

October 19, 2020 Agenda of the AMS Governance Committee; 4pm

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

## **Attendance**

Present: Sebastian Cooper (Chair), Carter MacLean (AUS), Kamil Kanji (student-at-large), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Danny Liu (SUS)

Guests: Isabelle Ava-Pointon, AMS Chief Electoral Officer

Regrets: Ryan Wong

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved: Carter      Seconded: Kamil

That the agenda be adopted.

*[The motion carries.]*

### **Approval of Past Minutes**

Moved: Kamil      Seconded: Carter

That the minutes of October 2, 2020 be approved

*[The motion carries.]*

### **AMS Election Plans**

Presentation by Isabelle Ava-Pointon, AMS Chief Electoral Officer on proposals regarding a COVID-19-safe AMS election.

- Some requirements in Code that put some people at risk:
  - Four sections that require in-person aspects of the voting procedure.
  - Nomination forms: physical forms are currently required to be picked up and signed by 50 people. Move this to digital signatures.

- Sebastian: Should some of these just be made permanent changes? For example, removing the in person submission.
- Sheldon: In-person is used because one year a nomination form was presented that included a person who was not even a student - so the in person was included to ensure they are a student
- Isabelle: Now we have ways to check this. Agree that we could just make this permanent
- Danny: Nomination forms can also just be made available online.
- Isabelle: Why does it have to go through the administrative assistant?
- Sheldon: This is because the administrative assistant is always there and a permanent position
- Isabelle: Since it is online, might as well just send it directly to me
- Sebastian: Might be worthwhile to keep this rule in place
- Sheldon: check with Joanne to see
- Isabella: There are still in-person polling stations around campus, but these are never really used, so for this election it is best just to suspend this for health reasons. (5.1, 5.2 and 5.5)
- Sebastian: If the main role of the booth is to advertise, will need to find another way to do the same advertising.
- Sebastian: Decision to hire poll clerks seems mandatory as well, might as well for clarity suspend that as well.
- Isabelle: Would poll clerks be deemed necessary?
- Sheldon: Might as well just suspend the section of poll clerks to ensure you have the authority.
- Isabelle: In-person campaigning could either be entirely suspended or encourage more online engagement
- Kamil: more precautions to put in place the better
- Sebastian: we shouldn't suspend in person campaigning, because it seems a bit of an overreach. If people can do it safely they should do it.
- Isabelle: Enforcement of the rules would be hard.
- Kamil: Potential for risk is still high.
- Sebastian: There is a provincial election doing on and there is no huge discussion about halting in-person campaigning
- Sheldon: Might get more complaints about in person campaigning.
- Sebastian: Maybe put out some guidelines explaining how to campaign safely during COVID
- Isabelle: In code, there are rules, the election committee also comes up with their own rule book and punishments for that and can limit what is allowed that is an addition to the code. Might be a better tool than suspending code and can be more accurate.
- Sebastian: Suggest these things to council that will be in the handbook. Things can also change in the coming months.
- Isabelle: Will take these changes to Council at the first meeting in November.

## Vice Chair

Election of the Governance Committee's vice chair

- Kamil - congrats!

## Policy I-1 and Strategic Plans

Consideration of proposed Code amendments to include reference to Strategic Plans.

- Rewording for Strategic Plans and other amendments
- Sheldon: External policy guidelines are not really used
- Sebastian: Not including the external policy guidelines (Section II Article II: 8 and 9) from the proposed changes so that we can consult with advocacy. Will reach out for Advocacy Chairs input
- Sebastian: What should be our review of Policy I-1
- Sheldon: Maybe do consultations; the committee would just open it up \and take a look at it and make recommendations to Council on what to do.
- Sebastian: Took a look already and nothing jumped out about the policy. Will email chairs of the committees and Execs and ask them if they have any issues.
- Sheldon: Include a separate proposal for strategic plans, not in the policy on policies. Amend policy I-1 to include an exclusion of strategic plans.

## Committee Chairs

Consideration of a proposal from Lucia Lang, VP Finance:

- Create or revise the current contract to reference job responsibilities.
- Setting up a form for students to fill out regarding why they should be into these positions (more specifically the form should outline specific questions on the committee they are running to be a Chair of; i.e. a set of mini job interview questions that would demonstrate if the candidate is qualified and understands the committee).
- Concern with Finance committee, since you need experience to do well in the role
- Sebastian: Is it governance committee's role to write employment contracts?
- Sheldon: Not our responsibility, HR's responsibility. Perhaps reflect code to say what should be in contracts.
- Sebastian: Will reach out to HR committee to see what they think about the first issue raised
- Sebastian: Could add new language to I-21 regarding Lucia's second proposal
- Kamil: This should be in the code
- Sebastian: Do we want to specify what people need to answer in written statements?
- Kamil: This is important for running and managing the committee
- Sebastian: Could be concerns about equity; are we limiting some people from running?
- Kamil: It's like a job, where you need to be qualified for the role
- Carter: Just make it qualifications for all committees, not one by one for each committee
- Sebastian: Will look at including something in I-21 to require candidates to provide a written statement detailing their qualifications.

## **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is October 26, 2020.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.