



# ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

2013 – 2014

Date: September 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

Time: 3.15 pm

## In Attendance:

CHLOE SPEAKMAN (Chair)

MARINA BANISTER

HARLEY MORRIS

DAWSON ZENG (Left: 3.59 pm)

## Excused Absence:

ADAM WOODS

## Others in Attendance:

DUSTIN CHELEN

SACHITHA KUSALADHARMA

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by SPEAKMAN at 3.15 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** BANISTER moved to approve the agenda for *September 11, 2013* as tabled. The motion was seconded by ZENG.  
Vote on Motion 4/ 0 /0  
**CARRIED**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** BANISTER moved to approve the minutes for *September 06, 2013* as tabled. The motion was seconded by ZENG.  
Vote on Motion 4/ 0 /0  
**CARRIED**

**4. PRESENTATIONS** Nominating Committee

CHELEN: Students have 42 spots on the General Faculties Council (GFC). There is an election every year, and a bi-election in September. Over the past 10 years, 45.6% of seats remain vacant on average after both elections. One of the things we are working on is the nominating committee idea, where

students can apply, and council can then recommend the appointment of students to GFC. So, over the summer, students can apply and be directly appointed by council. I want to start a broader discussion on other ways to fill those vacancies in the GFC. Two things the bylaw committee brought up were: the GFC is not empowered, and you must sit longer on the GFC to see any progress. So, I want to know how the Elections Review Committee (ERC) can strengthen the power student representatives have, and what ERC thinks about extending the term of student representatives to 2 years.

BANISTER: Do you have a timeline for this?

CHELEN: No. It's only a discussion.

BANISTER: A 2 year term will cause more problems. If somebody wanted to run for 2 years, then can just run again. However, we definitely should get more people engaged.

MORRIS: What exactly are you meaning by the "nominating committee"?

CHELEN: It's a sub-committee of council to take a look at applications for student members of GFC, and to recommend to council that a subset of them is appointed to GFC without going through the election process.

BANISTER: Does it concern you that people may not run for election in the spring?

MORRIS: It's easier if you are running unopposed compared to being nominated. Personally, I really like the idea of a nominating committee.

BANISTER: Do we have to keep an element of elected students?

ZENG: Do we agree that we have a by-election, and then nominate?

CHELEN: From my understanding, it happens after the March election.

ZENG: Then, the other problem is the redundancy of the by-election.

CHELEN: If students are appointed after the elections, what are the implications for the elections?

BANISTER: Do you think less people would run?

SPEAKMAN: That was a concern.

ZENG: Maybe we shouldn't make the nominating committee public.

SPEAKMAN: Making it unknown would defeat the purpose.

CHELEN: Keep up the conversation on the 2 year term.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### Reviewing bylaw changes

SPEAKMAN: For the section we are moving to bylaw 2200 from bylaw 2400 (former section 15 of bylaw 2400), I wish to make several changes. Instead of making it a new section, I put it under "Election Dates". In "Where another Election is required by virtue of Section 8(14) or Section 8(15), it shall be conducted", I want to have "by-election" instead of "it".

*The committee discussed about several editorial amendments to the bylaw changes proposed in the previous meeting (moving sections from bylaw 2400).*

SPEAKMAN: I emailed the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) to come to one of our meetings, but didn't get a response from him yet. He's a resource person for ERC.

Do we have the authority to make those changes to bylaw in ERC?

ZENG: I think we have to bring it to the bylaw committee.

SPEAKMAN: I'm not entirely confident about whether we have the authority or not.

SPEAKMAN moved to accept the amended sections of bylaws as recommendations, for the bylaw committee or council to adopt.

The motion was seconded by MORRIS.

Vote on Motion 4/ 0 /0

*CARRIED*

### Fall scheduling

*The committee discussed about potential time slots for ERC meetings during fall. Furthermore, the committee discussed whether there should be weekly meetings as opposed to biweekly meetings. Moreover, BANISTER stressed the need to book meetings for 2 hours.*

*It was decided to have meetings on Mondays at 2 pm every two weeks, with the next meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

### Election Survey

## **7. DISCUSSION**

MORRIS: I had a look at it. Do we want to keep it 1 page double-sided?

BANISTER: 1 page double-sided.

MORRIS: 22 and 9 are duplicate. One of my suggestions is to ask whether aboriginal students are fairly represented.

BANISTER: Should we include a more diverse spectrum of such questions to include additional key groups?

SPEAKMAN: We have the representatives that we have currently. Harley wanted to add the question about aboriginal representation. I want to add a question about female representations. Unless we get the concerns of such students from other key groups, how do we know that they have to be included? There are potentially infinite possibilities.

MORRIS: I got a chance to speak to my Faculty Association. We discussed going around to all the native Studies classes.

One of the reasons I wanted to be on ERC was the low voter turnout of the Faculty of Native Studies.

SPEAKMAN: Harley, do you think we should include an identifier option for aboriginal students?

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