UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION

University of Alberta Students' Union

BYLAW COMMITTEE

Tuesday May 5, 2016
6.00 pm
SUB 6-06

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Brandon Christensen (Chair)		Y
Bismillah Kiani		Y
Brandon Prochnau		Y
Delane Howie		N
Eilish McKinlay		Y
Reed Larsen		Y
Robyn Paches	Nicole Hammond	Y
Saadiq Sumar		N

MINUTES (BC 2016-01)

2016-01/1 **INTRODUCTION**

2016-01/1a **Call to Order**
Meeting called to order by CHRISTENSEN at 6.03 p.m.

2016-01/1b **Approval of Agenda**
LARSEN / KIANI moved to approve the agenda
6/0/0 CARRIED

2016-01/1c **Approval of Minutes**
LARSEN / CHRISTENSEN moved to approve the minutes
5/0/1 CARRIED, HAMMOND abstained

2016-01/1d **Chairs Business**
CHRISTENSEN
Described how the bylaw committee works
Said that: everything that is done, starts with first principles; last years' minutes

can be referred to in order to find how First and Second Principles are worded; Second principles go to council and that's part of the legislative process; bylaws are in the website, in the wiki system that must be navigated to access bylaws; and that username and password are required and he can email them to those who need.
Mentioned all that he just mentioned about bylaw committee now is the administrative stuff
For bylaw committee, asked if everyone is fine with it
Mentioned that for communication, last year there was a Facebook (and the chat feature therein), and asked for suggestions for this year

McKINLAY
Said that she didn't get any email
(Some others expressed concerns about email as well)

2016-01/2 **QUESTION & DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2016-01/2a **Individual and Committee Goals for the 2016/17 Term**

CHRISTENSEN
Asked members to speak out what they want to accomplish

LARSEN
Said that he wants to see changes to the structuring of bylaw, and if somebody wants to create something new then he can help

KIANI
Mentioned that there is nothing too specific, but said that faculty associations need to be more understanding, and bylaws should do something to encourage that.
Said that it is good to have a proposal and discussions about the bylaws regarding the same

CHRISTENSEN
Said that discussion can be made about that whenever desired

McKINLAY
Said that ALES faculty wants to do something similar, where 2% candidates are awarded funding to go abroad

CHRISTENSEN
Said that last year was difficult but bylaw committee generally should agree on these. Mentioned that they come over the ideas and then the crunch time comes, when without very few consultation, recommendations are made

PROCHNAU

Proposed overhauling SU management and budgetary staff.
Question, as to why the SU should have more power.
Mentioned that he ran against it once in before.
Said that they use it in engineering, when they run together and that way they are more popular
Twice the manpower at the same budget is the flip side argument but this is the real world

HAMMOND
Said she doesn't have any proposal but mentioned that the VP academics, in its ongoing projects, will be helping with business trends

McKINLAY
Said that the faculty is small and working

LARSEN
Said that the common theme is FAs, and that he doesn't believe slates, not in the way they are now

PROCHNAU
Said that you got skype, email, etc., and you don't have to do anything like watching all the time

LARSEN
Said that he finds it difficult because of the fact that there is bit too much to reconcile

CHRISTENSEN
Said that something can be done about it over time, and that he will speak about the product from last year
Said that it passed council but not bylaw and that certain faculties don't have representation
Mentioned the example of pharmacy, wherein he was opposed to
appoint vacant seats that fall vacant at by-election time
Said that: it is unfortunate because a lot of issues with smaller faculties like pharmacy, medicine and nursing, are different from arts and science; and that last year bylaw favoured appointing to vacant seats, making it unfair to those who were appointed

LARSEN
Questioned as to why would anyone run an election for FA president then

CHRISTENSEN
Said that arts and science did not have vacancy

LARSEN

Said that if the process is available then he would go for FAs

PROCHNAU
Said that was for Augustana, and that if you are in arts and decide to do native studies, then you are elected and you represent native studies, and that there is s removal mechanism

CHRISTENSEN
Said that if you are not in the faculty then you have to resign

Cited the example of medical councillors, who were not in the faculty of medicine, and that first he was opposed to it but after the less intense version failed he favoured that version

PROCHNAU
Said that in engineering they do not like the SU, and that two years ago, 7 people ran and this year it is the same number of people who ran
Mentioned that then the SU is doing nothing, and therefore when SU changes things, there is anger

CHRISTENSEN
Said that engineering is different

PROCHNAU
Mentioned that last four years it has been the same

LARSEN
Questioned if it has to do with how FAs are punished, and if PROCHNAU is saying that power comes from independence?

PROCHNAU
Said that Marina proposed giving more money but if you give more money then it will be harder to control

KIANAI
Asked, then if the board of governor proposes something then should it get FAs approval, or one still has to apply to SU, etc.

CHRISTENSEN
Said that it is our proposal and that they can go anywhere they like

McKINLAY
Said that you take the FAs and you don't want go with the SU, and that it is a shift of power out of the SU
Mentioned that big faculties are cared by the university but not smaller ones and

CHRISTENSEN
Said that there is a need for a process along with details about how it should proceed
Mentioned that the best way should be as Fahim Rahman proposed about the main election, the bi-election, and so on, and that in the past that is how it was
Said that there is concern was that only FAs can choose the president
Asked what if they add that FAs can choose whoever suits them and they propose that nominee to student council, and that the council should be the final authority to choose.
Asked for general thoughts on that

PROCHNAU
Said that they would not have the power to block and remove them.
Questioned if they should?

CHRISTENSEN
Said that he doesn't want that to happen

McKINLAY
Said that she is not into it, and that if a faculty doesn't want representation, you can't force someone to participate

CHRISTENSEN
Said that anyone who wants to put it in resume can do it, and that it was like before.
Said that they should have a sense of what student council wants

PROCHNAU
Expressed his concern that there is something wrong with SU and suggested that it needs a serous overhaul

CHRISTENSEN
Responded by saying that It is systematic and steady and that's why appears to way it is

PROCHNAU
Mentioned that it was so frustrating when legitimate proposals were shot down

KIANI
Suggested that FAs and VP external should sit in it even though it would not be legitimate

CHRISTENSEN
Mentioned that FA presidents question how the organization runs but no one is concerns about how the SU runs, but there are problem in the SU already, for example, ALES

HAMMOND
Said that she has considered after the term elections, on order to take it to the nominating committee

LARSEN
Said that his proposal is to do it by petition or signature, and after election is fine. Thereby, a person or any councillor can collect signatures, the numbers of which should be proportional to the population and then approach the Student Council, and that way by gathering support it can happen.
Mentioned that when he first came he wondered how can it run, and can he approach a random person and ask what he thinks, but he sees it as an immediate solution

KIANI
Mentioned that students are often widely dispersed

McKINLAY
Said that you can't consider native studies because they are only in night classes

LARSEN
Said that 6 or 10% may be off, and you have to make a fixed calculation, and it is the same way to determine the number of councillors, wherein you have to get an average number of signature

(HAMMOND left)

CHRISTENSEN
Said that he likes that idea about appointment system for FAs

PROCHNAU
Said that question is what they actually think and why people are running, the answers to which will enables to get a clearer picture

LARSEN
Said that more money means you print more posters and for this thing, it doesn't have to be specifically FA nominees

KIANI
Questioned how about someone who has been on FAs, who don't have the resources

LARSEN
Said that there is way

PROCHNAU

Said that there is politics involved and all of them resigned
Said that Fahim Rahman will be of big help but he restricted himself a lot in what he wanted to say

CHRISTENSEN
Said that there are a lot of ideas, they will talk to Fahim Rahman as this is his idea, and he is upset that the committee doesn't talk to him

Mentioned that next is "taunting me" like of situation

Mentioned that there are contravening political policies, and he sees the weakening of SU power. The worse the SU can do is disband the FAs. They could disband the FA or stop it but it does not stop. That way they can, for example, represent the medical students. Also, that way it will not like what a 21 year old VP academic is saying.

Said that they need feedback of faculties, where the voter turnout was 50%

LARSEN
Said that it is not like faculties having better elections should have more power.
PROCHNAU
Said that comparison between elections can't be made, as SU and FAs are fundamentally same

McKINLAY
Disagreed that they are same

LARSEN
Said that there is a distinction in bylaw that can define it

CHRISTENSEN
Said that as SU is the official representing body it can send us any FA

LARSEN
Mentioned, that gives the SU the power

PROCHNAU
Said that the only things SU sees are the market modifier and things like that

McKINLAY
Mentioned that every faculty is different

CHRISTENSEN
Said that this is the fundamental problem, and when it comes to representation, there are steps in place
Mentioned that it says that the FAs are consulted in a plebiscite

Stated that the representation was official and there was no bias

LARSEN
Said that they can say that it is the delegation of SU power to FA
Cited the example of arts, which if suddenly likes independent has the choice of not to be included in the SU body
Stated that political policy is not bylaw but it is something that the executive and councillor are working towards

PROCHNAU
Said that the undergrads don't see why SU had power over FAs

LARSEN
Said that he doesn't understand why PSKA won't grant him power

CHRISTENSEN
Said that FAs shall contravene SU bylaw - that's what this drawing is about – made a rough sketch in the white board
Mentioned that there is a desire for autonomy for students who are represented by the faculty

McKINLAY
Commented that it improves the prestige the program

CHRISTENSEN
Said that this is a laid down structure and framework
There will 17 FAs that would be advocating laws and there will confusions

LARSEN
Asked if a councillor or an individual is allowed contravene the policy, and whether one can say that given the circumstance, is the persons actions okay. Also asked if one can say that he/she don’t advocate for the principles.

PROCHNAU
Said that he doesn't want to take down the entire thing but he would agree giving more power to the FAs

LARSEN
Referred to smaller organizations / individuals seeking their voice going upwards

PROCHNAU
Expressed concern that by doing so, SU will be more powerful than democracy
Said that it is analogous to states disagreeing and lobbying the congress to change

KIANI
Agreed with lobbying for power

CHRISTENSEN
Said that council can only deny if it is a consultative process

LARSEN
Mentioned that it sounds great

CHRISTENSEN
Said that it wasn't better on content but on process

PROCHNAU
Said that representation means giving people the option and SU hammers them down

CHRISTENSEN
Said that advocacy is about allowing a process, and they have a process but should be able to change things, and that there is bureaucracy in every opportunity, which makes it frustrating

LARSEN
Said that there is a way to do what PROCHNAU suggested, as a democratic process already exists but FAs should have rights to speak
Mentioned that the current process limits FAs right

PROCHNAU
Said that this is public university and therefore the SU thinks that it can do whatever it thinks

McKINLAY
It is tight or privilege given by SU, while they don't have the rights

CHRISTENSEN
Said that duly elected FAs want change and that there should be a process for that.
Mentioned that all they talked about is having a process that was formalized and the question is if there is an appetite to push through this option
Mentioned that it will be good to have a half an hour long presentation about it

LARSEN
Said that this is a process for politics, and when you present these ideas there is a certain way to do it.
Mentioned that, however, a democratic process is in place, which can't be changed, and that bottom-up is not SU's approach
Added that some people have this really broad language and that means nothing

CHRISTENSEN

Stated that they need to make a presentation, 30 min long, and that way he can answer more questions
Said that science and arts faculties are opposed to the earlier thing and the system should consider all peoples' ideas, and that people who are very vocal are still there.
Said that if anyone of them comes up with a likeable process then they can proceed
Mentioned that he can contribute to end of August and the committee can have discussions before that

Project allocation and timeline discussion

2016-01/2b

CHRISTENSEN
Mentioned that regarding project allocation & changes, generally they start with First Principles and go to the Second Principles
Mentioned that there are things like typos, etc., which must be paid attention

KIANI
Asked whether they want to consult people in the consultation process, and if not what is the procedure

CHRISTENSEN
Said that Don Ademaj has some ideas and they can consult him, and for anything related to FAs they can speak to Marina Banister
Asked if everyone is fine with it

(Everyone was fine, but KIANI and McKINLAY want meetings in June)

KIANI
Asked whether teleconferencing and skyping are acceptable

CHRISTENSEN
Agreed that these are acceptable

LARSEN
Said he can take a few strange or specific items and explain those at a later date, and mentioned that these items may relate to finance and advocacy

CHRISTENSEN
Said that Google doc is a nice way to do it, so that all people see the document at the same time.
Mentioned that in editorial stuff, typos must be paid attention to and asked about working with team

PROCHNAU
Said that he can help but can't take on individual assignments

LARSEN
Said with google docs he can do that easily

CHRISTENSEN
Said that there is a Google drive folder with SU, where working documents can be posted and every motion goes into minutes
Said that projects are doable by end of summer, and that things will be added in consultative process.
Added that summer is good because there are no mid-term exams

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

LARSEN

2016-01/3 Said that one thing that he wishes to add is that bylaws be presented in printed form, at least once a year, and that doesn't have to be a book but can be a folder with papers. That way it does add value in small ways.
Said that he is the only person / member with functioning copies in physical form, but can go to CAC and communicate their willingness to pay for it to make it happen

Motion
CHRISTENSEN / PROCHNAU move to approve Bylaw 100 as amended
Carried 5/0/0

CHRISTENSEN
Stated that he is considering having the next bylaw meeting on May 26th instead of May 19th, and that though it will be out on the minutes that the next meeting on May 19th, he will send a doodle poll and find if it is possible to meet on May 26th
Mentioned that all can work on first principle, and that it is bad idea to meet after council

2016-01/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2016-01/5 **ADJOURNEMENT**
LARSEN / KIANI moved to adjourn the meeting
Carried 5/0/0
Meeting Adjourned at 8.00 pm

2016-00/5a **NEXT MEETING**
6 pm on May 19, 2016

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES

LARSEN / KIANI moved to approve the agenda	6/0/0 – CARRIED
LARSEN / CHRISTENSEN moved to approve the minutes	5/0/1 – CARRIED HAMMOND abstained
CHRISTENSEN / PROCHNAU move to approve Bylaw 100 as amended	5/0/0 CARRIED
LARSEN / KIANI moved to adjourn the meeting at 8.00 pm	5/0/0 – CARRIED