



REPORT

From the office of the...

Internal Governance Committee

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Raquel Deperasinski, AVP Internal Governance
SUBJECT: SRA 18L Report
DATE: January 6, 2019

Hello!

Hope everyone had a lovely break and is feeling recuperated after a busy semester! The Internal Governance committee has been hard at work on our bylaw reviews as well as a couple exciting new projects brought to us. Can't wait for another productive and exciting semester!

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

As per our plan, we have been working through the bylaws and trying to review them all, a much slower and labor-intensive job than I initially predicted. In addition, we have started looking into two projects which weren't on our year plan, which I describe below. I am looking into the transition process and how this can be approved- if anyone has suggestions or opinions on transition, I would love to hear from you!

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

In addition to the research and discussion that goes along with reviewing bylaws, we have been approached with various other projects to look into.

Miranda Clayton reached out to me to propose that the committee look into changing our system of acclaimed seats. Currently, if there are fewer candidates than there are seats, all candidates are automatically given a seat and nominations are reopened. These nominees who become acclaimed are therefore not "chosen" by the student body, and there is less incentive to have a platform, to campaign, and so on- fewer accountability measures. This has some concerning implications on it's own but with recent incidents on campus (vandalism of the pride crosswalks, presence of far-right groups on campus, etc.) it is important that we are ensuring that all candidates are being held to a high degree of accountability. As such, we are looking into the possibility of a confidence vote system. We are still very much in the early stages of this project, researching what systems other schools have in place and discussing possible alternatives.

Additionally, we were proposed a project by Uwais Patel involving the rules around campaigning during presidential elections. Right now, candidates who violate campaign guidelines face fines which must be paid at the end of their campaign period. This is an inaccessible system for students in the sense that varying levels of economic stability between candidates results in unequal incentive to avoid violating election rules. In other

words, those who are financially able to pay for many accumulated fines may be less inclined to follow those rules, giving their campaign an advantage. One option for replacing the fines is a demerit points system, however, there are some problems with this as well. Right now, the Internal Governance committee is building on the research that was done last year on this issue with the hope of potentially proposing an alternative system- however, there would still be a lot more research to be done before we get to this point.

These are two fairly substantial projects which I have only touched on in this report. At some point, we will be seeking out your opinions and feedback once the ideas are a little more developed; however, if anyone has any questions or comments based on this report, I'd be happy to discuss them further so please feel free to reach out!

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

As I discussed above, we are doing a lot of research and brainstorming for the two electoral reform projects we have on the go; once we have some clear ideas and direction we will be moving on to collecting feedback from the student body and the SRA. We are also continuing to review bylaws, with our current review being Bylaw 2-MSU Membership. Some inconsistencies between what is stated in the bylaw and what is currently being done were pointed out to me by Kristina (for example, section 2.3 mentions a 1280 Assistant Service Manager, a position which no longer exists). In general, the bylaw has not evolved with the changes in positions and membership. We are working to sort this out!

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Time!! Not only does one year not feel like enough time to accomplish everything we've started or wanted to accomplish, meetings feel too short to make significant progress on all our projects we have underway. We are working towards improving our communication outside of the set meeting times to get more done.

Taking on projects which were not initially in our years plans has required some flexibility and compromise- we are working hard to get as much done as possible but also recognize that some things will have to be picked up by next years committee.

VOLUNTEERS (Commissioners only)

A committee is a completely invaluable resource for discussion, perspectives and opinions. I am incredibly grateful for the committee members and their honesty, ideas, and perspectives during meetings- nothing gets by y'all! On top of that, their continued attendance at meetings during the busy midterm/pre-exam time last semester was greatly appreciated, as well as the work done over the break.

We are opening up and SRA seat today!! Please join Internal Governance, we'd love to have you!!

SUCSESSES

- Taking on two new projects which will hopefully cause lasting change
- Improving our communication as a committee

-Hours of research, consultation with stakeholders, navigating the maze of bureaucracy in order to really pick apart the bylaws we are reviewing

Best,

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