THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

November 30, 2020 Agenda of the AMS Governance Committee; 4pm
Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/91681615917

Attendance

Present: Sebastian Cooper (Chair), Danny Liu (SUS), Ryan Wong (VSEUS), Carter MacLean (AUS), Katherine Feng (SUS), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council)

Guests:

Regrets: Kalith Nanayakkara (AMS VP External Affairs), Kamil Kanji (student-at-large)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

Agenda Items

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Carter Seconded: Katherine

That the agenda be adopted.

[The motion carries.]

Approval of Past Minutes

Moved: Danny Seconded: Carter

That the minutes of November 25, 2020 be approved

[The motion carries.]

I-22: Committee Chairs Transition Reports

Items:

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

This portion of the meeting was chaired by Carter.
Sebastian: Lucia didn’t seem to think there was a financial issue with the cost of compensating chairs for providing transitional reports (max would be around $2000)

Katherine: Have we figured out what happens with execs versus councillors yet?

Sebastian: We’re still discussing what to do; it seemed like there was agreement last time that if an exec is chair because they’re exec, they shouldn’t get compensated, since transitioning the chair will be encompassed by transitioning the new exec.

Katherine: How about the situation where an exec is transitioning a councillor so it’s no longer a part of the exec transition?

Sebastian: I think execs should be remunerated for transitioning a councillor chair since they’ll have been chair by choice.

Carter: I agree with that.

Danny: I agree.

Sebastian: Sheldon and I can work on adding something in the policy.

Sheldon: But then they won’t get paid for chairing but they would for the transition.

Sebastian: Maybe we could refer that to the HR Committee then since they deal with pay issues.

Carter: Yes

Sebastian: Also want to point out that the Policy now has language to clarify the rules around conflict of interest for BoG or Senate reps on committee. Hopefully this will allow chairs to encourage BoG/Senate committee members to recuse themselves when they have potential conflicts due to their other roles. Also, section 7 clarifies the process: the incoming chair will tell the HR Committee whether the outgoing Chair completed the requirements under the Policy. The outgoing chair can appeal to HR (or to Governance in the case of HR).

Carter: Now we send this to HR then Council.

Sheldon: We don’t want this to apply to extraordinary committees but we do want to include ad-hoc committees. That would match Code.

Sebastian: Right. I’m also not sure if we should be directing the Indigenous Committee on how to do their transitions.

Katherine: I think we should email the Indigenous Committee for consultation on whether or not they would like to be included in this. It’s important for them to have a transition but how they do it is up to them.
I-21: Committee Chair Appointment – brief statement amendment

Consideration of proposed amendments to I-21 which would provide clarity to information that a candidate for committee chair should provide Council:

- “6. Councillors seeking appointment to a Committee may concurrently seek appointment to be the Chair of that Committee.
  a. Councillors seeking appointment to be Chair of a Committee must submit a brief statement to accompany their candidacy, outlining relevant experience and qualifications.”

Sebastian: explained above changes. If everyone is agreement with this we can bring it to Council

*Unanimous agreement*

I-10: Petition Privacy Policy


Sheldon Goldfarb will provide background / overview.

Sheldon: We’ve had this policy for three years as a way of dealing with a situation that arose from referenda campaigns. In 2016 the people organizing a referendum circulated a hard copy of the petition and someone took a photo of one of the pages with nine names and student numbers. I notified the nine students about this and asked for the advice of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC and they recommended we make a policy. The policy covers electronic petitions too.

Sebastian: Should we ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC whether they have any changes to make, particularly for electronic petitions?

Sheldon: Yes, I can do that.

Sebastian: I can also reach out to the same exec positions who were consulted last time.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will likely be in January, 2021 due to the upcoming exam season.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.