



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AMS Governance Committee

Agenda of August 12th, 2019

Attendance

Present: Katherine Westerlund (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Tyra Phillips (Councillor), Kevin Zhang (Councillor), Cole Evans (VP Administration),

Guests: Michelle!

Regrets:

Recording Secretary:

4:30 - Informal chats

Michelle: I have a list!! Some of these are based on Halla's suggestions

1. People that report to you shouldn't be able to help you on your campaign
 - a. this was proposed last year by Halla
 - b. think student staff should be able to volunteer and sign the form, but don't think people should be **able to ask** the staff that work for them to volunteer/endorse them
 - c. potential for abuse of positions of power, doesn't seem like a good thing

[Cole]: so what does that line look like? How most relations look in the offices is that people have informal chats in the offices.

[Michelle]: People shouldn't be responding to a request, should bring volunteering up to the candidate

[Cole]: How would this be enforceable? Staff members can't be forced to work on campaigns. there's a line here about what conversations are allowed and what aren't

[Michelle]: I think a lot of these rules are hard to enforce. Provides an avenue for a staff who feels like they were put in an uncomfortable position.

[Katherine]: I think it's something that people won't get penalized for, but it will exist in the back of people's minds as a "don't do that".

2. think the appeals committee doesn't make sense

- composition is strange
- Seems like it just leaves everything up to the speaker?

[Cole]: I think this is really a "speaker is the most unbiased interpreter of code on council".

[Michelle]: Oh makes sense.

3. Preserving campaign platforms

- good for democracy
- seems like it might live in this part of code?

[Katherine]: I think it's a good idea, but I think it would be difficult to implement.

[Michelle]: All materials go through the EAs yeah?

[Cole]: Major changes yeah, small things (or removals) no.

[Cole]: the only way I could see this really working is that you'd need to submit your platform at the start of your campaign. would be tough. Less records intensive though. In my example: part of my portfolio changed as I learned more about the job, so I don't know that this would be good. Don't want campaign promises = goals, because as you learn about the job these change. Should be the Ubysey (and other institutions) keeping people accountable for these things.

[Michelle]: I agree, don't think anybody is going to meet all their goals/promises. Think students should have access to what was said and promised to enable them to ask questions about these things. Don't think this is just a ubyssey thing, should be more open.

[Tyra]: in my experience, you learn so much and don't know what your goals are, fairly happy with holding people to their goals after they were elected.

[Michelle]: I think this might encourage people to make more realistic promises maybe?

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Cole

Seconded: Tyra

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cole

Seconded: Tyra

That the minutes of July 29th, 2019 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Elections Code review - 45 mins

Are our rules fair and inclusive? Let's talk about it.

5:08 pm

[Michelle]: was just saying I would hope this knowledge of publishing will cause people to think better about what they're promising to the student body. Think it shouldn't just be the Ubyyssey. Agree that it is a problem when people are held to *such* a high standard, but this could be good for democracy and transparency.

[Michelle]: implementation: ask them to submit their platforms. Tell people everything they submit will be kept and archived

[Katherine]: I think we need to make it as low barrier to entry as possible. Take minutes at the debates and use those. Archive websites 1-2 x per period.

[Michelle]: another benefit is it would be very helpful for people who don't know how to run and how the elections work. Rn people will base their materials off of people they know who have run in the past, but not everybody knows someone. May encourage more external candidates.

[Michelle]: when the EA is approving materials, what do they base it on?

[Cole]: based on code! and the elections handbook. Logo sizing, dates, no bullying etc.

[Michelle]: what about lies? from what I've read of code, not much to penalize people for lying

[Cole]: think this is covered by the "bad faith" argument.

[Michelle]: could someone grab the handbook and send to me?

4. many people run who work for the AMS, wondering what people think about requiring people to take a vacation during this time? Seems like it's difficult to do your job while campaigning, and lead to breaking the conflict of interest laws. parlement don't run while people campaign.

[Cole]: only way would be to create a separate vacation package for campaigning. paid leave for campaigning. from an HR view it's hard to make people take time off.

[Katherine]: I relate to this from a person management standpoint. Chris taking his vacation last year. it's hard to force people to not work, but then also paying people to not work at a job is not fun. Might be interesting to have HR comm look at it?

[Michelle]: don't think the Col things are easy to enforce. Seems like people working for the Society already have major advantages.

[Cole]: even though they aren't working they still do have resources.

[Kevin]: would this apply to other councillors too?

[Cole]: I don't think the resources themselves are the issue. More concerned about staff having access to clubhouse databases or something.

[Michelle]: thinking more about people working while they're campaigning. Seems like they won't be effective in their job, and also like they won't be able to "switch back" to work mode and not be in campaign mode in meetings etc.

5. publicizing elections, encouraging more divers-er people to run

[Cole]: we should talk to Will.

[Michelle]: meet with comms manager?

[Katherine]: Think we should be reimbursing the full amount of what we expect people to spend on the election. Seems like a barrier to entry to incentivize people who have a couple hundred dollars lying around to throw at an election. Plus with posters banned deleted now the cost of elections should be coming down.

[Michelle]: seems like our current system is hard for new people to get engaged, old people have infinitely more resources.

[Kevin]: including in the handbook how to prepare different materials? common ad platforms? I found it hard because I didn't even know what I *could* do. Might take some load off the candidates.

[Kevin]: engagement in constituency elections as well (mostly unopposed). Barriers to entry, amount of time dedicated to these positions. for the AUS: portions of the year it's basically a full time job, not paid, are a student. Consider reimbursing part of tuition expenses? so we don't reimburse them directly? it's a big problem for sure.

[Katherine]: completely agree. in the EUS you work min 20 hrs/week, up to ~60 hrs/week. Once said we should reimburse executives for failed courses if they meet their goals.

[Jeanie]: this has always been a problem. I think this is illegal in terms of our structure. I think this does cause people who have the ability to work for free to join these orientations.

[Jeanie]: in terms of elections information, maybe let's not put things in the handbook. Might be useful to compile and have it exist from January onwards. I think people will give advice in like the fall, not really when it's close to elections time.

[Michelle]: Who would compile this?

[Jeanie]: the EA, could potentially just get them to send out a google form asking for tips + tricks.

[Jeanie]: biggest barrier imo is the rules. who you can or can't talk to. what you can and can't do. if you're not familiar with the AMS or student hack garbage it's very complicated and hard.

[Michelle]: even having more of a summary of the handbook would be good.

[Jeanie]: I think lots of it can be deleted. It's written in a way that the EA finds easy to enforce, but so hard for people to actually use.

[Jeanie]: contact lists is the biggest advantage. be clear about what you can and can't do with your Abilities. number one resource is "who to talk to".

[Dylan]: wouldn't mind there being a handout for "running in elections as an ams staff"

[Dylan]: At queens: you were required to take a leave of absence and not allowed to do any AMS things. Unpaid leave of absence. All people working on your campaign team also required to take a leave of absence. this stopped people from getting all their staff to take a leave too.

[Katherine]: I don't know if it's legal, but I like it. Let's make HR committee look into it.

[Dylan]: think we could do it for next year because it would need to be in contracts. Important that we do it before the election is called for this year. Need the people running to be new Exec's to know about it.

[Jeanie]: we should be getting an MoU from the University in May every year about the delegation of duties. timeline important to remember, and we need to be reporting a bunch of fun things like this:

University Act reqs of elections (BOG + SENATE ONLY)

14 (1) All nominations of candidates for the office of chancellor must be signed by at least 7 persons entitled to vote in the election of the chancellor.

(2) All nominations of candidates for membership in the senate must be signed by at least 3 persons entitled to vote in the election of the senate.

(3) The registrar must immediately send a written notice of nomination to each person nominated as a candidate for the office of chancellor and to each person nominated as a candidate for membership in the senate, with a request that the candidate forward to the registrar information about the following:

(a) the candidate's degrees and the dates of them;

(b) the candidate's occupation;

(c) offices held by the candidate at a university or in any other organization;

(d) the candidate's other professional or business interests;

(e) the candidate's publications.

15 If only one candidate is nominated for chancellor, or if only so many candidates are nominated for the senate as are required to be elected, the candidate or candidates are declared to have been elected.

16 (1) The registrar must report the results of the election to the senate at its first meeting following the election.

(2) If there is a tie vote between 2 or more candidates for an office, the senate must cast the deciding vote.

(3) If there is a tie vote between 2 or more candidates for an office at the University of British Columbia,

(a) if the office is as a member of a senate, the senate must cast the deciding vote, and

(b) if paragraph (a) does not apply, the council must cast the deciding vote.

20 (2) Each member of the board elected under section 19 (1) (e) or (2) (f) or (g) holds office for one year and after that until a successor is elected.

21 The appointed members of the board are eligible for reappointment and the elected members are eligible for re-election, but those members must not hold office for more than 6 consecutive years.

43 (1) The senate must make and publish all rules necessary and consistent with this Act in respect of nominations, elections and voting.

(2) The registrar must conduct all elections that are required.

44 A nomination paper is not valid unless at least 4 weeks before the date of the election

(a) it is delivered at the office of the registrar, or

(b) if sent by mail, it is received by the registrar.

Constituency Problems - 15 mins

Looking to make a list of problems for us to solve (look in const. drive)

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is August 19th, 2019.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.