

Governance Committee Minutes

September 25th 2023

Present: Ayesha Irfan (Chair), Salva Sherif, Kareem Hassib, Kamil Kanji, Aki Kamoshida, Thomas Dunsmore, Julianna Jou (Student-at-Large), Dr. Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Absent:

Guest(s): Esmé Decker (President of AMS)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved: Ayesha Seconded: Thomas

3. Personalized Land Acknowledgement

Given by Ayesha Irfan

4. Approval of minutes

None for today

5. Discussion Items

- Membership Introductions
- Governance Committee 411 by Ayesha Irfan + Sheldon
 - Read 160 pages of Code, at the least, the code that is relevant for specific Code Changes
 - Find all the readings on the AMS website and Resources section of Onboard. Has also been attached on the agenda for this meeting.
- Goal Setting and Timeline
 - Kamil mentions financial planning and how to ensure stability in the long term.
 - Ayesha states that conversations have been had with CK and states that she would like to formalize a proper procedure to disburse money to Resource Groups.

- Funds are currently being disbursed through a Discord Channel.
- Esmé states that budgets have not been submitted to VP Finance recently and Sheldon states that budgets should be frozen according to code.
- Salva asks exactly how funds are being transferred to Resource Groups?
- Sheldon states that the Resource Group specific funds are given to the Resource Group Allocation committee who split it to each Resource Group as required.
- Kamil believes that it has not been coming in since he has been in AMS.
- Kareem asks about the specifics of when funds are disbursed after opt-outs?
- Kamil states that there should be contingencies in-built into budgets.
- Ayesha says that there is clearly a major gap between budget building and how it should be done.
- Ayesha mentions that BoG and Senate are technically non-voting in council, but not in committee.
- Kamil clarifies that BoG have a fiduciary duty to the university, while Senate does not. In that line of thought, Students-at-Large would have the same issue.
- Kareem mentions that it should be considered that specific committees would be unlikely to have conflicts.
- Kamil reiterates that the fiduciary duty means that if a BoG member is aware, they are responsible to report.
- Orientations being initialized before committees start.
- Where should Grad Gift related decisions go? Discussion item later.
- Ayesha asks for an update on SR1 updates.
 - Sheldon states that Hong brought up issues about systems such as Google Drive. Cookies are also something that we need to look into. Ceridian, which is the hiring portal, collects cookies. Thus, it needs to be added to SR1.
- Kamil and Esmé indicate a preference for reviewing GV1 in advance.
- Ayesha asks about Student Society-related code changes that need to be reviewed ASAP.
 - Esmé says that Koda indicated that the Indigenous Constituency are currently building capacity, and will then look into changing their side of code.

- Sheldon has a drafted version which can be brought up once Student Society is ready.
- Ayesha questions the precedence of AMS code over constituency code. Asks for consistency.
- Kamil mentions that constituencies would not be happy to be forced into following AMS code. Thomas agrees.
- Esmé says that her office believes it is an issue that's being brought up in the President's Council.
- Aki echoes Kamil's sentiment and also states that this is less of a GovCom issue, and more of a general issue.
- Salva brings up possibly making some form of committee through the President's Council for Constituencies to review their own codes against AMS code.
- Esmé and Sheldon discuss considering alternatives with the President's Council and ensuring that big code changes are collectively agreed upon.
- Senate elections and who should be responsible.
- Kamil indicates that there is bad precedent regarding aligning timelines.
- Ayesha mentions that SARS-CoV-2 references should be removed from code.
- Esmé says that Code of Conduct will be brought up soon, ideally next week.
- Ayesha asks for minutes, Sheldon says that minutes during Eshana's period as chair in 2022-23 are missing. Will be looked into.

Ayesha says that anything that is urgently wanted will be brought forward at request.

6. Vice Chair Appointment

Salva Sherif was appointed as Vice Chair with *unanimous consent*.

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

Next Meeting will be in October, 2023 after a when2meet is sent out online.