

Report of SOBLOC for YP95, 2016 AGM

Amendments to By-Laws

1. Speaking Rights of Members

Justification: YPM Inc. values the input of its membership at its membership meetings. As such, it should be made clear that members have the right to speak as well as attend and vote.

Changes:

- Change 12:3 to read: “All Members of YPM Inc. shall have the right to attend, to speak, vote on motions, and vote in any elections at membership meetings.”

2. Definition of the Duties of the Lieutenant-Governor

Justification: The Lieutenant-Governor is an integral part of our flagship Winter Session. The amendment defines their duties and responsibilities as outlined in the annual Letter of Invitation, and in practice at Winter Session.

Changes:

- In definitions, add: “Lieutenant-Governor: An individual selected in accordance with Article (10).”
- Add Article 10 to read:
 1. YPM Inc. shall have a Lieutenant-Governor.
 2. The Board, on the recommendation of the Chairperson, shall appoint the Lieutenant-Governor.
 3. To be eligible to the position of Lieutenant-Governor, a person:
 - a. Must be a prominent alumnus or member of the YPM community, and
 - b. Must have made a long-lasting impact in the community in which they serve.
 4. The Lieutenant-Governor is required to attend the following events:
 - a. The signing of the Oath and Scroll
 - b. The opening banquet
 - c. The opening ceremony, and
 - d. The closing ceremony.
 5. The Lieutenant-Governor shall:
 - a. Read the Speech from the Throne
 - b. Read the Prorogation Speech, and
 - c. Act as a figure representative of YPM's storied and unique history.

3. Re-Numbering of Articles

Justification: With the addition of Article 10, subsequent articles and references to articles after Article 10 elsewhere in the By-Laws must be re-numbered in order to reflect this change.

Changes:

- In Definitions, change the definition of Ad Hoc Committee to read: “A committee of YPM Inc. having a mandate as determined by the membership pursuant to Article (19).”
- In Definitions, change the definition of Special Committee to read: “A committee of YPM Inc. having a mandate as specified in the By-laws pursuant to Article (19).”
- Change 18:17:a:i to read: “Articles (1) through (6) and (17) of the By-Laws, or”
- Change 19:4 to read: “Notwithstanding impeachment as per Article 15 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”.
- Change 7:12 to read: “If all positions of the Board become vacant due to resignation, impeachment or death, a pre-appointed guardian shall temporarily take control of YPM Inc. until they can call a By-Election meeting as outlined in Article (16).”
- Change 14:5:b to read: “The Chief Electoral Officer may not vote except as outlined in Article (14) Clause (15d).”
- All Articles subsequent to Article 10 shall be re-numbered to reflect the addition of one more Article (i.e. Article 13 is now Article 14).

Amendments to Standing Orders

1. Removal of Speaking Minimums in Replies to Speeches from the Throne

Justification: Given that many backbenchers may feel uncomfortable speaking in the House for the first time, the committee felt it unreasonable to enforce a minimum speaking time. Please note that the maximum time of five minutes still stands.

Changes:

- Change IV: 12 to read: “When the Replies to the Speech from the Throne Address is called, those Members designated on the Order Paper as participants, with the exception of the Parliamentary Executive, may speak for no longer than five minutes. The overall debating time for the proceedings shall not exceed forty-five minutes per sitting.”

2. Adding Ability of Seconder to Speak on Concurrence and Third Reading of a Motion

Justification: YPM Inc. acknowledge that movers of motions may at times be unable to speak to their motion during Concurrence and Third Reading. As such, in order to reflect this provision already made for when movers are unable to speak during Second Reading, the committee felt it reasonable to extend the same accommodation for Concurrence and Third Reading.

Changes:

- Change IV:15:1 to read: “When speaking on a motion to give Concurrence and Third Reading of a Bill, the mover of the motion may defer the floor to the seconder, who may speak on the motion for the remainder of the allotted fifteen minutes.”

3. Banning of Gum in the House

Justification: YPM Inc. is extremely grateful for the use of the Manitoba Legislature for our flagship event. As such, in order to maintain our current good standing with the Speaker’s Office, and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, SOBLOC felt it reasonable to include gum in the clause detailing what members are not to bring in the House.

Changes:

- Change V:18 to read: “No Member shall take tobacco, food, gum or any liquid into the House or conduct him/herself in a manner which may damage the House.”

4. Removal of Provision Banning the Reading of Speeches

Justification: While YPM Inc. encourages members to improve their speaking abilities at Winter Session, we recognize that members arrive with varying levels of comfort with public speaking. As such, SOBLOC thought it insensitive for the organization to have an explicit ban on reading written speeches.

Changes:

- Remove 33 and 33:1
- Amend 33:2 to become 33 and read: “If a Member speaks to issues not germane to the motion on the floor, the Speaker shall ask the Member to discontinue their comments.”

5. Adoption of Gender Neutrality in Governing Documents

Justification: YPM should strive for gender inclusivity and gender neutrality in its operations and governing documents. This amendment finesses previous amendments made to this effect.

Changes:

- Change V: 18 to read: “No Member shall take tobacco, food, gum or any liquid into the House or conduct themselves in a manner which may damage the House.”
- Change V: 25 to read: “Individuals may not display objects or bring items into the House that may disgrace or abase the dignity of the House.”
- Change VI:32 to read: “When a Member is speaking, no other Member shall interrupt them, except to raise a Point of Order or a Point of Privilege.”
- Change XI:77:2 to read: “The mover of the Bill shall discontinue reading the Bill if the House expresses the wish by calling the mover to dispense.”

Amendments to Code of Conduct

1. Adoption of a Scent policy

Justification: In order to ensure the health of those with respiratory illnesses at YPM Inc. events, this amendment encourages members to reduce their use of heavily scented products.

Changes:

- Add Article 5 to read: “Due to health concerns arising from the use of scented products, YPM Inc. asks that members voluntarily cooperate towards a scent-reduced environment. We encourage avoiding or reducing the use of fragranced products, and to replace them with unscented alternatives.” *(Adapted from the University of Winnipeg Scent Policy)*

2. Wider applicability of the harassment policy

Justification: Realizing that YPM is sponsoring more events within the wider community, and the fact that the behaviors listed are not tolerated in any context involving YPM Inc., this amendment widens the applicability of the Harassment Policy to events sponsored by YPM Inc.

Changes:

- Change Article 4 to read: “The following behaviors shall not be tolerated by members of, or at events hosted or sponsored by, YPM Inc.”

3. Adoption of Gender Neutrality in Governing Documents

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

Changes:

- Change Article 3(2) to read: “Members shall wear business attire including a tie, a suit jacket, dress sweater or formal vest, a suit, blouse, slacks or skirt that ends no higher than the top of the knee. Midriffs and shoulders must be covered.”

General Comments

- In years to come, we should monitor the Alumni Debate and think about including it in future changes to the By-Laws.
- The critic should also be included in future edits of the By-Laws and Standing Orders.