

October Report of the AMS Governance Committee

Dylan Braam
Chair
AMS Governance Committee

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Hello Council!

At the time of this report, the Governance Committee (the “Committee”) has met twice since we were elected by Council (and will have met once more before the next meeting of AMS Student Council (“Council”). This report outlines the work that the Committee has completed in these two meetings along with our upcoming work.

Completed Work

Policy I-1

The Committee has continued the work of the summer Governance Committee in revising Policy I-1, the wonderfully meta Policy on Policies. Many of the changes have been recommended to reflect current practices and to make the policy less prescriptive on matters of form. It was the opinion of the Committee that how policies should be formatted should be left up to the AMS staff that make the documents public. In terms of substantive changes, a group is only considered to be consulted when they actually provide a response. Groups contacted that do not reply can be noted separately.

Elections Code Changes

The Committee has recommended several changes to AMS Code relating to elections be amended. This was a long process and I am pleased to be bringing forward this motion to Council. The Committee was originally planning on bringing this to the previous Council meeting but there were some serious concerns about insufficient consultation with both the Human Resources Committee and the AMS Elections Administrator. These changes have been reviewed by the Elections Administrator and I am confident that they will make

the Elections Administrator less stressful, especially in regards to coordinating constituency elections and appeals.

Ongoing and Upcoming Work

Elections Code Changes

There are some additional changes to AMS Code regarding elections that the Committee will be bringing in the future. These were raised by the AMS Elections Administrator and are currently being drafted by Sheldon Goldfarb. These changes affect the Poll Clerk duties and cleanup of campaign materials in AMS elections. Since they are nonurgent we have decided to bring them forward separate from the other Code changes. There are additional changes proposed by the Elections Administrator relating to the transitioning and onboarding process that the Committee believes is best handled by Human Resources Committee; however, the Committee will be happy to work with the Human Resources Committee if they want to consult with us.

By-Laws and Code Review

One of the Committees goals is to update the AMS By-Laws and Code. We are beginning with the By-Laws and are hoping to discuss proposed changes at our next meeting. If we decide that changes are warranted, a discussion will be needed about what steps the Committee and the AMS as a whole should be taking to ensure that voters in a amendment referendum are informed and turn out.

Policy I-9

The Committee is hoping to review Policy I-9, relating to Executive goal setting in the near future. We have received recommendations from the Executive Committee and will discuss them when there is time in our Agenda.

Privacy Policy

We have received a draft of our new privacy policy that was provided by our legal counsel. Sheldon Goldfarb, in his capacity as the AMS Privacy Officer, is reviewing it and will eventually bring the new policy to the Committee for discussion.

As a committee of Council, the Governance Committee is always happy (and compelled) to address any issues that Council sees fit. We will also be reviewing AMS Code in detail this year so if there is anything in Code you would like to see changed please reach out. Comittee meetings are weekly at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays for anyone who wishes to attend.