

JANUARY COMMITTEE REPORT TO AMS COUNCIL:

AMS Governance Committee

2020-01-17

Prepared by Katherine Westerlund, Chair



Hello hello from the Governance Committee! We are currently the most enthusiastic about BYLAW AMENDMENTS! We meet weekly on Thursdays from 5 - 6pm in NEST 3511 if you want to come be our friend and give your thoughts and feelings on what we are discussing.

1. Works in Progress:

Whistleblower policy might be something that happens in the future. We have sent the President's office out into the world to determine what other schools have and what this would look like for us. Still hasn't been sent to us for review, hopefully February!

Contracts review process: when we were going through the code around ethical contracts, we noticed there's no real definition around what an ad-hoc ethical review committee would be, and we would have concerns about individual councillors having the education and knowhow to actually perform an ethical review. We have the President's office looking into what other universities do around Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) and how we could implement guidelines earlier in the contract process. Still haven't gotten anything back from them, hopefully also February!

Constituency definitions we have not forgotten about this, we have just gotten sidetracked by these other code changes. Currently working to define exactly what problems exist beyond just "which programs live under what constituency" (eg. LASSA students who are represented by LASSA and the GSS) and how we would like to go about resolving this. Delayed until we get through the by-law amendment work.

Indigenous seat on Council. Mainly establishing processes and bylaw changes for the event that people wish to proceed with this bylaw change. Keep an eye on the bylaw amendments if you're interested in this topic.

By-Law amendment drafting has begun! We brought in Dylan Braam (govcomm chair 2018-19) to talk us through the changes they proposed last year. We have begun the process of reviewing previous bylaw amendments and deciding what we would like to send to referenda this year. Expect this at council by Feb at the latest. Let me know if you have any thoughts + feelings about this.

2. Work Completed this month

Code Changes have come to this meeting for approval, including:

- Changes to managing directors signing authority
- Updating the VP Admin roles section to be reflective of reality
- Changing the meeting frequency of President's council