SUBJECT  AMS Elections Code Suspension Proposal

MEETING DATE  December 2nd, 2020

MOTION  “Be it resolved that until the end of the AMS Executive election period in March 2021 Council suspend the provision of Code requiring that candidates submit their nomination forms in person [Section IX A, Article 2(2)(c)] and also the provisions of Code requiring there to be polling stations and poll clerks [Section IX A, Article 1B(2)(i) and (j), Article 1C(2)(a)-(d), Article 1C(5)(c) and (d), Article 2(6)(i), Article 5(2), (5), and (8), along with the phrase in Article 5(1) requiring the establishment of polling stations].”

"Be it further resolved that until the end of the AMS Executive election period in March 2021 Council suspend the provisions of Code permitting in-person campaigning [Section IX A, Article 2(6)(f)(i), (ii), (v), and (vi)]."

PREPARED BY  Isabelle Ava-Pointon, AMS Chief Electoral Officer

2. AMS Health and Safety Policy

DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE  These proposed Code Suspensions will make an entirely virtual AMS General Election possible. By suspending the requirements or options for in-person interactions, Code will be brought into line with current public health guidelines, as well as the AMS’s own AMS Health and Safety Policy. Currently, the major in-person interactions required by Code are polling stations and nomination form submission. Furthermore, as it stands, Code permits candidates to campaign in-person in ways that violate public health guidelines.

BENEFITS  -Decreases the chance of COVID-19 being spread on campus.
-Decreases candidate stress or pressure to campaign in person.
-Avoids situations where the AMS could run into problems with Provincial laws, regulations, and health guidelines.
-Strengthens AMS’s image as an organization that prioritizes the health and
wellbeing of its members and wider community.

**RISKS**
Financial, Operational, Reputational

Potential decrease in voter turnout for AMS General Elections.

**COSTS**
Financial, Resources, Lifecycle

None anticipated.

**TIMELINE**
Implementation Timeline

These suspensions should be implemented immediately, and held in force until the end of the 2021 AMS General Election period in March 2021.

**CONSULTATION**
Internal & External Groups

AMS Governance Committee, AMS Archivist & Clerk of Council