AMS Governance Committee Meeting - May 26, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Opening:
Land Acknowledgement - Sebastian Cooper
Approving Agenda: Georgia moved, Chris Seconded
Sebastian Cooper representative of Peter Allard Law School - Meeting Chair
Minute Taker: Shivani Mehta

Present; Sebastian Cooper, Nicola Vanderveer, Danny Liu, Carter MacLean, Ryan Wong, Georgia Yee, Chris Hakim, Sheldon Cooper, Shivani Mehta

- Introductions
- Overview of Governance Committee support
  o Sheldon Goldfarb
- Code Section XIII, Article 3: exemption from fees
  o Sebastian Cooper
- Ad Hoc Governance Committee review
  o Christopher Hakim
- Summer work plan
  o Sebastian Cooper
  o Exemption from fees / distance education; Chairs of the Operations and Finance Committee; guidelines and procedures for Council disciplinary action (based on the ad hoc governance committee's work); Reviewing procedure for committee appointments; Constituency Membership Definition project;

I. Overview of Governance Committee Support: Sheldon Goldfarb
i. Responsible for drafting of code - is it discussed in the committee and then edited. Provides code regulations and AMS history to have more depth when developing policy.

II. Code Section XIII, Article 3: exemption from fees: Sebastian Cooper
i. Students who study online during a regular school year are exempt from paying fees → the issue is that somebody could misinterpret that any student doing online courses will be exempt from paying AMS fees. This is a large amount of how AMS is funded.

ii. Propose that we create a code definition “what is meant by distance education” CTLT designed for courses to be taken online not courses that are being online as a result of COVID

Additional Comments
G.Y. - AMS services will not be suspended
R. W. - is a better to add a definition than to remove/suspend this from the code
  - Math and econ courses are also being redesigned to be online currently, if any student is taking these courses distance education instead of lecture/seminar
S.C. - just because something is online doesn’t mean that it is distance education
G.Y. - in conversation with VP Students, Ainsley Carry → despite courses being taken for the online atmosphere we are still charging same tuition per credit, but they are still looking to reduce fees for services that students will not be able to access
S.G. - the code says that the exemption only applies if ALL of your courses are distance
education
S.C. - whatever cultural shift that the AMS council will need to address in the future with online courses, at the moment we need a running definition of online learning
C.H. - something that we need to work with sheldon in order to create these definitions

**ACTION ITEM**
S.G. and S.C. will create a definition and bring this to council next meeting

**III. Ad Hoc Governance Committee Review - Chris Hakim**

i. Council Government Report - Chris was the most recent council chair. There was a presentation that came from the President’s office that identified the main issues with AMS governance and where we can address the turnover.

ii. The recommendations are scarce because there is mostly referral work and strong orientation work. Identified issue with council and governance → working over the summer to divide up the work and timelines ie. issue one and research from other boards, what can be transferred to improve this committee.

iii. The board self-assessment survey was collected to give insight into the council and its role. Helping to understand via data what council members were thinking of before and how we can move forward.

**ACTION ITEM**
S.C. - Ad Hoc Committee via email → next committees goals that need to be reported to executive council set at the beginning of the year

**IV. Summer Work Plan - Sebastian Cooper**

i. Chairs of the Operations and Finance Committee

**ACTION ITEM**
S.C. will invite the executives VP Finance and Admin to the next meeting in order clarify this before moving forward

**Additional Comments**
R.W. - where did the rationale come from?
S.C. - it was executive council that developed this idea and sent it to the committee
S.G. - Get more councillors involved in chairing this committee instead of burdening with VP Finance and VP Admin from the AMS
G.Y. - The proposed model will be like the Advocacy Committee → this will allow the execute member to support the Chair who will be the one to be developing the meeting agenda and keeping a clear line of communication with the various portfolios
V. Appointing Members at Large - Danny Liu

i. How are we going to make these meetings more equitable and accessible for people to apply

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

C.H. - an attempt to vote for these positions online seeing as we have a 10 grand software
People can read the blurbs and vote
S.G. - In the end people wanted to hear what the applicants have to say
R.W. - The rationale behind the sheet encompassing all of the names of the applicants - time to
vote for members at large it would come down to if you spoke, then you would get voted
G.Y. - the election system for the candidates and their blurb for whichever position they are
hoping like previous years using the online voting system. What is their preference for
the committee to make sure that each.
C.H. - people who have accessibility issues they were not able to make the in person meeting
before would not be appointed as members of the committees or members at large.
Having something written in front of people will be more ideal.
R.W. - It does make sense to have that pre-populated sheet to have more strict questions -
making the campaign pitches more concise and straightforward to determine the best
candidates
N.V. - the people that speaks first are at a disadvantage compared to the those who speak later
S.C. - you had to refresh your page and try to remember which courses are linked to which
person → it might be better have a prompt and have students respond to these without
restricting people.
S.G. - the run-off election was not in code and how to address this issue
S.C. - Do we want everything to be written in code or are we bringing ideas to council
C.H. - It will help us to better assess individuals' experiences, skills. 38% of people who agreed
there was sufficient breadth in skills and experience to the committee

ACTION ITEMS

D.L. will be putting together a document about this appointment process and connecting
with the AMS President on this

VI. Adding this to the long-term goals - Sebastian Cooper

i. For students who are paying SUS fees how double majors are paying their society
fees or if they are - D.L.
ii. This is a project that was worked on by Ryan Wong in collaboration with Julia Chai
and determining the overlapping student fees, if students are being represented by the
correct society. Kat (the outgoing chair) was concerned with students who are not being
represented at all - R.W.
iii. All students officially pay a third party and therefore they were able to run in both
student government elections - how can we do this moving forward

Agenda for next time - Vice-Chair Appointment, recurring once a week 4PM Tuesdays
**Additional Comments**

C.H. - Recommendations taken by the AMS it serves as a great foundation, it is proprietary information that is secure but the governance committee may not be privy to that information

S.G. - the recommendations are public, but then the documents were sent to council and now the report is only for certain purposes therefore would not be email due to confidentiality

Meeting Adjourned at: 5:34 pm