

Governance Committee Minutes

June 1 2023

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

Absent: Koda Tootosis, Kamil Kanji, Julianna Jou (Student-at-Large)

Guest(s):

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Personalized Land Acknowledgement

Given by Ayesha Irfan

3. Approval of minutes

First Committee Meeting, thus, no minutes.

4. Discussion Items

- Overview of Governance Committee and Roles (Ayesha)
 - READ CODE !!!!! I can not stress this enough but please please try to read most or all of the 160 pages. I KNOW it's a lot but if you like to take it a few at a time you will be able to catch things that might need to be worked on!
 - In order to actively participate in this committee I need you all to be familiar with the type of language used in code and the history at times which is why we have the AMAZING sheldon here! Sheldon is a wonderful resources for anything code / policy related
 - Our work as a committee includes proposing our own code changes and taking feedback from students / other council members on things that need to be looked at!
 - Another document I attached in the agenda which we also heard about yesterday is the AMS Strategic Plan!
 - It is important that whatever this committee plans to do in terms of code changes is aligned with the strategic plan it also makes a great point of validity when defining certain changes cause there are

times when council members will contest certain code decisions and as they should that is the beauty of democracy

- Introductions
- Goal Setting
 - Ayesha: I have shared a document with a list of items that we can add to. I've made this list after meeting with Sheldon and intent to meet with CK as well since he is also very passionate about code changes. Kamil is also going to be more involved from next week. I'm not sure if issues with the Senate have been resolved as of yet?
 - Salva: I don't believe they have. Based on conversations with Max last year, it's an issue which needs conversation with Constituencies to maybe align their elections with Senate elections.
 - Ayesha: Makes sense. The list may not remain this long if we don't feel like we can deal with it before summer. Talk about transition payment?
 - Sheldon: This may not actually be up to us? Last year, Audrey was also HR chair and it might be more under that jurisdiction. The conversation before was in relation to whether it is fair for the honorarium to be just for outgoing executives since it's unfair for incoming executives to be active before they're on the payroll.
 - Ayesha: We could just wait till HR is done or we can deal with it later.
 - In terms of committee appointments, we have a weird hybrid hiring-appointment system. Deal with this before September?
 - (Everyone agrees).
 - Ayesha: Talked to Ian about Grad gifts and a lack of oversight. Student Life is in charge of this and how can we deal with the Grad gift decision so that there is more transparency regarding the decision process.
 - In relation to BoG and Senate seats, which we may not be able to do this before the end of September, we'll definitely need to deconstruct this a lot since there's a lot of different parts. However, it'll be at the end of the list.
 - Items 7-9 are Kamil's.
 - Mandatory council orientation is important before our actual first council. Maybe push the first council meeting. The other items will be explained and motivated by Kamil next month.
 - The last item was brought up by Max in relation to in-camera executive performance. Sheldon: Section 6 of code is where this is detailed which was brought up within the last couple of years.
 - Ayesha: Possibly put this on top of the list before our next council.
 - The two active items should be committee appointments and in-camera items.

- Does anyone have any appointments?
- Salva: The items on top of the list are good but we may need to recheck the in-camera code after the EPA reports start coming in. Another thing to add down the line is looking at the duties between executives to prevent burn-out down the line and equalize their duties.
- Ayesha: Yeah, we could do a consultation and bring people in.
- Kareem: No big concerns as of now. I'll bring up stuff for the next meeting.
- Amaan: The list feels good enough for now and we can add new items later. I'm also on the HR committee so I could help with communication.
- Ayesha: I'm also on that committee, so we (Amaan and I) can chat to figure that out.
- Sheldon: Some more things to add to the list based on the policies that I looked at. A policy that was up for review last year is the Privacy policy that needs to be reviewed this year. Lawyers looked at it and it was redrafted 3 years ago. Needs to ideally be done sometime this year. As the Privacy Officer, I haven't had any issues. Last year, Executives were trying to make a Code of Conduct for councilors. New one would just be section 2 edit of code so that is something to consider.
- Ayesha: Does setting the list for next week every prior week sound good?
- Salva: Maybe we should make a timeline of some sort?
- Ayesha: That could work.
- Amaan: Maybe we should start working on things and then make a timeline because we don't know how long it would take to make code of procedures and stuff.
- Salva: Yes, I think we should start working on stuff first and then figure out how long changes to procedure take each week.
- Ayesha: That sounds good. Koda also had an action item regarding Indigenous Constituency on code.
- Salva: Yes, I think it's likely in relation to the changes that need to be made to have the code in line with the referendum changes from last semester.
- Ayesha: Sounds good.

5. Next Meeting

- Amaan: how are we looking into scheduling for upcoming meetings?
- Ayesha: Sheldon would prefer 5-6 on the same day, but will send out another when2meet to figure it out.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Next Meeting time will be determined after the when2meet.