

November 16, 2020 AgendaMinutes of the AMS Governance Committee; 4pm

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

Attendance

Present: Sebastian Cooper (Chair), Ryan Wong (VSEUS), Kalith Nanayakkara (AMS VP External Affairs), Kamil Kanji (student-at-large), Katherine Feng (SUS), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council)

Guests:

Regrets: Danny Liu (SUS), Carter MacLean (AUS)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

Agenda Items

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Kalith Seconded: Katherine

That the agenda be adopted.

[The motion carries.]

Approval of Past Minutes

Moved: Kamil Seconded: Kalith

That the minutes of November 2, 2020 be approved

[The motion carries.]

Code Changes: Ethics and Accountability Committee

Consideration of amended Code language to create an Ethics and Accountability Extraordinary Committee.

Seb: I don't think we need to introduce the *ad hoc* element previously discussed. It turns it into an arbitration panel and would change the dynamic of the Committee.

Carried with Unanimous Consent

Seb: Next step is to bring this to Council.

Carried with Unanimous Consent

I-22: Committee Chairs Memos

Further consideration of proposed policy language: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-bdXfEKbHmGgzya5s6xIVTbJ-MoT5O60WkWcTptyQ_M/edit

Seb: we had a resounding silence in Council, so generally no one should have difficulty with this. We want to consider honoraria now. Is it financially responsible in general? Is it the right time to add a cost, given the impact of COVID-19 on AMS finances? Is it the right thing to do, given that it's already a part of chairs' job description?

Kalith: not able to comment on the financial aspect, think this is a bigger discussion. When former VP Ex transitioned me, she got an honoraria. Curious to hear from Sebastian's perspective if outgoing chairs should receive an honoraria.

Seb: I don't need an honoraria but after speaking with Cole it seems to be a large issue where information is not carried forward from year to year. Just asking Chairs to do transitions hasn't fixed the issue.

Kalith: Who would decide if the outgoing Chair gets the honoraria?

Seb: Article 7 in the policy, says the Clerk would determine if it is done properly for a full honoraria.

Sheldon: I don't think it should be the Clerk, I think it would be the incoming Chair, and if there is a conflict that it would be appealed to someone like the Ombuds.

Kalith: I get that honoraria is incentive to get Chairs to do transitions, however I think there should be a verification to make sure the transition is done correctly, so that the outgoing Chair is not doing it only for the honoraria

Kamil: I agree with Kalith, I'm in favour of honoraria. Who determines the amount?

Seb: Included in the Article 7 of the policy.

Katherine: In the case like Ops Comm, if the Chair is a Councillor, and the incoming is Executive, does the Councillor still have to do it?

Seb: Yes.

Sheldon: we don't pay Execs for Committee Chairs, but we do pay honoraria for transition.

Seb: A somewhat tricky situation: Execs don't get paid for chairing committees but under I-22 they would get honoraria.

Kalith: I'd be curious to see what Council thinks. If I was Chairing Advocacy Comm, I wouldn't expect an honoraria, as it would be beneficial to the work that I do anyways. I personally think Execs shouldn't get honoraria on top of the honoraria they get for transitioning Exec.

Seb: But the incoming chair might be a councillor, not an exec. The outgoing chair would need to transition both. They might need extra incentive for transitioning the committee chair?

Kalith: I think we should bring this to Council, interested to hear what Council thinks, as well as Execs with Committee Chairing experience.

Seb: New topic - Cole thinks the reporting Committee should be HR. What do you guys think?

Ryan: I think it should be HR because pay is under their purview as well.

Kalith: I agree

Katherine: I agree

Kamil: I agree

Sheldon: We need to check with the HR Committee. If one Committee comes to Council and says another Committee should do it, we need their approval.

Seb: I will reach out to Chair and also reach out to Cole/Lucia to ask about budget/finances per the first item.

Sheldon: It may be a conflict of interest about payment that Seb will get paid.

Seb: I will refuse my transition honoraria, I've also declared my conflict to Council.

Ryan: is President automatically chair of exec?

Sheldon: Only committees outlined in Code are included in I-22, and I don't think Exec Committee is included.

Seb: Interesting point about ad-hoc Committees. Executives being the chair of a bunch of ad-hoc committees, and then getting paid for doing all the transitions - a concern.

Sheldon: I haven't found that to be the case where the President chairs multiple committees.

Kalith: Again, I don't think Executives should get paid for transitions. But if we don't pay ad-hoc committees, then I'm worried about potential commitment issues to committees.

Ryan: I don't think execs should get paid for committees that they are chairing automatically, but if they run competitively for one, they should get paid to transition that.

Kalith: Fair point, let's hear from Councillors and Execs on this.

Code Changes: Updates resulting from Bylaw amendments

Consideration of proposed Code amendments required to bring Code into line with the amended Bylaws.

Sheldon: *explained changes*

Seb: Any questions for Sheldon?

Seb: Unanimous consent to present this to Council? *** Received***

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is November 23, 2020.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.