AMS Governance Committee

Agenda of January 16th, 2020

**Attendance**

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

Guests: Dylan Braam

Regrets:

Recording Secretary:

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm.

**Introductions**

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved: Cole Seconded: Dante

That the agenda be adopted.

Sheldon’s amendment passes.

*The motion carries unanimously.*

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved: Cole Seconded: Katherine

That the minutes of November 18th, 2019 be approved.

*The motion carries unanimously.*

**Code Changes - 10 mins**

3 changes, linked in the drive!
Managing director’s signing authority

[Cole]: bit of a strange one, we talked about this at exec comm. Most of the discussions were around the need to sign cheques if people are absent (including services). I know there is lots of discussion around this about who should and shouldn’t be signing things. This allows for Kieth to cover things if there is a backlog or anything. Nobody at exec comm felt strongly either way about this (Kieth liked it) but general sentiment is it’s net-positive.

[Sheldon]: second part also allows for Kieth to see all cheques (even ones he doesn’t sign). He’s in charge of the Society’s Finances.

[Danie]: Seems net-good.

[Cole]: the only time I could think of it being bad would be if there were a legal issue concerning the managing director.

[Katherine]: Couldn’t you just not tell them about the specifics of any meeting?

President’s Council

[Katherine]: Meeting frequency change from once per month to once per term.

General consensus: seems good

VP Admin Code change

[Cole]: wrote this a while back, there are just a couple lingering things in my job description. I don’t run the aquatic centre. Added in some things about the Arts facilities (like HATCH, Norm etc.).

[Dylan]: What about the paint club

Cole: they are also a club so still my job.

Moved by: Cole Seconded by: Dante

“BIRT The Governance Committee recommend these three code changes to Council for approval.”

Approved unanimously.

[Cole]: flames are up 1-0

Bylaw changes - 20 mins

What do we want to change, what’s our strategy? See the drive for last years bylaw amendment (with additional changes to the AGM requirements to be in line with the Society’s Act).

[Katherine]: Dylan would you like to talk about these?
 AMS Governance Committee

Agenda of January 16th, 2020

[Dylan]: good news also we could just get the civil resolution tribunal to resolve that, just gotta run something badly and then get sued.

[Dylan]: for context: majority of these things are just cleanup.

Bylaw 1: deletes things because we don’t have voting senators anymore and don’t want the court.

Bylaw 2: membership changes to November to clarify situations about who is a member and who can vote, because it’s hard to stop people from voting and because our fees are annual. Clarifies things around health + dental plan. Expulsion: correction of typo (failing). Deleted court too.

Bylaw 4: rewrote 2, it’s more contentious. Previously these just needed to be answered yes or no, referred to student court. we are deleting student court so we were touching this anyways. Now it needs the negative response to correspond to the status quo (yes changes things, no is status quo), this comes from the Government of Canada. no material untruths allowed in the preamble. The last amendment is a personal project, means we can remember things we have done in the past.

[Dylan]: What about amendments to the bylaws themselves?

[Dylan]: good catch, would add an exclusion “other than those which exclusively serve to amend the bylaws”

[Dylan]: bylaw 5: we say when the membership impeaches you, you can’t run in the election for that position. During vacancies, council can appoint anybody (not just a councillor) to replace people.

Bylaw 9: deleted this as cleanup because we now have the advocacy office.

Bylaw 13: all subsidiaries shall submit their annual report 7 days before June 30th. The issue was the “on or before”, because you could just submit it any time BEFORE that.

[Cole]: don’t know if that’s operationally the best way to do that. Maybe we could put this in code instead since it’s probably more malleable. “once per year” is a good phrase.

[Dylan]: I see your point.

[Katherine]: I think we should talk about this more.

[Dylan]: at a minimum this should make coherent sense.

[Dylan]: Skipping 18

Bylaw 21: student court. Hasn’t sat since ~2010. Council repeatedly rejected it’s actions. Issues: Council can overrule this body, council wouldn’t fill the positions and then would fill when an issue would come up, there is no way to make a claim (no clerk of student court). This all exists, and it’s just liability for us. If people disagree with us: they can sue us. The nice thing about this, now that the society’s act has been amended we can go to the civil resolution tribunal (no lawyers, all online, very simple and convenient).
[Dylan]: if you don’t delete this I will make myself chief justice and you will all live in my reign of terror.

[Dylan]: Let’s talk 18 now..

[Cole]: Arguably Bylaws failed due to lack of interest.

[Dylan]: people has issues with records and asked me why this wasn't separate, they asked me why we didn’t separate it out.

anyways, 18: there are many problems with making every record public. The patch is council may establish a policy to keep certain records secret. The purpose for protecting 3rd parties is because some people give us good deals. Would propose cutting this because of contentions.

[Dylan]: I’m not giving legal advice.

[Dylan]: That’s it though, this is yours now. as they say, Tuum est.

**Elections Appeals committee – 30 mins**

Would it function as intended in its current state?

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is in two weeks.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.