



Minutes of the AMS Governance Committee

(Minutes for October 25th, 2021 Meeting at 4pm | AMS Nest Room: 3529)

Attendance

Present: Kamil Kanji (Chair), Sheldon (Archivist and Clerk of Council), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Cole Evans (President), Shadia Qubti, Katherine Feng, Romina Hajizadeh, Alina Bhimji

Regrets: Rebecca Liu

Guests:

Recording Secretary:

Call to Order

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

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Katherine

Seconded: Saad

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted.”

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved: Saad Seconded: Romina

“BE IT RESOLVED the Governance Committee meeting minutes of October 18 are approved”

3. Selection of Committee Vice-Chair

Alina is appointed.

4. Student Services Manager on Finance Committee

There may be issues with SSM filling a non-exec council seat, in general (not just finance com). Potential for conflict of interest.

Saad: Precedent for SSM sitting on standing committees. Any reasonable person/director will remove themselves from conflicts of interest because it is their duty to do so. Current SSM Mitchell is aware of conflicts of interests. Suggest to keep SSM Mitchell and revisit at the first meeting of new fiscal year -- when new SSM elected. Kamil agrees.

Romina agrees. Doesn't see an issue, SSM was elected to be on committee and understands his duty.

Katherine: there is a conflict between his position and the issues of the committee. Since everyone is aware of his conflicts and he is required to disclose it, it doesn't seem to be an issue. The steps to prevent issue have already been taken. Can be revisited in future.

option: see how it goes this year and revisit next session of GovComm

Better option: make a change now based on position rather than person.

Code says 3 Council members must be on finance committee.

Issue of filling non-executive council seats. What if we want to change compositions of all committees? Depends what we want to change.

New suggestion: 3 voting council members or one of the bog and senate rep (no SSM).

Katherine: Having non-execs gets them involved. Allows SSM to bring up their concerns where someone else, voting council members, would not have those concerns. Can provide different perspective.

Does this apply to all committees or just finance? Can apply to all but specifically finance com is more involved in what the SSM does.

Saad: he was already elected so we shouldn't take it away from him.

Finance committee: voting members and bog and senate - not excluding SSM

Now we think both HR and Finance can have conflict of interest. Extend to all committees?

Romina: we should extend to all because there can be more conflicts we haven't thought of.

Saad: just HR and Finance because other committees probably don't make detrimental decisions, can be reversed.

Specific conflicts in HR com are unknown.

Agree about exclusion of SSM from finance com only; inclusion of senate and bog reps. Sheldon to draft code.

5. Advisory Board Updates

Changed to advisory board make it almost obsolete. All execs attend it, almost no need for advisory board because advisors can be invited to exec meeting by invitation to talk about specific issues.

Cole: advisory boards' purpose is to advise exec leadership in organizations. Even though same execs, work is not repeated. Execs are advised about topics by advisors. There to get second set of eyes from people with professional experience and reduce groupthink. Board doesn't really do 'work' but advises leadership.

Saad: might be better to invite them to exec meetings when there is an issue the execs want to discuss, rather than setting time aside for meeting with them. Their insight is sometimes limited.

Cole: purpose is to advise on high-level topics rather than individual people. Advisory boards are only successful when people are seeking advice from them.

Revisit at next meeting.

6. Agenda Order - Executive Questions

Currently Council can ask 3 questions per exec. Considering changing to 5 or unlimited.
Saad: in favour of increasing. Concern about councillors dominating questions. Suggest increase to a number, but as long as all councillors are given opportunity to ask questions.

Sheldon: raise to (5) but no more than x per councillor.

Saad: raise to 6 questions but no more than 2 per councillor.

Katherine: distinction between question and follow-up question? Sheldon: speaker's discretion

Shadia: instead of limiting to 2 per councillor, add about nature of question. Limit per issue? How to make sure the same question isn't being asked.

Saad: simplified if we make it 2 per councillor.

Revisit at next meeting.

7. Governance Committee Review

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Monday, Nov. 1 @ 4 pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.