

## Governance Committee Minutes

July 18th 2023

**Present: Ayesha Irfan (Chair), Salva Sherif, Amaan Paanchbai, Thomas Dunsmore, Kareem Hassib, Julianna Jou (Student-at-Large), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)**

**Absent: Kamil Kanji**

**Guest(s): Max Holmes (Elections Administrator & Speaker of Council)**

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Personalized Land Acknowledgement

Given by Julianna Chou

### 3. Approval of minutes

No minutes for today, all outstanding minutes will be submitted for approval at the next committee meeting.

### 4. Discussion Items

- Define Constituency Constituents - Presentation by Max
  - Ayesha states that Esmé + Max + Ayesha met earlier.
  - New IT system which will make constituencies no longer significantly responsible for manually defining constituents for ballots which takes UBC a week. New system = make a list at the beginning of year. Template EA will now provide cannot be easily changed and will later create huge delays for constituencies if the template is not appropriate.
  - Definition list has to be made by September
  - Code exists for membership, however, it is mostly constituency defined with the technical being that which we send in to UBC.
  - Some programs don't fall within the constituency. Thus, should all students be in a constituency? What about continuing students? However, being in a constituency = more fees which is not desirable.

- Remove 'fees paid' for constituency definition because AMS can't check, only UBC can.
- Governance needs to clarify and set a precedent.
- Not in constituency means no voting representation in council outside of executive.
- Constituency membership can't be changed without AMS approval to reduce issues down the line.
- Make a process clear for the constituency.
- Have to implement set dates for constituency elections.
- 3-4 weeks around or after the Add/Drop deadline b/c student's join or leave.
  - Thus, no January or September elections.
  - Shouldn't be a huge issue.
- Thomas asks to clarify scheduling for CUS elections. Max maintains that elections shouldn't be done for accurate voting lists + mid-October to November election freeze due to system testing.
- Thomas states that clarity is needed regarding how non-represented students could get representation in Council.
- Kareem asks if there are any full-year diploma students who are unrepresented. Max states that he is not aware + some may not be clearly defined.
- Kareem asks if short-term students should be represented.
- Ayesha asks for an AMS definition. Sheldon states that it is students who take credit courses.
- Ayesha asks why fee paying was added to code? Sheldon states that though some fees are required, code does include some code stating that members who are not in default of fees. Fees can also be waived.
- Max states that the elimination of 'fee paying' will not seriously affect anything, but it's better to prevent future issues.
- Ayesha asks for the timeline. Max responds:
  - Email soon to constituencies about training + this process.
  - Consultations regarding existing definition
  - Bring this back to IT
  - Back to GovCom in mid-August (ish) with set-in-stone definitions
  - Will discuss additions to code outlining process to edit definitions
  - Approve definitions in September
  - Testing in October, iron out definition kinks.
- Amaan asks how to ensure that all students remain represented next year. Max states that the new system will replace the current system in May

2024 + it'll be okay to change code even after testing due to this deadline. If there are issues later, trying to figure out how IT can possibly update definitions when things might change later.

- Ayesha asks who is going to be working on definitions. Max envisions consultations till mid-August, and then re-write definitions. At this point, GovCom will start work from this point on to review definitions and code changes, final approval in September.

## 5. Code Changes

- Ombudsperson, BOG + Senate Report Code Review
  - The Ombudsperson has not responded as of yet. Thus, this part will come back later.
  - Thomas asks for the reasoning behind this. Ayesha talks about having engaged BOG + Senate reps, thus knowing what's happening in committees + councils of those bodies + gives them incentive to show up.
  - Kareem asks if another BOG or Senate reps clears up something, will a councillor question be lost. Sheldon states that code can be changed, however, practically multiple people talk anyway by approval of the speaker.
    - Thomas agrees and wants to maintain what we currently have.
  - *Unanimous approval.*
- Speaker non-voting EPA Code Change
  - A little error that fell through the cracks of GovReview according to Thomas.
  - Unanimous approval. Sheldon will come back to the next council with code change.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Next Meeting on July 25, 2023 from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM.