

Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Constitutional Clarity and Reform

June 10, 2014 4:30 PM

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Brian, Eden, Stephanie, Frank, Guy and Faith are present. Vance is attending via Skype. David is observing.
- II. Roll and reminder of Telecommunication Policy**
 - a. Telecommunication is allowed as an official form of attendance.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from June 4, 2014**
 - a. Minutes are approved.
- IV. Review of Last Week's Progress**
 - a. We left off at BMW19 in the last meeting.
 - b. Line 29: Brian clarifies his reasoning. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - c. Line 30: Brian clarifies his reasoning. This may be appropriate for the by-laws. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - d. Line 36: Withdrawn from last meeting.
 - e. Line 32: Brian clarifies rationale. Redundant. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - f. Line 65: Removal of section three due to redundancy. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - g. Line 39: Brian explains the revision of the section. Brian changes "primary representative" to "voting members." Frank suggests that we remove this section from the constitution but we need to note that it should be added to the by-laws. Eden voices a concern about unengaged graduate student representatives to the GSA. Frank echoes this concern. Guy discusses that we do not want to add barriers to participation in the GSA and that some participation is better than none. Brian: We want to incentivize participation, but not be lax about grad students abusing the office they were elected to. Stephanie suggests that we keep the first sentence and then we can define this within the by-laws. Vance, maybe we should have the alternative representative fill in for the primary in the event of their dismissals. Brian agrees to the suggestions and takes out all of the change except for the first sentence, but we will keep the rest of the text to reference when amending the by-laws. Faith suggests that we reference the by-laws in the constitution in this section. Article 9 has the list of governing documents, so we can revisit this suggestion there. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - h. Line 66: Frank explains change, we need to say within one week of dismissal. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - i. Line 40: Brian explains the revision of the section. Eden asks for clarification. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.

- j. Line 52: Faith explains her change. The sentence is very long and confusing, needs to be broken up. BMW33 references this section. Frank clarifies what is meant by “Upon review of the executive committee.” Brian would like to withdraw BMW33 (Line 43). Frank: We should go in order of approval and clarify the first part of the section before moving to the subsections. The first sentence of Faith’s change is Section 2.1 and the second sentence should be Section 2.1.1. Some of the language is simplified and clarified. The assembly and the public will have access to the proposed amendments. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- k. Line 49: Vance withdraws this changes.
- l. Line 53: Faith explains change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- m. Line 44: Brian clarifies proposed change to language. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- n. Line 41: Brian explains that instructions on how to amend the by-laws should be kept in the bylaws. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- o. Line 42: Brian explains the rationale for moving the section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- p. We have reached the end of the document.

V. Constitutional Reforms

a. Continuation

- i. Brian has started writing the “therefore it be resolved” sections.
- ii. Brian will compile two documents, the fully amended constitution and the original with track changes. He will distribute these to the committee, membership and then to Dean Lily.
- iii. Brian will put up the bylaws so that we can begin on changes here.
- iv. Brian asks whether or not it might be helpful to separate additions from amendments or clarifications. The general response is to keep everything together.
- v. Brian met with Marilyn Russell this morning, told her about our progress, she has ideas and notes about potential changes to the constitution and by-laws from the last three years. We will consider these at our next meeting. Brian will forward them when he receives them from Marilyn.
- vi. Brian asks about whether or not we want to add some of our important suggestions (i.e. referendum) here or have a special meeting to discuss them.
- vii. Guy: Big three ideas: Referendum, Presidential Veto and increasing participation and accountability.
- viii. Brian: SG has a straightforward section on referendum.
 - 1. There is a discussion and clarification of the SG referendum section.
 - 2. Vance is concerned with creating a loophole that by-passes the legislature. Guy: would we feel more comfortable limiting what can be brought to the assembly by referendum?

3. Guy would like any section we add to have more plain language than what is written in SG. Guy suggests keeping 8.2, 8.3, and adding an 8.4. Remove statutory initiative but keep referendum. Guy will draft text for this new section and present it at the next meeting.
- ix. Brian: Apportionment was also a concern, but we are not ready to discuss it.
- x. Guy: One of the dangers of the referendum is that smaller departments can be swamped by larger departments.
- xi. Brian: Powers of Veto should also be considered in the by-laws. Guy thinks it is necessary in the constitution. Veto is not discussed in the constitution as it stands now. Brian will draft this text for next meeting.
- xii. Frank: Apportionment is addressed in the SG constitution article 4.

VI. Assignments and Goals for Next Meeting

- a. Guy will draft referendum language.
- b. Brian will draft veto and overturn language.
- c. Stephanie will present data on apportionment.
- d. All committee members will read through and present edits to the by-laws.
- e. We should also address GSA participation more thoroughly in the next meeting.

VII. Select Date for Next meeting

- a. Thursday June 19 at 4:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjourn