

AMS Governance Committee

Minutes for October 24, 2018

Governance Committee Membership: Dylan Braam (Chair, Councillor), Christopher Hakim (AMS VP Administration), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Hannah Xiao (Councillor), Jennifer Ling (Councillor), Kate Burnham (Councillor), Melody Cheung (Member-at-Large)

Attendance: Dylan, Chris, Jeanie, Kate, Melody, Sheldon

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

Call to Order

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda

Motion 1

WHEREAS we have a meeting to do,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee approve the Agenda for the meeting of October 24, 2018.

Moved by Jeanie, seconded by Kate.
Motion passes unanimously.

Approval of Past Minutes (Motion)

Motion 2

WHEREAS our discussions are not secret,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2018.

Moved by Jeanie, seconded by Chris.

Motion passes unanimously.

Executive Update (Presentation)

By Christopher Hakim, VP Administration

[Chris]: No update. I-9 has been sent by Sheldon.

Governance Review — By-Laws (Discussion)

Please see the [by-laws discussion document](#) in the [Governance Review folder](#).

[Dylan]: By-laws are intentionally tough to change. They should not be changed on a whim of a few students. They can be changed at a quorate AGM. We just had our AGM yesterday (not quorate).

[Sheldon]: The last quorate AGM was 2014.

[Dylan]: The only other way to amend by-laws is through a referendum which has $\frac{2}{3}$ rd majority, and the YES has to be quorate.

[Sheldon]: AGM quorum is 558. Referenda quorum is 8% of the membership (4464).

[Dylan]: Therefore, this discussion is somewhat hypothetical and academic. To pass a referenda we need to ensure high engagement - including from council.

-the committee begins reviewing the document-

Issues (summarized):

- Do we need to have “good standing” more clearly defined to align our language with the Society Act?
 - Conclusion: not needed; however, we should make sure that there is no such thing as “good standing” anywhere in Code.
- Do we need to have a mechanism in which members may leave the Society?
 - Conclusion: We are not required to have procedures in by-laws.
- Do we need to include the divestment pieces from the referenda within the by-laws?
 - Conclusion: Would need a new referenda to ensure we reach the by-law referenda criteria. Probably having the investment policy is more useful.

- Should we consider the definition of membership for students who graduate in December? Should those folks be allowed to vote in the following year's elections?
 - Conclusion: Yes, this issue should be debated more fully
- Should we consider removing Student Court from the by-laws?
 - Conclusion: It would be beneficial to remove this from by-laws.
- Should we consider a housekeeping amendment to remove typos?
 - Conclusion: Yes, if pushing other by-law amendments.
- Should the rights/obligations of members be solely defined in the by-laws?
 - Conclusion: Many rights/obligations are defined in Code. Some wariness of having things defined in Code; don't want Council to think it can change these easily.
- Should we have a section that allows people to "accidentally omit" notice?
 - Conclusion: We should consider deleting this part since it invalidates previous parts. Hard to tell what is "accident".
- Should we more fully define "campus publication"?
 - Conclusion: remove the phrase "campus publication" from by-laws but put it in Code instead. Since we do not control the Ubysey, we should not require ourselves to do this.
- Should we reconsider quorum? Or what business can be done at a non-quorate AGM?
 - Conclusion: Has been reconsidered many times in recent years. No rules in Society act about quorums or activities that non-quorate AGMs may conduct. As long as the quorum is at least three. Would like to set it to be "500 or 1% whichever is lesser".
- Should we add a requirement that referenda either be in the form of a by-law amendment or have a specified end-date?
 - Conclusion: YES. But need to handle the clubs with fees parts carefully. This is a tricky issue. Needs deeper discussion.
- NOTE: we will need to run a SASC referenda for fee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:17pm.