[ CODE AND POLICY MINUTES ]

Date: Tuesday October 31st, 2017
Time: 5:30-6:30PM
Location: ALSSC MEETING ROOM 103

I. Attendance

Michelle Tse - VP Administration
Wendy Guo - AMS Representative
Ronan Kerr - Astronomy Representative
Sean Jeong - Biochemistry Representative
Daniel Lam - Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences + Environmental Sciences Representative
Akhil Krishnan - Member-at-Large
Caroline Sutton - Member-at-Large
Kim Vu - AVP Administration

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35PM.

III. Amendments to the Agenda

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Caroline, Seconded by Daniel.
“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.”

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V. Presentations

VI. Approval of Minutes of Council/Committees

Moved by Ronan, Seconded by Sean.
“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following meeting minutes be tabled to the next meeting:

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VII. Article 7 - Committees of Council
   a. Big Picture
      ● Wendy enters
      ● Michelle: Aspect that needs to be fixed for next year is numbers. Strict or flexible → improve for next year. Important to have but it is starting to hinder the society. The feasibility is questioned.
      ● Sean: How are the ratio of councillors to members-at-large decided?
      ● Michelle: Usually there are more councillors than M-A-L. HEWE was a special case
      ● Daniel: Would you consider standardizing the structure of standing committees?
      ● Michelle: Working groups was suggested. AMS does it very differently than we do.
      ● Daniel: Extraordinary committees have have meetings when they’re not mandated to do so.
      ● Akhil: Were we discussing the structure of the committees?
      ● Michelle: I want to work on the definitions.
      ● Akhil: Don’t want M-A-L to be voting on policy changes or monetary issues.
      ● Michelle: What definitions do we want moving forward?
      ● Caroline: Both HEWE and MHAC are under Academic but they seem like they don’t really fully deal with academic → responsibility displaced
      ● Akhil: It seems like the different portfolios do different marketing.
      ● Michelle: That was the case last year but now it’s standardized this year.
      ● Wendy: CUS as an example → all conferences are under Service → an ad-hoc committee.
      ● Michelle: New terms would be useful.
      ● Ronan: Would you rather fix some specific ones rather than changing the entire thing?
      ● Michelle: That would be good but changing one thing would mean that most other things would change as well.
      ● Akhil: In article 6 there are some general outlines but there could be more specific delegations of what a committee should do rather than having a chair decide. Academic Committee doesn’t have a mandate to meet but maybe we should add recommendations on how often they should meet.
      ● Michelle: Committees have councilors, commissions are like staff
      ● Wendy: There are no goals for most of the committees.
      ● Michelle: Maybe we should standardize for future years
      ● Ronan: We should add a mandate section after general in order to clarify definitions and give responsibilities
      ● Caroline: Also define commissions before the commissions are listed in code
      ● Akhil: Point of Order → we are expected to finish our recommendations for Speaker of Council by the 15th of November.
      ● Michelle: I will come up with a definition and next meeting we will edit it
   b. Academic Committee
From Code:

2. Academic Committee
   i. The Academic Committee shall be composed of:
      a. the VP Academic, who shall be Chair;
      b. the Program Representatives;
      c. the Science Student Senator; and
      d. the Chief AMS Representative.
   ii. The Committee shall:
      a. Coordinate the Society’s attempts to improve academic conditions;
      b. Organize (oversee the organization of) academic events for Science students;
      c. Administer and award the Teaching Excellence Award(s);
      d. Administer and award the Leadership Award(s); and
      e. Refer to the AMS Ombudsperson or AMS Advocacy Office any Science students
         who have grievances in academic matters.

- Wendy: Major things was the CPSC issue → allocate for more spaces because of huge waitlist issue. The AMS represents got removed from Academic Committee. Chief AMS Rep should be removed.
- Daniel: The AMS has restructured so it frees up more time for VP Academic caucus meetings.
- Caroline: Why were AMS Representatives removed?
- Wendy: There was no need for us at the committee but there really isn’t anything we have a say in. VP Academic has a direct link to the Academic Caucus
- Michelle: a) → She just wants to reword it.
- Ronan: a) → it doesn’t say anything in terms of actions. We want to say more specifically what it means.
- Caroline: Replacing it with only addressing problems loses the surveillance as we can’t improve anything.
- Michelle: Are we okay with removing e)?
- Ronan: Yes but not b)?
- Wendy: b) → they should oversee academic events for science students
- Caroline: b) → also the organization of the events
- Akhil: I don’t agree with changing it to regarding problems as they arise. It takes away from what the academic portfolio because they don’t help improve academics. Also takes away the problem of who decides what is actually a problem
- Wendy: Jennifer is the only one calling the meetings.
- Kim: Councilors are always free to bring issues up and have Jennifer call meetings
- Ronan: One possible way this will be resolved is saying that if any councilor has
a pressing issue that needs to be brought up, the meeting must be brought up within a time. Something that anybody to request → even general students.

- Caroline: It would be better for the goal to be improving academic conditions rather than just fixing issues
- Wendy: I don’t completely agree with this because meetings would be called for some miniscule items from members at large.
- Michelle: Should they be meeting every two weeks?
- Daniel: Every month
- Akhil: If they’re done every month then they will get information from the Senator every month.
- Daniel: If it’s ever the case the VP Academic can also cancel the meeting.
- Michelle: Should we add a time to it?
- Akhil: Maybe we should make it so that Academic meetings must be held within a week after a senate meeting.
- Michelle: Changing what b) says and changing e)

c. Grants and Budget Committee

- Michelle: VP Finance wants to change the representation because he thinks it’s important to have a lot of councilors. He wants to change it to “at least” instead of the strict number.
- Akhil: Too many voices would be problematic.
- Michelle: It’s 6 councilors and 2 M-A-L
- Sean: There are issues because there were people missing so we couldn’t pass anything due to not meeting quorum.
- Caroline: That was an issue last year.
- Wendy: In AMS, if a councilor misses a certain number of meetings then the chair has the power to remove them and another councilor is elected.
- Akhil: I don’t think you should saturate the committee just to meet quorum.
- Michelle: Then it should be an internal matter.

VIII. Speaker of Council

- Michelle: The committee decided that there is a need for the Speaker and the HR Coordinators as well as Wendy will be choosing someone then presenting it to the committee and then to council to vote upon.
- Akhil: The speaker should not vote.
- Michelle: Since there is little on the speaker in code, what should we do?
- Akhil: We should have article 5 back in order to add the speaker.
- Caroline: We’ll have to create another article.
- Akhil: We need another article on where non-voting members are in council.

IX. Committee Reports and Motions

X. Discussion Period

- Caroline: We should talk about having experience on committees like the Budget Committee
• Wendy: The councilors appointed onto committees use election buddy as well but it’s a tentative result, Council has to vote to appoint the councillors and new nominations can be brought up at that time.
• Ronan: It is good but it will take a long time.
• Wendy: Maybe in the future we can define our terms better and decide on which committees to put councilors on.

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Sean, Seconded by Wendy.
“BE IT RESOLVED THAT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:36PM.”

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Associate Vice President, Administration
UBC Science Undergraduate Society

Vice President, Administration
UBC Science Undergraduate Society