS Student Services Manager)

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

Present: Dylan, Jeanie, Evan, Andy, and Sheldon

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:18pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda – Motion

The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Motion

The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Update – Presentation

[Sheldon]: I drafted something related to I-9 along with Max. Max is soliciting feedback from the other executives. The hope is to bring this to GovComm next meeting.

Policy I-1 – Discussion

[Sheldon]: This was reviewed and approved last in August 2016 by GovComm, but not officially approved by Council.

[Sheldon]: Need to fix: name of responsible body to Governance Committee rather than Legislative Procedures Committee.

[Jeanie]: Remove mentions of commissions - we don't have those any more.

[Dylan]: Note "date of anticipated approval" rather than "date of approval" when we bring things to Council.

[Dylan]: Concerned about (7) - which is about formatting - a bit overzealously prescriptive.

[Andy]: Could we delegate this? Like to the archivist?

[Dylan]: When is Council defining terms that are not in Code? (7 ii) is unclear.

The Committee agreed to remove item 7.

The Committee agreed to merge sections 8 and 9, and update the wording to clarify that all policies must include the following sections in this order.

[Jeanie]: Would it make sense to delegate formatting/consistency to Sheldon?

[Sheldon]: Maybe...

[Sheldon]: Some position titles have changed (ex. Policy Advisor).

[Dylan]: Do we need to circulate this to any other folks?

[Jeanie]: Maybe AdvoComm? They have the most internal policies.

[Sheldon]: This sets a template for external policies as well as internal. Let's consult Jason (Policy Advisor).

[Jeanie]: Can we clarify the applicability is internal and external policies?

Constituency Elections – Discussion

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

[Dylan]: There are so many pieces to constituency elections that are hard to enforce. There are some fundamental rules that are good, but the administrative burden of elections should be held within the constituencies with the AMS EA in contact to provide training, support, etc.

I think that it would be more consistent to bring appeals from constituency elections to the AMS Elections/ Appeals Committee.

The AMS EA should be able to set requirements in order for constituencies to obtain access to the online voting system.

[Sheldon]: I made proposed code changes - we largely nixed them. Maybe we need to work from current code?

[Dylan]: Flattening appeals process - would be helpful for there to be a process

[Jeanie]: Is it enforceable?

[Sheldon]: Article 9 Paragraph II - we need a ten person petition?

[Jeanie]: Biggest thing we need - new EA to do an environmental scan of all constituency elections and understand the rules they have in place. I think that understanding this - even if there are no changes - is a key part of the issues.

[Dylan]: Would be good if that came in the JD from HR comm. We can ask in council.

[Dylan]: Some of the recommendations were nice-to-haves - these are administrative pieces that don't need to be in Code.

[Jeanie]: Would like to encourage people to use Simply Voting.

[Dylan]: Would like EA to have control over the online voting system, and can say no to requests.

[Jeanie]: Could EA come with a year plan / rules associated with the online system to Council?

[Dylan]: Could we require EA to deny access to the online voting system?

[Dylan]: AMS EA should be collecting results of constituency elections and sending that to finance rather than their councils approving.

The Committee agreed that they will review a draft of the changes at 7:45pm.

Updates on Previous Business

Other Business

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.