

EngSoc Board Meeting (W16) #1

January 13th, 2016

Chair: Kieran Broekhoven

Secretary: Akshay Joshi

Attendance:

Present and Voting: Jillian Adams, Patricia Duong, Hannah Gautreau, Pallavi Hukerikar, Rachael Schachtler, Jack Shillinger, Alex Sterling, Adelle Vickery

Present: Abdullah Barakat

1 Call to Order

- Quorum established – 8 of 10 voting members are present and voting

2 [D] Approval of Minutes

- *Motion:* To approve the minutes from the last board meeting dated November 16th, 2015.
- *Mover:* Adelle Vickery
- *Seconder:* Jack Shillinger
- Mover declined to speak to the motion.
- Seconder declined to speak to the motion.
- Motion called to question:
 - No oppositions
 - No abstentions
 - The motion passes unanimously

3 [I] Review of Procedures Document

- The procedures document for the Board of Directors goes with the other EngSoc governance documents
- Words defined in this document are defined in the same way as the other governance documents; other words have the common dictionary definitions
- Structure of board meetings:
 - Three meetings per academic term (once a month, except for exam months)
 - Chair must send out meeting information at least 10 days before the scheduled meeting, with the agenda sent out at least 5 days before the meeting

- On-term VP Finance presents updates with actuals at each meeting
- Board also decides on ECIF allocations once a term
- The chair of the board is appointed
- Secretary appointments are about to change if the motion below passes
- Directors are appointed for 12 month terms at the Joint Annual General Meeting
- These procedures will be followed unless there is a unanimous vote to not follow procedures
- Amendments to the procedures must pass with a majority of the entire board, or through a motion at the Joint Annual General Meeting
- Why is there an F floating on the page? It's a typographical error.

4 [I] Actuals Update

- Topic of discussion: Fall term actuals (winter just started, and spring was already reviewed at a prior meeting)
- Money allocated to conferences in the spring was used in the fall
- ECIF used only half of its allocated amount due to a lack of applications
- Novelties income was significantly higher than budgeted due to strong overall sales (more than 100 pairs sold)
- Everything else met budgeted numbers

Questions:

- Why did Novelties spend \$3000 more than budgeted? *We ordered more coveralls than we expected to deal with the higher sales.*
- Why did conferences spend so much money than budgeted? *The money was budgeted for in a prior term, but spent in a different term than expected. It's still over the combined budget of the two terms (spring and fall), but it's likely that we will be under budget for the winter term. Fall terms include travel to Congress, whereas winter terms only have FYIC.*
- Have the scholarships not been handed out yet? *B-Soc definitely awarded the First-year leadership scholarship, but it hasn't been debited yet.*
- Why was payroll for the C&D lower than budgeted? *We did not have as many staff as expected.*
- Is the C&D work opportunity advertised? *No, it's currently done through word of mouth.*
- Should we put up a sign when we need help in the C&D? *This is a good conversation to have with Mary Bland.*

5 [I] Council Structure Discussion

- The Council Review Committee's mandate is to talk to the board to get input on the structure of Council
- Feedback from the board must be collected this meeting to have their input considered
- Goal is to have a relaxed discussion on what Council should be doing or needs to be doing, as well as the board's perception of Council and its duties.

Feedback:

- Current role of Council feels like information dispersal (a one-way medium for executive announcements) – no constructive improvement of EngSoc or major changes
- Since the responsibility is not enforced, some people don't even do that well
- Giving more responsibility may not help since we have a low turnout even with free food
- Council should actively bring improvements and suggestions for what's best for the society
- Given the current structure, there's not much opportunity to do that
- In the recent past, the society went through a lot of fundamental change, so many options were put forward. Most were brought forward from the executive, but due to discussions in Council.
- It may be valuable to have a separate channel for announcements – as we add more people to the meetings due to an increase in the number of classes, it feels more of an info session
- Possibly have two class reps per class? One to disseminate information to their class, and one to bring feedback to Council
- Possibly change the format to a round table? 60 or so people would make for a challenging round table
- Would it be worth it to have Council split into small breakout groups where executives rotate? It would be hard to handle voting, as well as mixing discussions – this was done at a prior Joint Annual General meeting when governance changes were in flight
- Would it be possible to have a sloped room so that it's easier to see the front? The current term is already booked, but the next term can certainly look into it
- Would we consider reducing the number of Council members to one per department per year or something similar? Many people may get annoyed with someone not in their class delivering announcements though, similar to the first-year experience

- No increase in the number of committees – it’s a huge game of broken telephone at times
- Some meetings in the fall term ran long due to many motions. Although tiring, it was refreshing to see someone other than executive submit motions. Should we advertise the motion-submitting process in a better way, with examples of past impactful, non-executive motions?
- It’s difficult to come up with a drastic change that fixes problem that doesn’t remove representation for portions of groups. However, Council could mandate something be tried for a short period of time, and then mandate a review at the end of the trial period.

6 [D] Board Has Friends!

Board Has Friends!

- *Secunder:* Jillian Adams
- *Motion is read by the chair*
- Mover: both VP Finances should attend in order to discuss ECIF, as it relates to EngSoc as a whole
- Secunder declined to speak to the motion.
- What about Mary Bland? *She’s already on the list of invitees*
- Would the VP Finances be mandated to come? *No, just invited. Council controls the accounts for both societies whereas the board oversees the actions of both societies. This helps avoid asking everyone on the board to invite the off-stream VP Finance*
- Motion called to question:
 - No oppositions
 - No abstentions
 - The motion passes unanimously

7 [D] More Friends!

- *Secunder:* Rachel Schachtler
- *Motion is read by the chair*
- Mover: this motion helps us avoid emailing the entire board asking for approval to invite the new president
- Secunder declined to speak to the motion.
- Motion to amend the motion in question:

- *Amendment:* Strike “If motion one passes” and replace with “If Board Has Friends passes”
- *Mover:* Jillian Adams
- *Motion is found friendly by the mover of the motion in question. The motion now reads as amended*
- Motion called to question:
 - No oppositions
 - No abstentions
 - The motion passes unanimously

8 [D] We Need Minutes

- *Secunder:* Pallavi Hukerikar
- *Motion is read by the chair*
- *Mover:* it makes more sense for someone who’s on-term to be secretary. The ‘off-term’ part was unclear and doesn’t make sense
- *Secunder declined to speak to the motion.*
- Motion to amend the motion in question:
 - *Amendment:* Strike the second resolution
 - *Mover:* Jillian Adams
 - *Motion is found friendly by the mover of the motion in question. The motion now reads as amended*
- What happens if elections don’t happen? *This motion mandates that the president holds the election*
- The section regarding ‘four months’ seems to contradict itself
- Motion to amend the motion in question:
 - *Amendment:* Strike “four months long, commencing”
 - *Mover:* Patricia Duong
 - *Motion is found friendly by the mover of the motion in question. The motion now reads as amended*
- Motion called to question:
 - No oppositions
 - No abstentions
 - The motion passes unanimously

9 [D] Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn*
- *Mover:* Jack Shillinger
- *Seconder:* Jillian Adams
- Motion called to question:
 - No oppositions
 - No abstentions
 - The motion passes unanimously