Date: July 03rd 2014

Time: 6.07 pm

In Attendance:
JAMES HWANG (Chair)
BO ZHANG
CORY HODGSON (Proxy for JAMIE HUDSON)
JUSTIS ALLARD

Excused Absence:
UMER FAROOQ

Others in Attendance:
SACHITHA KUSALADHARMA

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order by HWANG at 6.07 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
HWANG moved to approve the agenda for July 03, 2014 as tabled.
The motion was seconded by HODGSON.
Vote 4/0/0
CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
HWANG moved to approve the minutes for June 19, 2014 as tabled.
The motion was seconded by ALLARD.
Vote 4/0/0
CARRIED

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
HWANG: I shared the Google drive folder of the Bylaw Committee with everyone.
**5. GENERAL ORDERS**

**Adding Attendance Requirements in Bylaw Standing Orders**

HWANG: This was brought to us by Councilor Zhang. The Grant Allocation Committee (GAC) has a clause like this.

ZHANG: The Policy Committee is also looking at doing it.

HODGSON: It makes sense. But, as long as the committee can make quorum, it’s not a big issue.

ALLARD: It’s tough for people who may not live in the city for a semester.

HODGSON: I believe summer is the exception.

ZHANG: A lot of councilors have Council activities as the last thing on their list of priorities. They are moving Council related stuff around other things. If that’s what they want to do, so be it. But, if they ran for Council and then joined committees, they should show up!

HODGSON: Sometimes, that commitment isn’t clearly communicated.

ZHANG: So, do you think three days would be good?

HODGSON: You can copy GAC’s Standing Orders. It has been worked on before.

HWANG: Shall we make the changes today and approve it?

ZHANG: We worked on GAC’s Standing Orders regarding this. So, if everyone is ok with it, we can go ahead.

HWANG: We need to decide where in our Standing Orders we should put it.

HODGSON: Yes. It needs a little bit of work. We should bring it up during next meeting with the exact wording.

**Conflict of Interest Bill from Last Year**

HWANG: This is something that Eric Grehan who was last year’s Bylaw Committee chair wanted me to look into. Last year, the committee wanted to clearly outline cases of conflict of interest within bylaw. All the documents from last year are in the Google drive. I just wanted to introduce it so that you guys can read about it at home.

HODGSON: I don’t know why it never got passed. The first reading happened. The second reading didn’t. Anyway, it took a long time to get to the point of the first reading. So, a lot of work has been done. It’s sad that it really didn’t go anywhere.

We can have a discussion after you look through it. I was part of the original discussion.

HWANG: Do we have to go through the first reading again?

HODGSON: I don’t know for sure. I think we have to.

ZHANG: If we let Council know that it already passed last year, I don’t think it will be that hard.

ALLARD: Was there a big debate about it last year?

HODGSON: It’s a contentious thing. It definitely wasn’t straightforward.
There was talk around it. The Bylaw Committee itself was very contentious. We should chat about this during our next meeting.

Adding Attendance Requirements for Council in Bylaw

HWANG: I think Board of Governors representative Hansra brought this up. Does anyone want to pursue this?
ZHANG: I think it’s better to put this in Standing Orders as opposed to putting it in a bylaw.
HODGSON: There’s a bylaw which states that you can’t remove councilors.
ZHANG: Why does it say that?
HODGSON: You were put there by your constituents. So, it’s only your constituents who can remove you.
ZHANG: In parliament, they would vote on the issue and suggest the member in concern to resign. I think that’s the way we can work around it. We would open a big can of worms if we say that Council can remove councilors. This seems to be the best way forward.
ALLARD: I don’t know how that would play out in reality, especially in the summer. It may affect faculties that have a lower turnout the most.
ZHANG: I have a question. Do you think attendance in committees should be stricter than Council?
ALLARD: Yes. Committees should have a stricter attendance.
HODGSON: One thing the executives are planning is identifying why people are not coming. Council can do this too. People may be on work terms and not coming. Not enough of that information is collected. After identifying people on work terms, we can find people who are just not showing up. We can reach out to those people. We can suggest them to think about resigning because there are other people to fill the spot. So, I don’t know if we need to legislate this and make formal procedures.
ZHANG: It doesn’t necessarily have to be formalized. But, it needs to be discussed. If the Speaker can get a list of people not attending, he/she can let the chairs know so that it’s not a scramble every time. We can also have a form on the internet indicating whether a councilor is available or not.
ALLARD: Yes. A more comprehensive calendar is important. Also, there should be something formal or informal to make sure these positions are filled.
ZHANG: Also, if you can’t make the commitment, I would rather have someone more passionate about what he/she is doing.
HODGSON: A formal removal should be the last step. A more informal hands-on approach must be taken. If they do something illegal, they would be removed from school.
ALLARD: There should be more efforts to inform councilors about their work.
HODGSON: Yes, that would cut down on people who don’t show up.
ZHANG: GovCamp didn’t really inform me about what I was supposed to do as a councilor.
HODGSON: What you are supposed to do is really hard to define. In some committees such as the Audit Committee, there can certain stuff that you need to do. In others, it varies a lot.
ALLARD: I’m concerned that recommending resigning would make Council less successful.
HODGSON: More informal methods would bring about the maximum benefits.
ALLARD: It would also be good to build a list of proxies. For some people, it’s really difficult to find one.

Bylaw Wiki

Hodgson explained about the Bylaw wiki to the committee.

HODGSON: Every Bylaw Committee member would have their own account. You have a version history. Therefore, you can compare different versions and observe the changes made. The changes would be dated. There is a “Super User” account, and most likely it would be the Administration Assistant.

The wiki would show the last approved version of the bylaws, and not the most recent version. Even if you go and remove all the stuff, it would not show in the last approved version. It would say that there have been more changes since the approval date, and you would be directed to the page which has that change.

You can also keep track of all the previous approved bylaws. Once Council approves a version, the Administration Assistant would log in and select that as the approved bylaw. This will be outward facing.

ZHANG: Would these be the official bylaws?
HODGSON: Yes. Ideally, we would incorporate Standing Orders and other Students’ Union legislative documents in the wiki.
ZHANG: It’s amazing if we can get everything here.
HODGSON: This would go live if Bylaw Committee is okay with it. I would like a motion to be made.
ZHANG: We should only have the motion about the bylaws. Regarding the Standing Orders, it should be up to the discretion of Council.
ALLARD: It should be a much longer conversation if we want to move everything such as Standing Orders to the wiki.
HODGSON: If we do it successfully with the bylaws, I don’t think many...
would object to moving the other stuff. We may have to do a presentation at Council. The conversation is easier than you think. But, I agree that we can’t just do it without asking.

ZHANG: Can we have levels of permission here?
HODGSON: With regards to certain documents, I don’t really know. It doesn’t necessarily matter because you can track them.

*ZHANG moved to adopt the wiki format for the Students’ Union bylaws. The motion was seconded by HWANG.*
*Vote 4/0/0 CARRIED*

### 6. DISCUSSION

ZHANG: Councilor Mohamed contacted me about the issue regarding the Faculty of Law. Is anyone interested in looking into that? He brought up the fact that they were perhaps breaking bylaw because they were talking on advocating for a tuition increase.

HODGSON: They need to present to Council on why they want to do it. They can only do it if Council gives them permission. If they do it anyway, they would be breaking bylaw. You should contact Councilor Farooq about this. The Audit Committee approves their money, and one of the conditions is that they don’t break bylaw.

### 7. CLOSED SESSION

NIL

### 8. NEXT MEETING

*July 17, 2014 at 6.00 pm.*

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

*HODGSON moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by ZHANG.*
*Vote 4/0/0 CARRIED*

The meeting was adjourned by HWANG at 6.44 pm.