



REPORT

From the office of the...

AVP Internal Governance

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Raquel Deperasinski, AVP Internal Governance
SUBJECT: SRA 18I Report
DATE: October 23, 2018

Hello Assembly! Hope everyone is having a great semester so far; I know this is a super busy time but hopefully everyone is getting the rest we all need and deserve. I tried to keep this report pretty concise but if you have any questions or concerns or would like to know more about what the Internal Governance committee is working on, definitely reach out to me and I would be happy to chat more about it!

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Since the year plan was written back in early September, we have shifted our goals as a committee slightly to adjust for new members, project feasibility, and general interest, as well as to accommodate some suggestions for projects to take on. In particular, we plan on thoroughly reviewing every bylaw (rather than just those we thought needed most attention), as well as some policies. This is an ambitious goal, as there are lots of policies and bylaws, and only so many weeks in the year! However, I have made up a schedule for the year so that we can budget our time appropriately and accomplish everything we plan to.

I have created a yearly bylaw review schedule so that future Internal Governance committees won't have to review every bylaw; our work this year will provide some framework for long-term bylaw/policy maintenance and a rotating review schedule will ensure that some documents are forgotten while some are constantly reviewed.

Currently, we have reviewed Corporate Bylaw 1 (while we don't intend to allot the same attention to Corporate Bylaws as MSU Bylaws, this particular one had some obvious issues that needed fixing) and sent our recommendations to be brought to EB. We have also looked at Bylaw 5- Financial Affairs (note that the version on the MSU website is not the most recently updated version as some amendments were made in April of 2018 but this most recent version hasn't been uploaded to the site yet) and are still doing some of the background research before finalizing anything that would be brought to SRA.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Since we aren't really an event-holding committee, there have been none of those (although if anyone has ideas for bylaw-themed events, please let me know because I would be very intrigued). To reiterate the first section of this report, we have reviewed Corporate Bylaw 1 and are almost done with Bylaw 5. I have also drafted a long-term bylaw review schedule for some consistency and continuity regarding bylaw review in future years. This will also free up time for future IG committees to take on

other projects outside of bylaw and policy review, potentially expanding the role in interesting ways!

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- Filling one more seat at an upcoming meeting
- Next bylaw review: Bylaw 12- McMaster University Student Center (so if anyone has any hot takes on MUSC, we'd love to hear them)

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Since bylaws govern so many different groups, processes, and departments of the MSU, a lot of background research is needed to assess the accuracy or effectiveness of a bylaw. In addition to this, many stakeholders need to be consulted- we aren't experts on every function of the MSU! As such, it can be difficult to confine our discussions to a single meeting every week, even with people taking on components outside of meeting times. This can cause the review of a single bylaw to take multiple meetings since every discussion raises questions that can rarely be answered instantly.

Another challenge is taking on a perspective outside of the scope of a single year. Trying to think about the implications of a bylaw over multiple years rather than the short time we have our current positions for can be challenging although it is an absolutely necessary consideration. Luckily, consultation with Victoria Scott (Administrative Services Coordinator) and Emma Ferguson (Administrative Assistant) can often give some insight into how a change to a bylaw might play out year-to-year and whether, in a broader scope of the MSU, it is a necessary and positive change.

VOLUNTEERS

In general, there have been no major challenges with regards to chairing the committee, aside from the inevitable busyness of members and myself, which was certainly to be expected. Conflicting schedules made it difficult to pick a feasible meeting time, but we were luckily able to find one that seems to work for everyone. Additionally, the challenges of time management and multiple commitments have caused a few members to drop their seats, which is understandable- it is important to know when you have spread yourself too thin and to make sure you are prioritizing your own health and well-being! However, it can be difficult to build and maintain group cohesiveness with constantly changing group members. Hopefully the dust has settled vis-à-vis committee membership.

Scheduling difficulties aside, the group dynamics seem to be positive and productive- bylaw review discussions have been very fruitful in terms of questioning every stipulation to ensure they are completely accurate and written as effectively as possible. Lots of great perspectives, questions, and opinions are being brought up and I am excited to see how we progress as a team as the year goes on!

SUCSESSES

Point form since I am reiterating from previous sections:

- Finding a meeting time
- Schedule for the year- yay for time management!
- Schedule/plan for future years
- Review of Corporate Bylaw 1
- Review of Bylaw 5

OTHER

We will be opening another SRA seat in an upcoming meeting, so keep your eyes peeled for that- if you are interested in policies and bylaws we would love to have you!

We meet Mondays at 3:30!

Best,

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