

Report from SOBLOC
Youth Parliament of Manitoba AGM
01 May 2005

SOBLOC

- House Leader is chair of SOBLOC
- Consisted of Dana, Ben, Akosua, and Amy this year.
- Lots of expertise in policy and working with bylaws, made for a very effective committee
- Met three times to work on reviewing and revising the bylaws.

WHY DID WE CONCENTRATE ON THE BYLAWS?

- YPM is incorporated, under Manitoba's Corporations Act
- Govern how YPM operates as a Corporation
- Important to have functional bylaws, which give specific role responsibilities and are a check-and-balance for the Board of Directors
- Bylaws were in need of updating
 - Over the years, things had been changed in some places and not changed in others – led to inconsistencies in form and language
 - Some current practices were not in tune with the expectations of the bylaws – modernization was in order
 - New challenges and realities faced by YPM need to be provided for in the bylaws

WHY SO MANY CHANGES?

- Wanted to create a uniform and concise document
- Minor changes such as “YPM Inc.” instead of “the Corporation”, having all dates referred to in the same manner, standardizing references to other clauses or articles
- Structural changes in the way things were worded to increase clarity or enhance the tone of the document
- Both of these changes required substantial rewriting of specific clauses while keeping most of the actual content the same
- To write amendments to reflect these changes was a bit challenging – replacing individual clauses' wording would take far too long
- As such, chose to delete most articles and replace with the improved version
 - Few of the shorter articles not written this way, very few changes to make

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHANGES?

- In addition to the structural changes, some fairly large changes have been proposed by SOBLOC
- Terms & Definitions: something that all bylaws should have, summarizes the terms that are used liberally throughout the document

- Comprehensive definition of membership: what is a member? Is it someone who comes to session, and stays the entire time? What if you only paid fees? What are your rights and responsibilities as a member?
- Honorary membership: with a definition in place, one can now grant honorary membership. What happens if someone goes on exchange for a year?
- Impeachment proceedings: were rewritten with a specific agenda for the impeachment of a member of the Board – serious issue that should be treated with seriousness in the bylaws
- Creation of a section governing meetings: article to talk about the Election Meeting and AGM; provisions for things such as how to call a meeting, Robert's Rules for both, etc.. Separate sections with the format of each follow.
- Number of proxies: changed from three to two; more congruent with how things are actually done in corporations.
- Preferential balloting rules: were not particularly explicit in previous version, now defines how ties are dealt with and how sequential eliminations proceed
- WCYP Act 2004: written at Westerns last Mat, has been waiting for an AGM to be ratified. This replaces the old WCYP 2000 Act that was previously in our bylaws, which BCYP never agreed to uphold. Ben will tell you more about it later, he was involved its creation.

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

- Consider all the amendments and vote how you see fit
- If you have questions, raise them as debate points
- Friendly amendments: if you agree with the intent, but want to see a semantic issue changed, you can propose a slight change. If the mover of the motion finds the amendment to be friendly, it can be incorporated.
- As House Leader, I am really excited to propose these changes. SOBLOC has done a fantastic job and I would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work. I hope the membership appreciates what we are trying to do, and enjoys this afternoon's debate!