

SUBJECT	Code Changes 2021: Council Attendance		
MEETING DATE	June 16, 2021		
SUBMISSION TYPE	MOTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/>	
MOTION OR SUMMARY	<p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the following report from the Governance Committee: 'Code Changes 2021: Council Attendance' and thus amend the Code as recommended.</p> <p>Note: Requires 2/3rds</p>		
MOVE + SECOND	MOVED: Saad Shoaib	SECONDED:	Romina Hajizadeh
SUBMITTED BY	Katherine Feng, Chair of Governance Committee		
RELEVANT COMMITTEE or EXECUTIVE	COMMITTEE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Governance Committee	▼	Select
SUPPORTED BY	Cole Evans, AMS President		
COMMITTEE VOTE RESULT	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	UNANIMOUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/>
ATTACHMENTS	1. Code Changes: Council Attendance		

**DESCRIPTION &
RATIONALE**

Proposed changes allow the Chair to permit remote attendance of Council meetings for good reasons. Examples of good reasons include illness, personal emergency, and being out of town. Remote attendees previously did not count towards quorum but now would. Council would also be allowed to vote digitally at the discretion of the President, with any objection to a digital vote causing the item to be brought to a meeting. One objection to digital voting was chosen as the threshold for bringing items to a meeting to allow all Councillors to raise points they think are important. This is similar to the existing rules for Committees.

BENEFITS

Reputational,
Financial,
Sustainable, Social

The possibility of remote Council attendance may allow Councillors to participate in meetings when their circumstances may have otherwise prevented it. A system that allows hybrid meetings would also enable students at large to join remotely, reducing barriers to joining Council. Allowing email votes may reduce the time in meetings spent on approving items that do not usually require discussion, such as minutes.

RISKS

Financial,
Operational,
Reputational

Based on the remote Council meetings held during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is reason to believe that Councillors attending remotely may be less likely to actively engage in discussions or participate in other ways.

COSTS

Financial,
Resources, Lifecycle

There may be costs associated with the maintenance of the existing system that allows for hybrid meetings.

TIMELINE

Implementation
Timeline

Changes are to take effect immediately upon approval by Council.

CONSULTATION

Internal & External
Groups

Neal Cameron, Speaker of Council
Keith Hester, Managing Director