

**Bylaw
COMMITTEE**

November 25th, 2020

16:00 PM

[Google Meet](#)

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Christian Fotang (chair)		Y
Alana Krahn		Y
Talia Dixon		Y
Nicole de Grano		N
Eric Einarson		Y
Ana Oliveira		Y
Lucas Marques		Y

MINUTES (2020-13)

2020-13/1

INTRODUCTION

2020-13/1a

Call to Order

FOTANG: Called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

2020-13/1b

Approval of Agenda

2020-13/1c

Approval of Minutes

2020-13/1d

Chair's Business

FOTANG: Noted that he attended DIE Board (DIE-2020-01-HA) due to Draper's application, a reference question, addressing insufficiencies in Bylaw 8200 notification provisions for running a Faculty Association Membership Fee (FAMF). Noted that Kristen Stoik, Manager, Administrative Services expressed concern that bylaw is overly liberal in allowing candidates to name joke candidates that he will be proposing an amendment in future.

2020-13/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2020-13/2a

Plebiscite/Referendum Question Approvals

FOTANG: Identified that the Committee must approve two DFU questions for use in the election ballot, the Golden Bear and Panda Legacy Fund and the Gateway. Noted that the proposed Gateway question reading 'Do you support the continuation of The Gateway's 110 year legacy of student journalism on campus through a \$3.54 dedicated-funding unit to fund the operation of the University of Alberta's only student-run media organization.' is leading.

KRAHN: Expressed concern that the Gateway's hyperlinking of its website within its ballot question could be considered inappropriate campaigning. Suggested that there could be a series of DFU descriptions on the UASU website similar to how there are biographies for candidates running to be Executives.

DIXON: Noted that some students do not vote for DFUs because they feel they have insufficient information to make an informed choice. Suggested that allowing DFU's to hyperlink their websites in their ballot questions may help remedy this issue.

FOTANG: Considered that the questions should be impartial and that allowing the 'yes' side for a DFU to hyperlink its website may also require also allowing the 'no' side the same opportunity.

EINARSON: Expressed concern that the voting page may automatically (and prematurely) submit a voter's answers if the voter leaves the tab by clicking on a hyperlinked website.

MARQUES: Suggested that DFU questions can include too much information for voters to consider. Suggested that it would be helpful to hyperlink supplementary information for interested voters.

KRAHN: Suggested that the Committee should not compromise the quality of the question in order to make it easier to read. Noted that the DFU questions act as informal mandates for how their administration occurs and so much include a certain level of detail. Expressed concern that it may not be possible for voters to switch between tabs if voting from their phone via eClass, SU Perks, or email link.

MARQUES: Expressed concern the Gateway's question is not ideally clear and concise. Proposed that the Committee revise the question to improve its readability.

FOTANG: Confirmed that students cannot opt-out from The Gateway fee.

KRAHN: Suggested that the Committee would be overstepping its authority in revising DFU proposed questions beyond performing revisions to ensure the questions comply with the requirements of Bylaw 6100.

OLIVEIRA: Inquired as to whether The Gateway reviews the Committee's edits to its question before the question is finalised.

FOTANG: Responded in the negative. Clarified that, once the Committee approves, the question will proceed to finalisation via review by Council and the Chief Returning Officer.

DIXON: Expressed concern that it would be inappropriate for the Committee to revise the ballot question without the permission of the Gateway and that it is outside the scope of the Committee to revise DFU's submitted questions to make them more readable and persuasive. Suggested that, if the Committee decides to proceed nevertheless, it must consult the Gateway on its changes.

KRAHN: Clarified that the role of the Committee is to ensure that the question is not misleading in failing to include information as required by Bylaw.

OLIVEIRA: Expressed concern that the Gateway question fails to clarify if the fee is charged in the Spring and Summer terms as required by Bylaw 6100.

FOTANG: Agreed with Krahn.

MARQUES: Suggested that, in the interest of procedural fairness, the Committee would have to edit all DFU questions to enhance their readability if it did so for the Gateway. Expressed concern that this would be an overly burdensome task.

KRAHN: Clarified that DFU questions are written by the 'yes' side and not the 'no' side.

DIXON: Noted that students complain that the SU does not make its rules understood. Expressed concern that the Gateway may not have realised that

their submitted question needed to be impartially written and will be unhappy with the Committee's edits.

FOTAONG: Clarified that it is the role of the Gateway to submit the question information as part of Bylaw 6100 whereas it is the role of the Committee to draft the question. Identified that the Gateway submitted a proposed written question even though it was not required.

EINARSON: Expressed concern that the Gateway's submitted materials fail to provide information required by Bylaw 6100.3.5(c) as to the composition of the board that oversees the DFU's administration.

MARQUES: Considered that the Committee could amend its bylaws to allow the 'yes' and 'no' side to draft DFU questions. Noted that the Gateway can submit an application via DIE Board if it has concerns with the Committee's processing of its question.

KRAHN: Suggested that it is the role of the Committee to consider whether the claims made within a DFU question are true and verifiable.

FOTANG: Determined to schedule a special meeting to discuss 2020-13/2a.

DIXON: Proposed that all final DFU questions be written minimally in including only information related to the costs of the DFU.

KRAHN: Agreed with Dixon, except to the extent that DFU ballot questions should include DFU's mandate so they can serve as reference points in determining a DFU's effectiveness.

FOTANG: Agreed with Krahn.

MARQUES: Determined to make revisions to the Gateway question based on the Committee's discussion for presentation at a special meeting of the Committee.

KRHAN: Inquired as to whether the questions should be approved in time for the Council for December 1 meeting of Council.

FOTANG: Responded in the affirmative.

2020-13/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2020-13/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2020-13/5

ADJOURNMENT

FOTANG: Adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.