

AMS Governance Committee

Minutes for August 23, 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: Sheldon, Jeanie, Dylan, Max, and guests Kuol and Chris Hakim

NOTE: Quorum of Governance Committee was not met.

Call to Order: 6:15pm

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda – Motion

Be it resolved that Governance Committee approve the Agenda for the meeting of August 23, 2018

Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Motion

Be it resolved that Governance Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2018

No quorum - tabled for next meeting.

Executive Update – Presentation

By Max Holmes, VP Academic

[Max]: I will be resigning from Governance Committee due to extra commitments with various university committees. A new executive will be taking my place. Probably Chris.

Committee postings will be going up soon for the fall committee appointments.

I-9 has been put on pause, with SUDS and other pieces. Timeline is for early September.

Working on restructuring student issues and equity caucus as a subcommittee of Advocacy Committee - trying to implement for September. There will also be a separate Indigenous discussion circle to see if this makes sense to blend that together or to give it a different structure.

Code Changes as Proposed by Finance Committee – Discussion

See Appendix A: Proposed Code Changes

[Kuol]: Basically we are looking into increasing transparency around some of the student fees that are administered by subsidiary or external groups.

We have talked to them about doing quarterly reports, like we do. They raised concerns about quarterly being too much effort on their side - we have agreed on bi-annual reports instead. We want to make this Finance Committee's job to receive these reports.

[Sheldon]: Note - there is no May report (we do Aug, Nov, Feb, AGM).

[Dylan]: For one of these reports they get one month to make and three months in the second one?

[Jeanie]: Also note that FinComm will have turned over between these two reports.

[Max]: Is this timeline in line with when the resource groups etc. make their budgets?

[Sheldon]: But Council doesn't do the May report? So no antecedent.

[Sheldon]: Why do we need to define the timeline of the report?

[Dylan]: Makes sense for consistency to define this.

[Jeanie]: Big question - under what purview do we have the ability to ask for these reports?

[Dylan]: Probably we can't enforce... issues as these fees are approved via referenda, effectively like by-law...

[Kuol]: We don't have to like, keep their money, etc

[Dylan]: Would the "stick" be then to run our own referenda etc.

[Sheldon]: What about this frozen fee pieces.

[Jeanie]: What is the scope?

[Kuol]: I want it to include all fees.

[Jeanie]: Does this say it is going to be published?

[Sheldon]: Yes, goes to council

[Jeanie]: Does Finance Committee do anything with these funds?

[Chris]: Kinda nothing

[Kuol]: Some fees have more rules - campus & community fund

[Dylan]: Is this purely about transparency then, not accountability? Since we cannot ask for them to change their spending.

[Sheldon]: When we restricted it to AMS subsidiary organizations, we could restrict the funding

[Dylan]: If the purpose is to give students an understanding of what's happening, we won't need S. You would have to pass a bylaw change that would need a financial report on every fee. S needs to be a referendum or be cut.

[Chris]: We already act on an ad-hoc basis. The Women's Centre had a mismanagement of fees a while back, and that's the only time I remember when the AMS stepped in on a rather independent group.

[Dylan]: This is consultation; it's great.

[Jeanie]: Finance Committee is just two people and a phone.

[Dylan]: Section 9.p.

[Jeanie]: We are not allowed to make these changes without a referendum, because the referendum specified certain clubs.

[Kuol]: What we want to do is distribute the money equally and then budget the money based off of their accounts. 9.p.(iii) will make them have to follow line (i).

[Dylan]: Generally - remove anything that tells them how to spend their money, unless specified in the referenda! Referenda should be structured in the form of by-law amendments and no other form. This is chaotic.

[Jeanie]: Can we ask Sheldon to confirm if this abides by the referenda wording?

[Jeanie]: Let's just make sure that any changes from the first section are carried through the rest of the document.

[Dylan]: There are no strings attached on the referenda. We should remove all the sections (i) through (ix).

[Dylan]: We can freeze accounts for RGAC. We can also do this for clubs if they haven't submitted budget - add this in there.

[Jeanie]: Concerned about how this impacts non-fee based referenda.

[Dylan]: Add phrasing around "directly affects".

[Dylan]: Is this Governance or Finance matter?

[Jeanie]: Probably broader than Finance

[Dylan]: I would like Governance to handle this. We will put this on our agenda.

Policy I-1 – Motion

Be it resolved that Governance Committee approve the changes to Policy I-1: Policy on Policies as seen in Appendix B: Policy I-1

Constituency Elections – Motion

[Dylan]: Jason noted that section (m) (iv) denotes that we don't have to actually do... consultation... to count it as consultation.

[Chris]: He is right.

[Jeanie]: Can't we just indicate who was engaged and who was reached out to?

[Dylan]: Prefer not to - discuss during motivation. Should be wiped clean each time, and be in appendix.

[Sheldon]: This policy doesn't follow this.

[Chris]: Consultation doesn't imply consent or agreement to the policy changes. It implies we tried to get information.

[Dylan]: Would like to delete this section.

-dictionary definition fight between Dylan and Chris-

[Chris]: I think removing this hurts the credibility of the policy. Makes it look like we didn't try.

[Sheldon]: Do we want to keep the information in the consultation box.

[Jeanie]: Would like that to be included somewhere on the list.

[Dylan]: Consultation history - let's include this. And it has attempted.

[Sheldon]: Appendix?

[Dylan]: Yeah.

Be it resolved that Governance Committee approve the changes to AMS Code as seen in Appendix C: Code Changes – Elections

Updates on Previous Business

Quorum not met.

Other Business

Adjournment