

# Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Constitutional Clarity and Reform

June 4, 2014 1:00 PM

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Introductions and Snacks**
  - a. Brian, Eden, Stephanie, Frank, Vance and Faith are present at this committee meeting, but Guy is absent.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes from May 13, 2014**
  - a. The last minutes are emphatically approved.
  - b. Motion to approve the minutes, motion is seconded, motion approves unanimously.
- IV. **Review of “Homework” and Timeline Goals**
  - a. Homework was to review all of the governing documents.
  - b. **General Impressions of Documents**
    - i. Brian: No clear separation of powers between legislative and executive committee. There need to be clear distinctions between which body can do what. Checks and balances need to be in place. For example, there is no veto power for the president, no definition of what is “in session.”
    - ii. Frank: Robert’s Rules dictate that “in session” is decided by the organization. There is nothing strictly in the constitution or by-laws. The group discusses that during the semester is in session while summer is not. Brian would like us to spell this out within our governing documents.
    - iii. Stephanie: The bylaws should contain all of the detail regarding how membership operates, but apportionment is the only thing spelled out and it is not something that has been done in some time. It seems like the constitution should be more concise and organized, other documents should have more detail.
    - iv. Brian: No power for referendum. We should put this in the constitution. No voting can occur until Vance joins the meeting, because Brian has removed himself as a voting member.
  - c. **Procedure for Amendments**
  - d. **Timeline Goals**
    - i. We are looking to get the documents to Dean Lily in July; we will set another meeting in mid to late June. Then we will move onto other governing documents.
    - ii. Election code: Brian asks if this is the same election code as everyone else. Frank: A few years ago we adopted a common election code, all LSOs agreed to this code. We may want to talk with Dean Lily about amending the election code or moving away from this shared code. This election code created the election supervisory board; there was a lawsuit in past years regarding the GSA elections. The common election code and GSA election

code are almost one in the same. Frank does not recommend creating a judicial council.

## V. Constitutional Reforms

### a. Comment by Comment

#### i. Debate/Open Forum

#### ii. Amendment Process

#### iii. Efficiency in “therefore be it resolved”

1. We should use the exact language from the comments. Frank: we use the current numbering for everything, then have a “Therefore be it resolved” that the numbering shall change to reflect the new constitution.

#### iv. Approval

1. Vote on this method of reform passes unanimously.

### b. BEGIN

- i. Membership: We should have two sections: one outlining who the members are and the other describing what each body does as well as a description of the assembly. Wendy discusses the order of sections in the current and proposed constitution. There is a suggestion that GSA member rights and responsibilities should be outlined in the by-laws instead of the constitution, as there is confusion about what counts as a member in the current draft of the constitution. Or duties of GSA representatives could go under Duties of Executive Board Members in the new version of the constitution. Further discussion of ordering occurs.

- ii. Stephanie proposes the following organization for the updated constitution:

#### iii. *Membership*

##### 1. *Diversity*

##### 2. *Scope and Standing*

##### 3. *Representation*

###### a. *Voting Reps*

###### i. *Primary and Alternative*

###### b. *Executive Officers*

###### c. *Standing Committees*

###### d. *Committee Members*

##### 4. *Vacancies*

#### iv. *Assembly*

##### 1. *Authority*

##### 2. *Regular legislative session*

##### 3. *Ratification*

##### 4. *Membership rights and responsibilities*

##### 5. *Graduate Student Involvement*

##### 6. *Assembly Business*

##### 7. *Open Meetings*

##### 8. *Conduct of Business*

- v. The meeting takes a brief recess to introduce everyone to Ashley McDonald, Dean Lily's administrative assistant. The recess continues until Vance gets to the meeting.
- c. Vance joins the meeting and we begin at the first comment. All records of voting are available in the excel document as well. Guy abstains from all voting as he is absent.
  - i. Line 2: No debate. Vote passes unanimously.
  - ii. Line 3: No debate. Vote passes unanimously.
  - iii. Line 4: There is existing text in this section, but new text is proposed. The text is debated. Frank motions to withdraw the comment and move to a vote on Stephanie's comment and to treat SP1-4 as one "To it be resolved." Motion is seconded and passes. Vote on SP1-4. Vote passes unanimously.
  - iv. Line 5: No debate on this comment. Line 5 is approved unanimously.
  - v. Line 6: No debate on this comment. Line 6 is approved unanimously.
  - vi. Line 7: There is debate on the text and the location of the text. There is a numbering issue, such that the group decides to vote on these lines and amend the location later. Motion to consider lines 7, 8 and 9 as one vote. Motion passes. Vote on these lines passes unanimously.
  - vii. Line 10: Frank describes the rationale behind the comment. There is debate about the issue. Brian withdraws the comment until further discussion occurs on the matter.
  - viii. Line 11: Debate on the matter occurs. Vance suggests that the Vice President should break ties in the assembly and this should apply to election ties. This information is covered in the election code. Brian's comment is to strike half of the text. Vance suggests that in the constitution we should only say that for elections, we follow the election code. This change would be so as not to have to deal with redundancies or voting to amend two documents instead of one. There is discussion about what pertaining to elections should stay in the constitution. It appears that a lot of the material in the Elections article should stay.
  - ix. There is a motion to change the consideration of comments to the order that they are presented in the constitution, not the excel file. Motion is seconded and passes.
  - x. Line 17: Short discussion and clarification. Vote on this line passes unanimously.
  - xi. Line 16: Short discussion and clarification. Vote on this line passes unanimously.
  - xii. Line 11: Revisited from earlier discussion. Vote on this line passes unanimously.
  - xiii. Line 18: Vance would like to amend this comment to strike the entire section instead. Voting on the line passes unanimously.
  - xiv. Line 45: No debate on this comment. Vote on this line passes unanimously.

- xv. Line 12: Brian clarifies that this change is due to a typo. Vote on this line passes unanimously.
- xvi. Motion to proceed through voting by asking for objections. Motion passes.
- xvii. Line 54: Discussion of rationale. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xviii. Line 13: No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xix. Line 14: Brian clarifies rationale. Short discussion. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xx. Line 31: Brian withdraws this comment.
- xxi. Line 50: Discussion of a conflict of interest. Faith amends her comment to change “conduct” to “call”. No objections as amended. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxii. Line 46: Clarification on the comment. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxiii. Line 55: Amended to strike second sentence altogether. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxiv. Line 15: Discussion of this line and line 19. Line 15 is withdrawn.
- xxv. Line 19: No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxvi. Line 47: Vance clarifies the comment. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxvii. Line 51: Faith clarifies the comment. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxviii. Line 20: Brian clarifies the comment. Short discussion. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxix. Line 21: Brian clarifies the comment. Short discussion on striking this text. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxx. Line 22: Brian clarifies the comment. Brian amends the section name to Executive Reports instead of Ratification and removes the second sentence. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxxi. Line 23: Discussion of rights and responsibilities of members and voting members. Amend to change the title of the section 5 to “Responsibilities of Voting Members”. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxxii. Line 64: Discussion on striking 5.2. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxxiii. Line 24: Discussion on comment. Amendment to the comment to strike the entire section. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxxiv. Line 25: Clarification and discussion. Motion to consider Line 25 and 26 together. Motion passes. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxxv. Line 56: Eden clarifies that we should be consistent across all documents. Eden withdraws this comment, but we should note to change to 72 hours or strike in other documents.
- xxxvi. Line 48: Clarification and discussion. Vance amends to strike the entire section. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.

- xxxvii. Line 27: Brian clarifies his rationale. Should only be included in the by-laws. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
- xxxviii. Line 57 and 58 are withdrawn because they were removed in a previous comment.
- xxxix. Line 28: Discussion about whether or not directors can be removed or impeached. Should be consistent in both places in the constitution. Brian amends the impeachment section to say members of the executive committee instead of elected officers. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
  - xl. Line 33: Brian discussed eliminating the election oversight board. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
  - xli. Line 35-37. Brian withdraws after a discussion of wording.
  - xlii. Line 38. Brian amends the language as per discussion. No objections. Vote passes unanimously.
  - xliii. Eden suggests that we leave off at BMW19 (Line 29).

**VI. Assignments and Goals for Next Meeting**

- a. We need to have another meeting to finish the proposed changes. No assignments until the next meeting.

**VII. Select Date for Next meeting**

- a. June 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 from 4:30-6:30. Vance will attend the meeting via Google chat.

**VIII. Adjourn**