



Report of the Bylaw Review Committee to Council

November 3rd, 2011

The Committee has now met three times this semester. The committee began by reviewing SSMU's various governing documents and the committee's goals. These include redrafting bylaws which:

- Are less prescriptive (and therefore do not get outdated as quickly)
- Creating systems of accountability
- Are grammatically correct and not redundant
- Remove discrepancies between the bylaws and common practices (either by updating the bylaws or by reverting current practice back to the bylaws)

Revisions have been divided between committee members as follows (to be supported by the relevant Executives and staff members):

Bylaw Book I: Dylan Doyle

Bylaw Book II: Ian Clarke

Bylaw Book III: Kady Paterson

Policy Manual: Adam Winer

To date, the focus of the Committee has been on reforming the General Assembly. The pros and cons of the current GA structure as well as the proposed reform options and initial survey have been discussed, as well as the process for ensuring that reform is well thought out and includes sufficient participation by the student body.

General Assembly Reform schedule:

- Oct 20th – Have survey available online
- Oct 24th – Advertise GA survey in listserv
- Nov 2nd, 3rd – Town Halls to discuss options
- Nov 7th & 8th – Pieces in the papers (different in each paper)
- Nov 13th – Deadline for submission of proposed bylaw changes
- Nov 17th – Notice of Motion at Council (first reading)
- (Second Reading at Steering Committee)
- Dec 1st – Debate and (potential) adoption of amended bylaws
- Feb 1st – Winter GA (to be followed by a debrief on any further changes needed)

The Committee is also in the process of setting priorities for review for each book of bylaws, recognizing that some could be updated in time to have a beneficial effect during this academic year.