



Board of Directors – Update on Governance, 25 September 2015

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| Item: | Governance Update |
| Author: | Jonathan English, Secretary-Treasurer |
| Purpose of Report: | For Information |

Background

A number of University Students' Council policies and by-laws are outdated, dense, ineligible and often contradictory – to the point where it has become difficult to navigate such documentation. Operation: Overhaul was initiated by the Secretary-Treasurer in order to simplify the USC's written hierarchy and make guiding documents more accessible to students and more coherent to the organization.

To Date

Operation: Overhaul has been successful thus far with changes such as:

- Repealing By-law #3 – OUSA and CASA Representation. The by-law was explicitly there to outline our membership, but became somewhat irrelevant since the USC separated from CASA last year. By-law #3 has since been replaced with an "External Representation and Strategies" policy tree which can be applied to similar organizations.*
- Creation of a caucus system. Council was reduced in size last year, so to combat perceptions of non-inclusivity the caucus system has been created to provide special interest groups on campus with an avenue and forum for discussion.*
- New formatting, agendas, and portal for communication. Policy formats have been revamped to be less draconian and more contemporary. Council agendas have been restructured to allow for more productive meetings. OWL has also now been introduced to make it easier to access present and past documents.*

Ongoing

There are multiple ongoing projects that will see completion in the next six months.

- A new By-Law #1 and By-Law #3/4 synthesis. Our current corporate by-law is over forty (40) pages – both dense and contradictory. Also, much of the document includes information more suitable for policy. We are currently striving to revise it to under twenty (20) pages. Additionally, By-law #3 (the executive by-law) and By-law #4 (General Manger by-law) are also going to be combined in some form.*
- Board of Directors and Council Standing Committees. Our committee structure on both levels is in need of reshaping. Currently, a group of students are working on the evolution of standing committees. In the near future, we are striving towards creating a Board of Directors Audit Committee.*
- "Filling in the Gaps." With creating simpler and more understandable by-laws, some authority has been delegated to policies (some of which are not yet existent). A*

significant focus of Operation: Overhaul is ensuring all 'gaps' are filled, both old and new.