Elections Committee

Council Report

April 16, 2022

Elections Committee to produce a report on this year's nominations and communications process for student senator candidates and SLFS board candidates

With regards to the student senator candidates process, this was handled before I was appointed as CEO. Timelines were established, and nomination forms were put out. For the faculty senators, many of them were uncontested as there was only one individual. With senate at large, there was nomination papers established online and in person available for individuals to nominate themselves. The word was communicated through out social medias, we tried to get an email blast however that was not possible at the time due to other complications.

With regards to the SLFS board candidates, Varsha, CRO tried to work with Rachiel however, she was unresponsive, and was unwilling to work with us. Therefore, there was not much within our power to set up their elections to be ran at the same time as AMS elections. While that was the timeline established, it did not happen. I defer the rest of questioning surrounding SLFS towards the current sitting president, as it is not our job to chase after leads of various clubs/organizations.

Commentary from the President:

This year's faculty-student senator elections were disorganized, and I do believe that it had a significant impact on the number of candidates who ran for these positions. However, I also do not believe that the AMS Elections team is ultimately responsible for this happening. Here are the main factors that I believe resulted in a poorly executed faculty-student senator elections cycle:

1. **Poor communication.** Throughout the entire process, there was very poor communication between the AMS, AMS Elections, UBC, and constituencies in regard to the elections. The Executive had no idea what plans were (for example, I was under the assumption the elections were going to be run the same way as last year due to a contract not existing), the AMS Elections teams seemed unfamiliar with the process, UBC deferred the issue mostly to an inexperienced AMS Elections team and never reached out to other AMS personnel if it had concerns, and constituencies were not communicated to by either UBC or AMS Elections. Not only did this result in a disorganized nomination period, but constituencies were not provided with the information to adequately promote the available positions to interested students.
2. **Newly introduced elections personnel.** The fact that AMS Elections personnel were hired so late did nothing to help the situation. As mentioned above, they were tasked to execute a timeline that had already been established coming into the role – a timeline which by the way was the first time the AMS has ever done it. In retrospect, there should have been a decision made to just have UBC run the elections the same way they did last year, and defer figuring out how the AMS might be able to make things work in the future to a later time.
3. **Lack of contract.** No contract currently exists between the AMS and UBC to run any UBC elections, which is also a violation of Code. There was a draft that was close to approval, but was never signed off on by either an Executive or AMS Council. For some reason, this year's elections seemed to proceed as if that contract *had* been signed off on and was relatively aligned with the terms included in the agreement. My guess is that many of the issues that were originally seen in the contract by Council (and were the reason why it wasn't approved) ended up ultimately leading to many of the issues that we encountered.
4. **Lack of responsibility.** This year, I think a major issue was that no one party took the lead on faculty-student senator elections. The AMS Elections team, who were very new in their roles,

were likely very occupied with the AMS-related elections and working on elements related to that process. I don't think that they can be blamed for this, as the AMS Executive elections are really the most critical to executing out of all of them from a "duty to the organization" standpoint. UBC deferred most if not all, responsibility to the AMS Elections team and this responsibility ultimately was less of a priority than other work the Elections Committee was performing. Constituencies also had limited involvement, and to my knowledge were not assigned any responsibility to promote or conduct elements of the elections.

Recommendations for the Future:

1. Get a contract completed with UBC that explicitly outlines roles and responsibilities for *everyone* if the AMS decides it wants to run faculty-student senator elections.
2. Create a plan to have constituencies promote nominations for faculty-student senator elections.
3. Delegate some responsibility to the Student Senate Caucus to assist in promoting the nominations for student senator elections.
4. Run faculty-student senator elections at a different time than the AMS General Elections to minimize the workload for elections personnel.

With regards to the SLFS Board elections, I'm going to be completely honest and say that this is not an AMS issue. The SLFS is a separate organization that failed to conduct any activity that would lead to the successful execution of its own elections this year. It is not the responsibility of the AMS to conduct elections for third-party organizations, especially when they are either inactive or put minimal effort into their own elections-related operations.