

Report of SOBLOC for YP94, 2015 AGM

Amendments to By-Laws

1. Adoption of Gender Neutrality in Governing Documents

Justification: Reflecting changes made to the By-Laws to promote inclusivity of gender at the 2014 AGM, YPM should strive for gender inclusivity and gender neutrality in its operations and governing documents. This includes replacing references with a gender binary to the third-person singular “they” and allowing the speaker to be addressed by an honorific of their own choosing.

Changes:

- In Article 7:11, replace “Chairmanship” with “Chairpersonship”
- In Articles 7:12, 13:8:b, and 13:15:b, replace “he or she” with “they”
- In Articles 13:14:b, 13:16:a, 13:19, and 14:1, replace “his or her” with “their”
- In Article 13:15:c:i, replace “him or her” with “them”

2. Elimination of Membership Fee

Justification: Currently, no formal membership fee is paid by members aside from the registration fee for session, which cabinet and executive members do not pay. To reflect this reality, and to reflect YPM’s commitment to not discriminating based on financial status, the requirement of a membership fee should be stricken.

Changes:

- Strike Article 5:1:d
- In Article 8:2, replace “Clauses (2a), (2b), and (2d)” with “Clauses (1a) and (1b)”

3. Ad Hoc Committee Membership

Justification: This is a minor change to a clause which allows individuals whose membership in the organization has elapsed to remain on Ad Hoc Committees. This change would disallow members who have been impeached or who have had their membership revoked by the executive to remain on such a committee.

Changes:

- Change Article 18:4 to read, “Notwithstanding impeachment as per Article 14 or revocation of membership as per Article 5, if a member of an Ad Hoc Committee ceases to be a member of YPM Inc., they shall remain a member of the committee.”

4. Clarity Changes

Justification: This amendment moves the order of articles to better clarify the role of the CEO in an election and changes a reference to the wrong clause.

Changes:

- Move Article 13:9:c to become Article 13:5:a and change it to read, “The Chief Electoral Officer may not vote except as outlined in Article (13) Clause (15d).”

5. Grammar Changes

Justification: This amendment reflects the proper capitalization of “By-election” when referring to the By-election Meeting and By-election Minutes.

Changes:

- In Article 15, change all occurrences of “By-Election Meeting” and “By-Election Motion” to “By-election Meeting” and “By-election Motion”

Amendments to Standing Orders

1. Adoption of Gender Neutrality in Governing Documents

Justification: Reflecting changes made to the By-Laws to promote inclusivity of gender at the 2014 AGM, YPM should strive for gender inclusivity and gender neutrality in its operations and governing documents. This includes replacing references with a gender binary to the third-person singular “they” and allowing the speaker to be addressed by an honorific of their own choosing.

Changes:

- In Clause 6:3, replace “he or she has” with “they have”
- In Clause 26:1, replace “he or she shall” with “they shall”
- In Clause 38:1, replace “he or she wishes” with “they wish”
- In Clause 42, replace “he or she believes” with “they believe” and “he or she shall” with “they shall”
- In Clause 45, replace “he or she deems” with “they deem”
- In Clause 49, replace “he or she may” with “they may”
- In Clause 70:3, replace “he or she must” with “they must”
- In Clause 26:1, 27, 27:2, 28, 29, 30, 33:1, 33:2, 34, 36, 39, 42, 70, and 70:3, replace “his or her” with “their”
- Change Clause 6 to read, “The Speaker and Mace are to be properly respected by all Members. Members shall stand when the Mace enters or leaves the House, address the Chair by the appropriate gender designation in accordance with the Speaker’s wishes,

such as Mister (Deputy) Speaker or Madam (Deputy) Speaker, and obey the directions of the Chair.”

- Change Clause 83 to read, “The Chairperson shall be addressed by the appropriate gender designation in accordance with their wishes, such as Mr. Chairperson or Madam Chairperson.”

2. Speaking Time Clarifications

Justification: This amendment updates the times for moving and reply speeches in second and third readings of bills to better reflect practice at session.

Changes:

- Change Clause 13 to read, “...the Member who moved the motion may speak for no longer than ten minutes...”
- Change Clause 15 to read, “...the Member who moved the motion may speak for no longer than ten minutes ... and the mover shall have a right of reply of no longer than five minutes.”

3. Clarity Changes (Presence in House)

Justification: This amendment better clarifies the individuals who can enter the chamber and clears up the ambiguous phrasing of the word “stranger”.

Changes:

- Switch the places of Clause 22 and Clause 23
- Change the new Clause 23 to read, “Notwithstanding those specified in Standing Order 22, no non-member shall be permitted on the Floor of the House without the permission of the Speaker. Any individual admitted into any part of the House or gallery who misconducts themselves may be removed if they do not withdraw.”
- In Clause 25, replace “Members” with “Individuals”

4. Clarity Changes (Awkward Wording)

Justification: This amendment clears up some awkward wording regarding parliamentary traditions.

Changes:

- In Clause 4, remove “the traditions of”

Amendments to Code of Conduct

1. Adoption of Gender Neutrality in Governing Documents

Justification: To further the promotion of gender inclusivity, this amendment removes references to gendered clothing in the Code of Conduct.

Changes:

- Change Article 3 to read, “3. All members of YPM Inc. shall dress in a dignified and proper manner befitting a Member of Parliament and shall adhere to the following dress regulations while attending parliamentary sessions sponsored in part or in whole by YPM Inc.
 1. Members shall not wear denim, hats, open-toed shoes, sneakers, wallet chains, or low-cut tops.
 2. Members shall wear either business attire including a tie and shall wear a suit jacket, dress sweater or formal vest; or business attire including such things as a suit, blouse, slacks or skirt that ends no higher than the top of the knee. Midriffs and shoulders must be covered.”

2. Clarification of Harassment Policy

Justification: This amendment better clarifies behaviour deemed to be unacceptable, in line with YPM’s policy of inclusivity.

Changes:

- Add an Article 4, reading, “4. The following behaviours shall not be tolerated by members of, or at events hosted by, YPM Inc.:
 1. Acts of violence,
 2. Sexual harassment or sexual violence,
 3. Bullying, harassment, or discrimination, for reasons including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sex, sexual orientation, ability status, financial status, religion, or ideological beliefs, and
 4. Slander and libel.”

General Comments

- The role of the Lieutenant Governor is currently not defined in any of our governing documents. For next year, we recommend that SOBLOC look at incorporating a definition and role of the position in the By-laws.
- In years to come, we should monitor the Alumni Debate and think about including it in future changes to the By-laws.