



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AMS Governance Committee

Minutes of September 30th, 2019

Attendance

Present: Katherine Westerlund (Chair), Jeanie Malone (Councillor) [entered at 12:19], Michelle Marcus (Councillor), Max Holmes (Councillor), Alex Gonzalez (Councillor) [Late, entered at 12:19], Sahar Dua (Student at Large), Cole Evans (VP Administration), ~~Sheldon Goldfarb (AMS archivist—non-voting)~~

Guests:

Regrets:

Recording Secretary:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm.

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Michelle

Seconded: Sahar

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cole

Seconded: Katherine

That the minutes of Sept 23rd, 2019 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Records policy review - 30 mins

Check the drive under working policy for this policy!

[Cole]: don't like the phrase Central AMS.

Max: “this doesn’t apply to records kept exclusively by clubs and constituencies.”

[Max]: Does AMS council need to approve archive locations? If we can change this: “Other locations as may be determined by the Executive Committee.”

[Jeanie]: need a mechanism for future councils to be given access to in camera minutes for recurring issues. Have sometimes had things come back over a number of years, would be good to have this exist. Clarity in procedure for digging into the past. I’m so old, I’ve seen so many things.

[Michelle]: want to talk about 3rd party agreements. Curious about why we are making this just banned instead of opening this up to the possibility of being publicized.

[Max]: I don’t think we have ever actually agreed to do this. Definitely not current practice. Also, I believe we do still see the names of who we are entering into agreements with (in the council minutes), they just don’t get to see the fine details. I have never doubted the Ubysey’s ability to get leaks from council. If we want agreements to be public, this is something we could put in here.

[Katherine]: I believe sheldon removed this because we have never used it so it has served no purpose.

[Max]: I have no real opinions on this, don’t know whether it would be useful (and we would almost certainly run into problems with not redacting properly).

[Cole]: I think we’d be redacting so much out of it wouldn’t have anything in it that people wouldn’t want.

[Michelle]: I think this would be more like the government and more transparent

[Katherine]: I don’t think that doing this would actually be transparent (since so much information would have to be redacted), so it’s really only transparency in words and not in action and I don’t support that.

[Cole]: Happy with this.

[Max]: Jeanie and I are declaring a conflict of interest here.

Constituency Problems definition - 15 mins

Beyond just “who lives where”, what do we need to sort out?

[Max]: get someone to sit down and assign people to constituencies. Once we have everybody assigned we can do the fine tuning. That's kinda what happened with VSEUS, we dealt with issues as they came up.

[Katherine]: let's make cole do it.

[Cole]: don't have an estimated date of return, but it'll happen

Code Review - 15 mins

Finalize sections for deletion, consider Michelle's thoughts.

Committee goes through and figures out what we wanted to delete in the past

[Michelle]: don't think we should get rid of the ethical review committee section

[Jeanie]: I don't think we define what an ethical review committee is, so it's potentially worse for the AMS.

[Max]: what is an ethical review?

[Michelle]: was thinking of an ESG review of the corporations we are entering contracts with

[Jeanie]: should probably rebrand this from an "ethical review committee". Let's get sheldon to do an environmental scan to see what other organizations do?

[Max]: need to be ensuring we aren't expecting more from our staff than they actually have expertise in.

[Jeanie]: maybe this becomes a sub-committee issue? instead of just making an ad-hoc committee.

[Max]: Still don't think councillors have the ability to do this. If we have things we want in contracts, we need to explicitly lay them out in code.

[Jeanie]: This almost reads like a whistleblowing policy to me?

[Max]: we should have a whistleblowing policy maybe.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is October 7th, 2019.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.