
MINUTES OF THE AUSA EXECUTIVE EMERGENCY MEETING ON FRIDAY 11 JANUARY 2019



Meeting Opened: 6:11 pm | AUSA House Meeting Room

Present: President (Chair), EVP (Secretary), EnVP, WVP, Treasurer, PISO, WRO

In Attendance: Sebastian Hartley (Constitutional and Policy Reform Consultant)

Apologies: AVP, CCO, Campaigns, MSO, ISO, Satellites, QRO

1 ORDINARY BUSINESS

1.1 *Leave (For Adoption)*

Chair

E01/19 THAT all members not present be granted leave from this meeting, and be taken to have submitted apologies for non-attendance, due to the emergency nature of this meeting making it unreasonable to expect all members to have attended.

Carried U

1.2 *Declarations of Interest (For Disclosure and Noting)*

No conflicts relating to the business to be transacted at this meeting were disclosed.

Noted

2 MAJOR ITEMS AND DECISION MAKING

2.1 *Creation of the Executive Finance and Administrative Sub-Committee (EFASC) (For Adoption)*

Chair

The Chair introduced the proposed resolution to the meeting on behalf of the EVP and asked the EVP to lead the discussion of the proposal.

EVP

The EVP referred to a memorandum to the Executive (presented together with the agenda for this meeting) detailing the reasoning behind the proposal to create a subcommittee. The EVP noted the recommendations received from a consultant received in late 2018 and AUSA's auditors for several years urging urgent reform of AUSA's policy manual and financial management arrangements, which had not been actioned and had now become a matter of urgency. The EVP noted a number of urgent shortcomings in the Association's policy framework, and these shortcomings being aggravated by the absence of an Association Manager who could be tasked with addressing these issues. The EVP stated that the creation of the subcommittee would allow for the efficient addressing of these concerns without unduly burdening the Executive, and for a quicker response to these challenges. He noted also the

reduction in liability for most members of the Executive that would result from the assumption of responsibility for many matters involving legal and regulatory liability by the subcommittee.

PISO

Asked the EVP for an appraisal of the scope of the policy reform challenges facing the Association.

EVP

Reported the need for the urgent addressing of policies related to issues such as Health and Safety and Privacy that place the Association at risk of legal and enforcement action

WVP

Asked the EVP about oversight mechanisms that will be in the place to allow the Executive to supervise the subcommittee's operation.

EVP

Referred the WVP to the proposed terms of reference of the subcommittee related to its reporting obligations, restrictions on expenditure authorisation, and the ability to invalidate properly addressed motions. More generally noted the advantages of allowing the Executive to focus on other service delivery functions and responsibilities if this burden was removed from the general executive workload, allowing the Executive to return to focusing on engagement with students, thereby strengthening the position of the Association by the adoption of our analogue for a finance, risk, and audit committee.

Chair

E02/19 *The question was then put, taken as read:* THAT the Executive create a new Executive Finance and Administrative Sub-Committee, pursuant to clause 3.1.1 of the Executive Subcommittee Policy, with the following terms of reference:

- The title of the subcommittee shall be the Executive Finance and Administration Subcommittee (EFASC).
- The subcommittee will ordinarily be chaired by the President, and will be comprised of the President and no more than other four members of the Executive designated by the President. Members of the subcommittee other than the President will serve until the expiration of the committee's lifespan unless the President earlier terminates their appointment to the subcommittee.
- The President, as chair of the subcommittee, will furnish the Executive with monthly reports of its activities and progress during the term of its lifespan, though they are required to do so only in general terms. Any failure by the President or committee to observe this requirement in no way invalidates any action undertaken by the committee.
- The President may, as part of the committee's power to regulate its procedures in regards to matters not provided for in these terms of reference, yield the chair to other members of the subcommittee when the subcommittee is considering particular subject matter.
- The lifespan of the subcommittee, unless earlier dissolved by resolution of the Executive to that effect pursuant to clause 3.1.2 of the Executive Subcommittee Policy, will expire either when AUSA hires an Association Manager or twelve months after the date of the resolution, whichever occurs first.

- The subcommittee will meet as often and in such manner as it considers necessary and expedient. Quorum for meetings of the subcommittee will be the total membership of the committee less one member.
- The President will, as chair of the subcommittee, ensure that all decisions made and actions taken by the committee, or made or taken by a delegate of the committee, are recorded in writing. A copy of these records must be provided to the Association Secretary as soon as is practicable, and are to be circulated to the Association Executive by the President
- The subcommittee will be able to exercise any and all powers of the Association Executive in relation to the conduct of the affairs, business, and activities of the Association under Rules 35(i), 35(ii), 35(iii), 37(i), and 37(ii) of the Association's Constitution that it considers necessary and expedient to exercise in order to achieve its objective of remedying deficiencies in the Association's policies and practices, and may, pursuant to this delegation of power and authority, act as if it were the Executive in exercising these powers.
- All decisions made by the subcommittee will be binding on all members of the Executive, on all property and assets of the Association, and on the Association as if they were a resolution of the Executive (see Rule 40(i) of the Association Constitution), provided that the resolution not be shown to be ultra vires or made in bad faith or with any improper motive.
- Additionally, the subcommittee will be able to exercise any and all powers of the Finance and Policy subcommittees of the Executive as provided for in the Executive Subcommittee Policy as if it was either of those committees. To the extent that any policy of the Association is inconsistent with this term of reference, the effect of that policy is suspended or temporarily abolished for the duration of the subcommittee's existence.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the subcommittee will be empowered to exercise the Executive's policymaking and rule-setting powers under Rule 35(iii), including the suspension, modification, amendment, rescinding, repeal, enactment, or otherwise of new or existing policies. Should the subcommittee decide to repeal the Executive Subcommittee Policy under which these terms of reference are created, the subcommittee may resolve to reconstitute itself as a continuing body under either same or broader of reference, but may not widen the extent of its delegated powers.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the subcommittee will be empowered to repeal previously adopted motions of the Executive as if it were a meeting of the Executive provided that the subject matter of that motion pertains to a matter to which power and authority has been delegated to the subcommittee, excluding the motion containing these terms of reference.

Carried U

2.2 *Payment of the AUSA Policy Consultant (For Adoption)*

CHAIR

E03/19 THAT Sebastian Hartley be granted speaking rights for this meeting only in order to aid the Executive in evaluating whether to approve this proposal.

Carried U

CHAIR

The Chair introduced the proposed resolution to the meeting on behalf of the EVP and asked the EVP to lead the discussion of the proposal.

EVP

Briefly described the consultant's workload and achievements during the period of his engagement with the Association and the EVP's satisfaction with the quality and amount of work achieved.

Chair

E04/19 *The question was then put:* THAT the Executive endorse the agreement between the Association and Sebastian Hartley for services as a consultant undertaking a comprehensive redrafting of AUSA's policies and constitution in the period 07/01/2019 – 13/01/2019 and authorise any expenditure not exceeding \$2050.00 necessary to fulfil AUSA's obligations under that Agreement from the consultancy budget line.

Carried U

E05/19 THAT the Executive offers Sebastian Hartley its thanks for his work during this period and all his years of exemplary service.

Carried by enthusiastic acclamation

2.3 *Community Outreach (For Discussion)*

WVP

Noted his seeing on the news this week a situation in which immigrant workers were allegedly treated badly by their employer. Noted the possibility of the Association, responding to this situation, entering into a prolonged campaign of entering into communities in which students are present in order, in an inexpensive but effective manner, to extend the Association's reach into communities in which vulnerable people are present in order to improve their conditions of work and living, providing both assistance to these people, helping the Association's public relations profile, and offering a high profile opportunity to attract students to volunteer in the Association's activities and offering a basis for co-operation with other similarly concerned charitable organisations. Noted, equally, that this proposal would involve the diversion of the Association's funds to these off-campus purposes, which may be controversial. Canvassed the views of Executive members.

EVP

Noted the possibility, if the focus was on gathering essentials, of the Association undertaking a can drive or similar event in order to help gather resources, encourage donations, and minimise the costs of the undertaking to the Association. This suggestion was well received by all in attendance.

President

Noted the possibility of AUSA Brews purchasers at Shadows being given tokens to vote for the recipients of the proceeds of these charitable activities during each period in order to encourage engagement and publicity for these efforts, as well as to encourage a sense of charity among student consumers. This suggestion was well received by all in attendance.

Meeting closed at 6:45 pm

Next meeting: February 2019

Signed as a true and accurate record by

Anand Rama

President and Chair