



AGENDA REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING DATE:

Item:	Project Ovidius
Author:	Secretary Treasurer Erin McCauley, and Senior Manager Advocacy and Government Services Nick Soave
Purpose of Report:	Decision

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors approve Pillar Nonprofit Network's Impact Consulting as an external consultant, to work with the Ad-Hoc Committee on Governance to complete Project Ovidius.

Background: The division of the board and executive approximately four years ago created ambiguity in the definition of the roles of the Students' Council, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee. This lack of clarity has led to confusion for individuals applying or running for each job who are unable to get a clear picture of the role that they are committing to. This can be highly problematic because student leaders may embark on a role with a vision for their platform that they are unable to complete because the governing body they are on does not have jurisdiction.

In response to this growing concern, at the July 2017 Meeting of the Board, the Board of Directors tasked the USC President and COO to develop a plan to address this role confusion and relating documents. Below is the proposed plan that includes problem statement, committee structure, resources requests, timeline and approval process.

Project Ovidius Plan: The name for this entire project will be Project Ovidius, and will be referred as such throughout the rest of the document.

- 1. Problem Statement:** Currently the USC Students' Council, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee have unclear and ill defined role definitions as a result of the Frankenstein approach used when creating the USC Corporate By-laws. This leads to confusion regarding which group has jurisdiction for what work with the ultimate symptom of duplication of efforts and fights between group over who controls particular process. Overall, the current situation is unclear and inefficient.

2. **Ad Hoc Committee:** An ad-hoc committee of Council and board has been created to ensure this plan is executed on time and in the best interests of students as defined by recommendations included in this report. This committee name will be the Project Ovidius Committee and will comprise of the following voting members.
 - a. Secretary-Treasurer
 - b. Students' Council Governance Chairperson
 - c. Board of Directors Chairperson
 - d. One member from both Council and Board
 - e. The Associate Governance (chair)
 - f. Senior Manager, Advocacy and Government Services (non-voting resource)

3. **Role of Ad-Hoc Committee:** The committee will have the following responsibilities
 - a. Serve as the main communication leads to the student body, Students' Council, the Board of Directors, and USC Staff about the status of Project Ovidius.
 - b. Informational resource to the external consultant that will be conducting the work.
 - c. Will receive updates from external consultant through the project.
 - d. Provide direction for the project as it progresses, ensuring that it reflects the opinions of council and board.

4. **Project Ovidius Approval Process/Timeline:** The goal of this project is to ensure all members of the USC are consulted and that a solution is presented that works for everyone. To ensure this, the following approval process will be used.
 - a. Project Ovidius Committee terms of reference ratified by council July 16th
 - b. Proposal submitted by Pillar non profit August 28th (see appendix 1)
 - c. Funding approval by finance committee at September 25th meeting
 - d. First meeting of Project Ovidius Committee and External Consultant by September 31st 2017.
 - e. Updates provided to student body, Students' Council, the Board of Directors, and USC Staff by end of September 2017.
 - f. Presentations at October meetings of Students' Council and the Board of Directors.
 - g. Final report submitted to relevant subcommittees of Council and Board for November meeting cycle.

Sign-Offs:

Board Chairperson :	Andriy Katyukha	
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USC Chief Operating Officer:	Jeff Armour	
President or Secretary-Treasurer:	Erin McCauley	
Author of report:	Erin McCauley, Nick Soave	