

Governance Committee Minutes

June 12th 2023

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

Absent:

Guest(s): Cynara Onyemordi (AVP AUA)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

2. Personalized Land Acknowledgement

Given by Kareem Hassib

3. Approval of minutes

No minutes to approve for today.

4. Vice Chair Appointment

- Ayesha: Before we appoint a vice chair here are responsibilities: You become the chair when I am not present. You will also take meeting minutes for the weekly meetings + assist the chair in the ongoing proceedings. If there's external comms and reaching out that will be done by you. Who wants to be Vice Chair: Salva + Kamil
- Ayesha: How should we do this?
- Sheldon: it's up to you and the committee
- Kareem: We should hear them speak for a minute
- Ayesha: Yes definitely go ahead
- Salva: I think I'm in a better position due to the commitments I have. I'm good at taking minutes and I'm good to collaborate with you on the committee. And I do have things I wants to accomplish this summer and being vice would allow that
- Kamil: I've been gov comm before, I've chaired it and have a lot of AMS experience. I know how to support, leverage connections and am familiar with all the processes that exist.
- Ayesha: We need to let Aman in and he can hear the speeches again and then we can vote

- Ayesha: Salva is elected vice chair

5. Discussion Items

- First a quick round of introductions.
- Student-at-Large Appointment Discussion
 - Ayesha: The first code change we're working on is going to be the committee appointment process. There are usually many applications and the process is the way it is to keep the council meetings a reasonable length. We're looking for ways to have every student-at-large committee member being reasonably assessed.
 - Salva: Make committee appointments for the second council meeting of summer to make it a better process for councilors. For students-at-large maybe the application itself needs some change?
 - Ayesha: The hybrid process makes the whole process a little undiscussed and just appoints them. Something to be considered would be splitting up committee appointments of councilors and student-at-large or the committees themselves.
 - Kamil: I was cutting in and out, but what is the specific code issue?
 - Ayesha: The hybrid process
 - Kareem: I think an ad-hoc committee who goes through the application pile and then gives us feedback would be better.
 - Ayesha: Someone suggested a nomination committee instead of having the council doing it? But then that would be up to the HR committee instead of Governance.
 - Kamil: Part of the job is reading through a lot of material. Making a new committee isn't feasible. Maybe get HR to do the job since they have less work later.
 - Ayesha: Conflicts may arise as people may not agree with the appointments. How to make the process transparent?
 - Kamil: In-camera procedures would be super long. Criteria may be best, either with HR or using the President's staff?
 - Sheldon: We used to do students-at-large statements and councilors but we changed to applications a couple of years ago after Eshana pushed for it to make the process more streamlined. We don't typically do discussions.
 - Ayesha: Weird hybrid and we can afford for no discussion for councilors since they're elected.
 - Kareem: Maybe bring back speeches? Would be long but maybe it would be more productive.
 - Salva: Prefer the idea of a criteria instead of speeches just due to the questionable feasibility of many speeches in one council meeting.
 - Kamil: Yes, I definitely agree and have experiences of many long meetings.

- Ayesha: Hybrid structure → First a criteria to reduce numbers and then do speeches?
- Kamil: Numbers will continue being high, looking at history. Part of our job is to look through applications. Maybe keep it the same or in a similar way/
- Ayesha: Juli, how did you find the whole process? Esme and Ian may come to the next meeting and have some insight.
- Juli: Agree with making it more rigid. Applied because of curiosity and applied to Gov and AdvoCom. I just needed to write a 100 word blurb and found it fairly unclear.
- Ayesha: What specifically do you think we could improve about the process?
- Juli: I think clearer questions about what is being looked for in the application process.
- Amaan: I think keep it the same? I think 80 applicants are readable and the process is fine. Maybe assign more words, similar to 150 words instead of 100 words.
- Juli: Is the issue that there are too many applicants? The process is that councilors read everything and then appoint?
- Ayesha: Yes, that's kind of the process.
- Juli: Is the issue that councilors aren't reading the bios?
- Ayesha: Yes and that makes the process less transparent.
- Salva: I think lack of clarity is the name of the game. We need to increase clarity at the application process by making the questions more specific for the committees they're trying to apply to and that might make it easier for us to read and then deal with.
- Juli: I agree with making the questions more targeted and that would definitely make the process better.
- Sheldon: People coming in for speeches could show people who are more dedicated for the role. Application numbers go up and down and there may be a time when we have no applicants.
- Kamil: If speeches happen, we may end up having similar issues with people not taking everything in.
- Sheldon: When we used to do speeches, nine times out of ten, the people who show up and make the speech instead of sending in a blurb get elected.
- Kareem: Committee or staff to cut the numbers and then speeches?
- Salva: Similar issue to earlier HR committee conflict and it may not be fair to add more duties on hired staff when they're trying to transition in.
- Ayesha: More rigid process and making sure councilors, who are elected, do their readings. We should mention this during orientation, which we should also make sure happens before the first council. Bring in Esme for more discussion next week?

Unanimous Consent

- Executive in-camera order
 - Ayesha: We don't have time to do Exec in-camera order right now but to introduce the issue, the Speaker mentioned figuring out an order. Talked to CK and he brought up that GovReview didn't put it into code to make the process more flexible based on the day off. Don't formalize ideally but deal with it later? Discussion for next week.

6. Next Meeting

- Another when2meet will be sent out after the appointment of a new committee member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Next Meeting time will be determined after the AMS Council.