

September 28, 2020 Agenda of the AMS Governance Committee

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/91681615917>

Attendance

Present: Sebastian Cooper (Chair), Ryan Wong (VSEUS), Carter MacLean (AUS), Kamil Kanji (student-at-large), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council)

Guests:

Regrets: Danny Liu (SUS), Kalith Nanayakkara (AMS VP External Affairs)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm.

Agenda Items

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Ryan Seconded: Carter

That the agenda be adopted.

[The motion carries.]

Approval of Past Minutes

Moved: Ryan Seconded: Sebastian

That the minutes of September 14, 2020 be approved

[The motion carries.]

Bylaw Amendments

Consideration of proposed Bylaw amendments.

- Ryan: Bylaw 5, concerned with the rationale of removing council seats.
- Sebastian: Received info from Cole, Justin: Audiology and Population and Public Health has not sent a representative to AMS Council for many years; LASSA and Journalism do send people, but these students may already be members of the GSS and thus represented twice on Council; Audiology has no student association and thus cannot even send a representative as there is no

mechanism to elect someone; are there's currently a LASSA and Planning representative, Council would consider using this Bylaw to remove their seats after their term ends

- Ryan: Concerned that the wording of the changes goes too far. Could this reach undergraduate populations such as VESUS being just represented by the AMS. Same with Music, Kinesiology and Nursing. So since some schools are technically also represented by a Faculty, they could be removed.
- Sebastian: Doesn't really seem like a huge concern that there are seats that are unfilled. Since GSS is so big, it seems like having some representatives could be a good thing. These kinds of changes could limit opportunity to get involved in the future.
- Sheldon: Procedure for removing a council seat is by 2/3rds resolution to derecognize a constituency, but this never happens (Bylaw 13). So there is a mechanism for the removal of constituencies already. No way to remove a seat on council, but if you declare that they are not a constituency, they would probably be removed. However there could be some conflict in the bylaws between this one and 5.
- Sebastian: Two options: either this is too problematic for us to put forward, or we just take this to Council for consultation but raise our concerns.
- Ryan: In favour of just striking it. Give amended bylaws without this in and say that we have struck this amendment from the motion.
- Kamil: Agreed: concerned that this limits participation without addressing a pressure issue.
- Sebastian: Send out an email to vote on this.
- Sheldon: Has this doc been sent to council?
- Sebastian: No, the idea is to present this as a presentation. Regarding the issue under Bylaw 13, we could say that if a constituency is removed, that also removes their seat. Maybe speak to Cole and Justin about this but it might be too late.
- Ryan: Records amendment bylaw 18. Historically has been the most controversial amendment. Is the language legally ok?
- Sebastian: AMS lawyers want this amended.
- Sheldon: AMS Lawyers are pushing for this. This bylaw change would just restrict access to certain records surrounding in camera minutes and other confidential material.
- Ryan: Concerned that people might find ways to hide information.
- Sebastian: Will look into the legality of the wording of the amendment. Could be a more precise definition. Clarification is needed for the phrase "harmful to the economic or financial interests of the Society."
- Sebastian: One other bylaw amendment regarding the change so that AMS membership is now defined by someone who is enrolled in a course by the end of November: this allows someone registered only in term 1 to continue to benefit from AMS membership (which they've paid for) in term 2.
- Sheldon: No need to define student government furnishing and equipment if it is implied already. Should be taken out that this be in Code.
- Sebastian: Can take that to Cole and Justin and say that we should remove that phrase (Bylaw 11 a) ii)) as defined in code.

- Sebastian: will report this back to Cole and Justin and we will work on a presentation for Council.
Will send out a vote on this before going to Council.
- Sebastian: We also need a new vice chair.
- Sheldon: Is this going to be our meeting time going forward
- Sebastian: Will put out another when2meet.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is October 5, 2020.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.