

Governance Committee Minutes

July 11th 2023

Present: Ayesha Irfan (Chair), Salva Sherif, Kamil Kanji, Kareem Hassib, Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Absent: Amaan Paanchbai, Thomas Dunsmore, Julianna Jou (Student-at-Large)

Guest(s):

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

2. Personalized Land Acknowledgement

Given by Ayesha Khan

3. Approval of minutes

No minutes to approve for today.

4. Discussion Items

- Student-at-Large Appointment Discussion (GV2 Amendment)
 - Ayesha: We're postponing this discussion to the end as Esmé is currently engaged in another committee.
 - Ayesha: Okay, Esmé told me that Kamil can represent her thoughts. So Kamil, you're Esmé for now.
 - Kamil: Esmé's thoughts are that the questions on the SAL questions should be dealt with by the President's office and that criteria for councillors should be dealt with by the PO as well.
 - Ayesha: I'd like for the questions to be brought to committee?
 - Kamil: I don't think it would need to be approved or come to committee? Wouldn't it just be refined and released by the office.
 - Sheldon: Just to clarify, so Esmé's office would deal with the questions and do the entire process? What part of the policy would this change?
 - Kamil: Don't think it would change policy. Nothing in policy about question framing.
 - Ayesha: I would still like to see the questions, just for the sake of transparency.
 - Kamil: I'm sure you can reach out to Esmé and go from there.

- Ayesha: Okay perfect. We're flying through our agenda. I agree that we can reach out to the PO about this. I really want to review the entire process, starting from the questions and also try to make the form more accessible.
 - Kamil: Yeah, changing the formatting is pretty straight forward, so it can just be dealt with by PO.
 - Ayesha: How do we make sure that this doesn't have to be changed later Sheldon?
 - Sheldon: The only policy change we'd require is if we're having Governance look at the questions.
 - Salva: Yeah, I don't think GovCom should be looking at the questions, if anything HRCOM should look at the questions.
 - Ayesha: I would just like to make sure that we're in the loop for the questions and have someone review them when possible.
 - Kamil: I think that the questions are unlikely to change anyway, since PO is really busy.
 - Ayesha: That makes sense, but I'll make sure to talk to the PO about the entire process.
- Ombudsperson, BOG + Senate Report Code Review
 - Ayesha: As of now, written reports have to be provided, but Salva and I thought that adding a verbal report would be helpful and ensure that the meetings are more transparent.
 - Salva: I think we should just get rid of the Ombudsperson reports since they don't often report, at least not since I've joined council.
 - Sheldon: Salva was right, they haven't reported in 5 years. It was decided since the Ombudsperson is part-time, and we didn't want to waste their paid-time. Thus, it might be more effective to get rid of the report.
 - Ayesha: I do feel like since they're part-time staff and a part of our organisation, we should still be aware of what they're up to.
 - Sheldon: I think that as GovCom Chair, you should reach out to the ombudsperson.
 - Ayesha: I'll reach out to Alec Lee, the ombudsperson, and then bring the Ombudsperson part of this back later. How about BOG and Senate reports? (Everyone nods) So both verbal + written?
 - Kareem: I think one or the other, verbal if they're there, and written if they're not.
 - Kamil: I disagree. Similar to executives, the written report helps prepare councillors to question reps during verbal updates.
 - Sheldon: History is, until recently all people, they gave verbal reports. Got rid of the verbal for more efficiency, brought it back for executives but didn't change it back for BOG and Senate. If you want to make it consistent, both verbal + written reports.
 - Kamil: I was on Governance then and we decided to make it so for efficiency back then.

- Ayesha: I'm personally leaning towards both reports for more transparency for councillors and for students to know what's happening in BOG and Senate. However, I get Kareem's point.
- Kareem: I'll probably be reading off the written report anyway so no big deal.
- Ayesha: Perfect, I have a question for Sheldon. Is there any "penalty" or "consequence" for written reports not coming to council?
- Sheldon: We haven't had written reports for long, so we haven't really thought about it. Code has a lot of rules, but mostly no consequences. We should bring it up here.
- Kareem: BOG every 3 months, special meetings, and more. The BOG meeting is always on the same week as Council. Maybe what's happening on the Committee? But might lead to redundancy.
- Salva: I think that something as simple as just having the BOG + Senate just say no report would be sufficient.
- Sheldon: Agree with Salva. I remember that Max always managed to find something to report to every council.
- Ayesha: Should we hold the Senate to the same standard?
- Kamil: Sounds good, especially since Senate committees meet more often.
- Ayesha: Sheldon, can you draft something?
- Sheldon: I'll bring it to committee next time.
- Ayesha: Cool. I'll meet with Ombudsperson and loop everyone in.

5. Next Meeting

- Ayesha: Max is going to be coming in to discuss clarifying constituency memberships and some other changes.
- Kamil: Constituencies were very unhappy when we last discussed this.
- Ayesha: Guess we're making constituencies unhappy again. I think that this work was discussed earlier. In Arts Code itself we have a lack of clarity regarding who can vote in which elections. I just wanted to make sure that we know what's happening, but this will mostly just be us reviewing changes brought to us and approving stuff from Esmé and Max.
- Sheldon: Other than clarifying membership of Constituencies, what other changes is Max interested in?
- Ayesha: There are a few other changes such as Senate elections, to streamline the process. He'll come to us and discuss it later.
- Are there any other ideas for our big discussion for the summer?
- Kamil: I trust you chair.
- Ayesha: Perfect, we'll just look through the list. Thank you for joining me here today and let me know about any questions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Next Meeting on July 18, 2023 from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM.