

Governance Committee Minutes

November 6, 2023

Present: Ayesha Irfan (Chair), Salva Sherif, Dr. Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council), Kamil Kanji, Kareem Hassib, Aki Kamoshida, Yuki Ichikawa

Absent: Julianna Jou (Student-at-Large)

Guest(s): Ian Caguiat (VP Administration), Christian Kyle (All Leads in the Presidential portfolio)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved: Aki Seconded: Salva

3. Personalized Land Acknowledgement

Given by Ayesha Irfan

4. Approval of minutes

- Meeting minutes from:

- October 30, 2023

Moved: Aki Seconded: Kareem

5. Approval of Changes

- Affiliate Non-Voting Seats Motion - Motivated by Ian Caguiat
 - Two non-voting seats would be added to council from the two affiliate colleges without representation after their elections.
 - Ian reads Clayton's letter which is summarized as follows:
Affiliate colleges have a lower level of access to UBC resources which is why AMS service's report indicates that a large number of Affiliate colleges students access resources such as the AMS food bank. Affiliate students are typically in alignment in votes; however, to ensure that there is appropriate representation, two non-voting seats would be ideal.

- Aki asks about whether Affiliate colleges are AMS members. The response is yes.
 - Salva asks for clarification about why non-voting affiliate college members would be required to seek appointment to committees. CK provides context from the governance review, Esmé clarifies that they are not required to, only the voting member would be allowed to.
 - Ayesha adds that there is a long-term goal to discuss non-voting members in committees. Asks for clarification regarding the process of the prior year's governance review and why affiliate college seats were cut down.
 - CK clarifies that it was a delicate balance to ensure that students had equal representational strength, rather than overrepresentation. Kamil adds that if Affiliate college had 3 seats, it would be the same as AUS.
 - Sheldon states that the affiliate colleges are 3 different colleges, not 1 with the same interests.
 - CK discusses his graphs and formulae from last year in response to a clarifying question from Aki.
 - Kareem agrees with everything that has been said. Asks for any possible opposition.
 - Salva clarifies that there is no opposition, but more of a worry about whether other stakeholders would also ask for additional non-voting seats to replace representation from the prior year. Also states that non-voting members can still be a part of council and discussion. Yuki agrees and adds that faculties could further ask for non-voting seats.
 - CK asks for clarification regarding whether alternative representation models were discussed as a follow-up from the prior year's conversations?
 - Kamil says that he believes that they have. Ian adds that there has been conversation about significant code change to resolve the issue.
 - Salva indicates that it would be preferable for CK (and his graphs and models) to join the Affiliates Committee and figure out alternatives before discussing non-voting seats.
 - CK agrees.
 - The code change has been referred back to the Affiliate's Committee which will meet on the 15th of November.
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- The Speaker's Powers Code Change
 - Ayesha reads out Sheldon's written motivation to justify why there are changes specifying Chair and Speaker.
 - Aki states that the current code change doesn't indicate that it is temporary.

- Everyone agrees and states that it likely wasn't brought into the code.
- Yuki asks if a strike system would be more appropriate. Salva states that a strike system would add too many challenge-able elements. Aki then adds that by convention, Speakers would likely only have a gradual escalation. Kareem also states that a big misdemeanor would need to be dealt with immediately which would make the strike system complicated.
- Discussion ensues about the appropriate wording for the suspension.
- Salva just asks for the addition of a ban being limited by the academic year. Yuki states that if we're giving it at Speakers discretion, then there's no reason to add the academic year.
- Kamil summarizes the changes would be the word "bar" and "one or more council meetings".
- This will be brought back to GovCom and then approved via an email vote.

6. Discussion Items

- Councillor Safety and Guest Decorum Pt 4

Motion to move in-camera:

Moved: Aki

Seconded: Kareem

Thirded: Kamil

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Next Meeting will be on November 20, 2023 from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM.