

Recommendations Arising from November 7, 2018 Discussion Topics

AMS Student Life Committee

Chair: Jerome Goddard

November 27, 2018

Introduction

On November 7, 2018, AMS Council (“Council”) considered two discussion items, entitled “Role of AMS Council and its Relationship with the Executive” and “Internal Teamwork at Council”. After these discussions, a resolution was adopted requesting that the Governance Committee consider changes to Code, policy and procedures relating to the discussions and to report to Council at its next meeting. The Student Life Committee was similarly tasked with developing recommendations in relation to the human factor components—the workplace culture piece. As you will see in the recommendations below, there is an emphasis on constant and consistent feedback between councillors and the executive, councillors and their own constituencies, and preparations for the role of being a councillor.

Problem at Hand

The *ex camera* portions of the discussions at Council largely focused on **engagement** and the **atmosphere** at Council. The Governance Committee has chosen to focus more on the engagement side of the piece and it was felt that Student Life Committee was better suited to handle the issue of atmosphere; however, it is understood that these two components go hand-in-hand. As such, we are working with the Governance Committee to resolve these issues and many of our recommendations have very similar principles and aims.

Recommendations

1. Check-ins with councillors, modelled after Engineering Undergraduate Society’s end of semester surveys. Focus areas of questions are broken down to three parts: overall state of the society, council performance and working environment, and executive performance. These are done anonymously through Google Forms and it is the responsibility of the President to report these findings to Council. The Assistant to the President, Conor Doherty, has already prepared sets of questions for councillors. This, along with suggestions from Governance Committee and EUS will make up the consultation surveys that are passed on to councillors ideally starting in January.
2. Councillor Retreat - both formal and informal. Much like Governance Committee’s suggestions, orientation and training should be ongoing and quizzes and check-ins should be done to ensure that all members of council are on the same page. These will become

codified in January. Along with this, steps will be taken to ensure that councillors come out to social events such as Pit Night and other happenings on campus whether related to the AMS or not. This will serve to improve informal council bonding and should allow for a more productive workplace.

3. Changes to Councillor Handbook - Drafting changes to handbook to include strategies to make councillors more responsible for the promotion of the society on social media and within their constituencies and working with communications department to prepare bi-weekly updates on the Society, which councillors will be able to share with other student leaders within their societies. This will help to ensure both better outreach of the society and more personal buy-in from councillors in the everyday presence of the society.