



## AMS Governance Committee

Minutes of November 18th, 2019

### Attendance

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

Guests:

Regrets: Sahar

Recording Secretary: Jeanie, Katherine

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm.

### Introductions

### Approval of Agenda

Moved: Jeanie

Seconded: Cole

That the agenda be adopted.

***Result: The motion carries unanimously.***

### Approval of Minutes

Moved: Max

Seconded: Jeanie

That the minutes of November 4th, 2019 be approved.

***Result: The motion carries unanimously.***

### Code Changes - 15 mins

Moved: Jeanie

Seconded: Max

“BIRT the AMS Governance Committee approve the recommendation of the code changes entitled [Committee Reporting](#) to AMS Council for approval.”

**Result: The motion carries unanimously.**

[Jeanie]: I love tables! We should maybe attach the template table with this so it makes more sense.

[Katherine]: I will write the rationale thing for this or maybe a general one for all of these changes.

[Max]: So this means people need to send things in the morning so the table can be updated. Deadline in Code is 10am, believe we should be more strict about it. Table is only going to be helpful if it's followed.

[Sheldon]: we could update the Chair section to reflect this 10am timeline?

[Jeanie]: Believe this is a friendly amendment. Does this give Joanne enough time?

[Max]: Yes, she said it was fine if they are in by 10am. Not good if it is late.

Moved:

Seconded:

“BIRT the AMS Governance Committee approve the recommendation of the code changes entitled [Managing Director's Signing Authority](#) to AMS Council for approval.”

**Result: tabled for now until exec comm gives input**

[Alex]: I think we need to keep the part where it says Keith doesn't sign off on services? What is changing here?

[Sheldon]: He doesn't currently and he is being allowed to now.

[Alex]: It seems unclear.

[Sheldon]: Could add services back in if that is useful?

[Max]: I don't remember when we were discussing this. Thought the issues were with businesses, not services?

[Sheldon]: This was part of the issue. He previously had businesses. He has the services reporting to him so it makes sense that he is allowed.

[Max]: I thought this was more operational than for Services?

[Max]: I believe we should send this back to Executive comm and inquire.

general consensus: send back to Executive.

Moved: Max

Seconded: Michelle

“BIRT the AMS Governance Committee approve the recommendation of the code changes entitled [Posting the Council Agenda on the Website](#) to AMS Council for approval.”

***Result: Unanimously approved***

Moved: Max

Seconded: Michelle

“BIRT the AMS Governance Committee approve the recommendation of the code changes entitled [Statements from Students at Large](#) to AMS Council for approval.”

***Result: Unanimously approved***

Moved: Michelle

Seconded: Max

“BIRT the AMS Governance Committee approve the recommendation of the changes to [Internal Policy I9: Executive Goals](#) to AMS Council for approval.”

***Result: Tabled until exec comm gives feedback***

Cole: Still don't like it, believe this to be redundant. Think the premise behind it is nice, but to attach campaign materials is vague (no definition). Don't think there's enough of a structure here.

Katherine: how would you change it?

Cole: makes sense to potentially submit an “official platform” after your campaign. A “registered platform”. Think this will be easier than

Max: I-9 doesn't say that, says you should be working on your goals in May (<10th post election) so not worried about loss of materials. Worried about giving people the opportunity to change positions after being elected.

Michelle: would prefer campaign materials or a platform

Max: we don't have official platform guidance.

Cole: technically we don't have a platform.

Michelle: maybe we reword it as promises?

Jeanie: I see this as being fairly vague and open to interpretation.

Cole: not against that in theory, just don't think this is the best way to do that.

[Sheldon]: What are we trying to address?

[Max]: People don't keep promises and council doesn't remember them.

[Max]: Prefer platform, goals, priorities ... promises aren't good.

[Jeanie]: We probably should send this to exec comm before council?

[Katherine]: Yeah

[Cole]: Other concern: what do we envision happening if their platform is well intentioned but unrealistic. They get told this after being elected. Then this goes to council. What happens then?

[Max]: How well intentioned could it be to not make realistic promises? The evolution should be occurring in public.

[Jeanie]: Much rather care that you follow the goals that you set.

[Max]: the idea is that you have run on ideas, and then set goals based on those ideas. Council can't fire you, only the student body can do so. The student body only gets one opportunity to give their thoughts on what they believe the Society should be doing, and having some connection between election priorities and executive goals allows people to evolve those ideas in the public realm.

[Jeanie]: evolving process is the purpose. Do we believe this phrase needs to be reworked before sent to the Executive.

General consensus: Send it to the Executive and see what they think.

***Other discussion on these motions:***

Max: As a social experiment, we should put these code changes on the consent agenda. A test balloon, if you will.

[Jeanie]: NO

[Katherine]: Let's make these all come to council as one omnibus motion and people can split the motion if they want.

Cole: believe we should have an Executive Break policy to prevent everybody from leaving.

Jeanie: sounds more like an Executive Restraint policy.

**Updates about the Equity Report - 10 mins**

Had a meeting with Cristina!

[Max]: if it's not happening this year... I remember these discussions starting this year, how are we only at the RFP drafting stage now?? What has been happening at Advocomm?

Katherine: believe they have been working on day-to-day operations, equity plan has been shifted on the backburner sometimes to allow for operations.

Max: just seems like we are at the same place as last year.

Alex: how does this relate to the strategic plan?? Considering the priorities of UBC at large this shouldn't necessarily be backburner.

Michelle: seemed like the office was doing research, realized we should

Max: this is advocomm work, unsure about how we have delayed it for this long.  
Disappointed with the progress.

Max: believe if indigenous students wants representation on council, they should be enabled to have that.

Alex: in my communications with them it appears to be a priority for the indigenous committee.

Max: let's ask the president's office to inquire, whether or not this should be voting seat or not.

Cole: how does this fit into our new ad-hoc committee?

Max: planning on briefly discussing, mainly talking more about council. Believe this is a very specific, clear thing the governance comm itself can take on itself.

Sheldon: this takes a bylaw referendum.

Alex: Comment: when we are talking about this seat, we should ask if they believe there should be an indigenous representative or a musqueam representative?

Max: Believe we have communication channels with musqueam and general population. would be reasonable to ask them about clarifications in wording around this seat.

Michelle: is the indigenous committee given the opportunity to send reports to council?

Max: don't know what that comms piece has been like. They are not required to report, but are given the opportunity. They can make motions and code changes too; hope this has been communicated to them.

Alex: I think Chris' office is responsible.

Max: where's the ToR for the fund too?

Alex: should we review which executive is best to have this comms piece under their portfolio? not sure whether this makes sense to be under someone else's portfolio.

Katherine: I'm getting the sense that we are still interested in drafting this for potential bylaw amendment. Will communicate with Chris' office.

Cole: maybe something to talk to Chris about: does it make sense to elevate this role to be an AVP?

Max: we have discussed this in the past, president doesn't have AVPs

Katherine: will talk to Chris + HR about this.

Max: this is a sorry state of affairs (regarding

**Where to go from here - 5 mins**

Keep talking elections?

Katherine: believe we should be targeting bylaws next (after elections appeals committee.

Cole: don't think we should be targeting appeals committee yet, worried the ad-hoc will make all changes useless.

Max: think this is more about changes we could have for this year.

### **Elections Code - 15 mins**

APPEALS COMMITTEE - is it effective in its current state?

### **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Nov 25, 2019

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.