

**THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER**

October 2, 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:

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

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved: Sebastian      Seconded: Carter

That the agenda be adopted.

*[The motion carries.]*

### **Approval of Past Minutes**

Moved: Sebastian      Seconded: Kamil

That the minutes of September 28, 2020 be approved

*[The motion carries.]*

### **Bylaw Amendments**

Second consideration of proposed Bylaw amendments.

- Sebastian: after Council, pretty clear that we shouldn't move forward with amendment to allow Council to remove Council seats; wondering if we're still comfortable about moving forward with amendments through the AGM (concerns were raised at Council)

## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

- Ryan: to confirm, the bylaw amendment about AGM proxies wouldn't come into effect until next year? If so, fine with it.
- Sebastian: Yes. I know concerns were raised about not going through the referendum route, but to be frank, it is hard to get 4000 AMS members excited about most Bylaw amendments; AGM amendments require a lower turnout and are a mechanism to allow the AMS to achieve some structural change
- Ryan: I'm good with the new proposal/approach from the President (move forward with most, separate out some contentious ones, and remove some others)
- Sebastian: At Council there was concern that nobody in the AMS executive has the duty to liaise with the student societies of the affiliated colleges; want to address this. Have drafted Bylaw language but the President thinks it's better in Code.
- Sheldon: Code does list executive duties; if it's in the Bylaws it is more permanent
- GovComm feels strongly that we should include the above amendment about affiliated associations into the Bylaws; if we can't achieve that then we will work to get something drafted into Code or possibly put it forward in a referendum next year
- Sebastian: Leaving the VP AUA and VP Admin duties the way they are
- Sebastian: Have proposed language regarding clarifying "economic and financial interests of the society" in the Records Bylaw, drawn from the existing Records Policy - so should already be vetted by legal counsel.
  - "For greater certainty, records designated as confidential due to their impact on the financial or economic interests of the Society includes records containing sensitive business information, such as information about sensitive business strategies or detailed information on revenues or expenditures for individual Society activities, which, if made available, might harm the Society."
- Sebastian: Have heard concern that this type of wording may be problematic for students, and should include reference to HR records, personal correspondence, and contracts.
- Carter: Does not seem that this wording could raise problems among students; not sure what the concerns are.
- Sebastian: Given it's pulled from the Records Policy, I believe we should proceed with the current language. What happens if record access is denied to an AMS member?
- Sheldon: The "dispute" is appealed to the Executive Committee for the final verdict.
- Carter: Is okay with proceeding with the motion structure recommendations that the President has put forward.
- Kamil: Concurs that this structure fits.

A vote was taken: 3-0 in favour of: proceeding with the motion structure and amendments proposed by the President, except: work with the President's office to put forward a Bylaw amendment on affiliated colleges and move forward with the current language of the record policy amendment proposed by Govcomm

### Next Meeting



**THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY  
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The next scheduled meeting is TBD.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.