

AMS Governance Committee

Agenda for November 13, 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, Kate, Hannah, Sheldon, Jennifer

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

Call to Order

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda

Motion 1

WHEREAS we have a big new topic to discuss,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee approve the Agenda for the meeting of November 13, 2018.

Moved by Kate, seconded by Hannah.

Approval of Past Minutes (Motion)

Motion 2

WHEREAS we spoke last time and wrote down those speakings,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting of October 31, 2018.

Whereas last time we did not write down those speakings, BIRT the Committee proceeds despite the lack of Minutes.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____. Unanimous consent from Members.

Internal Teamwork on Council (Discussion)

Following a long but productive discussion at Council last week, this committee has been tasked with looking into changing Code, policies and procedures to improve how Council functions. As much of this discussion was *in camera*, this description is limited, but more information will be provided at the meeting.

[Dylan]:

- BoD: approving everything from committees, executive and from the floor without much discussion
- Concern with lack of executive oversight
- There used to be a committee that had oversight over the Executive but this was disbanded and now the responsibility rests with Council

[Jeanie]:

- Why was oversight dissolved?

[Sheldon]:

- Committee didn't do much for a while
- Some concerns with past Executive members
- Within this decade, bonus system if Executive performed well and achieved goals
 - Goals then no longer very ambitious
- However this led to a tension b/w Committee and Executive
- Then decreased metric to just goal setting and steps
- This was not sufficient so oversight Committee was dissolved

[Dylan]:

- Currently Council is not providing sufficient oversight and it's not very concrete

[Sheldon]:

- During last AMS meeting, Councillor critical that other Councillors not engaged
- There is a desire to work together from all parties
- Executives seek trust from Council

[Dylan]:

- Trust is not the right word because our role requires accountability

[Sheldon]:

- Desire for public way for people to know events (i.e AGM) was expressed
- Council should be asking about things upcoming instead of being punitive after

[Dylan]:

- How to get Council more engaged?
 - [Sheldon]: Councillor felt intimidated about speaking

[Hannah]:

- Look back on what has worked well?

[Sheldon]:

- A Councillor feels they have lack of knowledge of bylaws and such so lack confidence
- Councillor suggested that Council should look more closely at Committee proceedings

[Dylan]:

- Governance Committee should be broad goals and policies that don't just affect Council
- Much of meeting regarding comfort with speaking, personal conflict
- Student life planning: bonding of councillors important
- Attribute to personal responsibility for Councillors to speak up
- Currently: what was published online, minutes (but at least 2 week delay)
- Idea that Executives that prepare reports for meetings
 - This is not a perfect system b/c there'll be a few days missing before meeting as Agenda must be firmed up
 - This allows more preparation for Councillors
 - Downside: Executive defers to written report and doesn't present what is in the report
- [Hannah]: can we compel them to give an oral report?
- [Sheldon]: Executives used to give quarterly reports, then 3x/y, then abolished. Now give biannual reports but sometimes Executives didn't finish.
- [Dylan] showed an example of a compiled report from a previous Council he has sat on from all Executives and all Councillors on their constituencies
- [Sheldon]: does this include Senators, BoG?
- [Dylan]: Yes, they can write 'no meetings have occurred'
- [Hannah]: How about less frequently (3x/y) so it's less work?
- [Kate]: Then that's a summary and doesn't promote Councillor engagement at each meeting
- [Dylan]: Something about Policy I-9
- [Hannah]: People no familiar with other Committees, too quick to think deeply about what questions they have. Give more rationale or documents about each change proposed before Moving.
- [Sheldon] in support
- Committee expresses they wish the Executive member was here since this is a Exec-Committee matter
- [Kate]: It's good to give rationale before Moving

Mover and Secunder of Movements

- Members expressed that the game wastes time
- [Dylan]: Mover and seconder for Approval of Agenda?
- [Sheldon]: Initiator of agenda item should speak on the item
- [Hannah]: What about proxies?
- [Sheldon]: Proxies should be prepared for agenda items. Also report sizes are limited by email system

- [Hannah]: Post on the AMS website?
- Debate regarding how to fit attachments onto emails
- [Dylan]: Motions from floor should be discouraged unless they are urgent
- [Hannah]: That has been the case
- [Kate]: That was not the case last week
- [Dylan]: Concern about timelines and how long it takes to go to the Agenda
- [Kate]: The Councillor orientation should be re-done at Council because we have many new Councillors and also a lot of people didn't attend
- [Jeanie]: There has been a lot of training of Councillors. COmmittee participation allows a lot of learning for Councillors. It is both Councillor and Executive responsibility to provide everything beforehand so they are prepared. A year plan should be helpful.
- [Hannah]: I attribute this more to student life
- [Dylan]: yes this is not solved just by adding reports. It's good that people are supposed to nominate themselves for at least one Committee. However, Committees bring things they agree on so they have nothing to debate.
- [Hannah]: More discussion from each Committee?
- [Sheldon]: We used to have a Consultation period.
- [Dylan]: suggests each Council meeting have a Committee-of-the-Week where that Committee brings forth things for discussion. Committees sign up for their own time each semester.

Dylan will try and get minutes out immediately.

- [Hannah]: Student life and Gov Committees should have a joint meeting?
- Members are in support but worry about the logistics

Should we limit number of presentations?

- [Jeanie]: Yes, no presentations
- [Dylan]: We need to know what these presenters want, and what the rationale is for each meeting
- [Hannah]: Who approves the presentations?
- [Sheldon]: The President
- Members want concrete desires from presenters
- Members concerned that this is at the sole discretion of the President
- However students-at-large can still come and present

Dylan will send out minutes quickly so Committee members can think about these topics

Governance Review — By-Laws (Discussion)

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

Adjournment

Move by Kate, Second by Hannah. Adjourn at 12:17PM