

UNA BYLAW REVIEW OPEN FORUM

PANELISTS

- Bylaw Review Working Group
 - Terry Mullen (Chair, Bylaw Review Working Group)
 - Bill Holmes
 - Mike Feeley
 - Laura Cottle
 - Ying Zhou

ATTENDEES

- 15 residents
- John Tompkins (Editor, Campus Resident)

SUMMARY

The UNA Bylaw Working Group's voting members sat as a panel to answer residents' questions on the proposed bylaw changes. A draft of the proposed bylaws and copies of the Bylaw Working Group's recommendations were available to attendees.

The Chair of the Working Group provided the background to the proposed changes and outlined the next steps in the process that will culminate in a vote at a Special General Meeting to be held in the spring or fall. In parallel to the bylaw review process, changes to the *Neighbours' Agreement 2015* will be negotiated by a UNA Negotiating Committee as determined by the UNA Board.

Many questions at the forum focused on how to become a UNA member, the impact on students should the AMS no longer have a representative on the board, the impact on the relationship with UBC should there be no UBC appointed directors and the impact on financial control of the UNA's resources.

COMMENTARY

Students

The AMS represents all students whereas the UNA represents those persons who reside in the UNA neighbourhoods. The University has had a good relationship with the AMS as well as with residents, including students, and that will continue. The UNA is committed to developing mechanisms for students to engage with the UNA and to have a voice.

Limitation of Three Directors Per Neighbourhood

The rationale for removing this limitation is that the UNA does not need a ward system. All directors are elected to govern on behalf of the entire community. The Working Group did not see this as an issue.

Municipality Status

Jim Taylor canvassed the possibility of the UNA becoming a municipality in 2012 and concluded it was not possible. Nothing has materially changed since that time.

The partnership between the UNA and UBC has been both positive and effective. What has changed is a growing desire on the part of many residents to have democratically elected directors.

Relationship with UBC

UBC's support for the concept of observer status instead of UBC appointed directors was conveyed following questions with concerns about any impact this change may have on the good relationship between the UNA and UBC going forward. The concerns raised were centred on the current good working relationship, the value and expertise the UBC-appointed directors bring to the board, and the mechanism their role provides to have the UNA's voice heard. There was a concern whether not having UBC appointed directors might increase UBC's risk which would impact the UNA.

These concerns will be addressed as part of the *Neighbours' Agreement* 2015 negotiations. The relationship between the UNA and UBC is built on trust; it has evolved from a wholly appointed board initially to elected residents in 2008 and this step is part of the evolution of the UNA. All parties acknowledge the expertise and value the UBC appointees bring to the board. The purpose of the observer role is to continue that while giving residents a fully-elected board.

Financial Implications

The UNA budget is submitted to the UBC Board of Governors for information under the present arrangement. That will change with UBC appointed directors no longer having a vote. It will be addressed through *Neighbours' Agreement* negotiations. UBC has an obligation to monitor how funds are spent due to its obligations under the leases. This is a legal obligation to ensure that monies are expended as agreed. This is dependent on the relationship of trust that exists between the UNA and UBC. Maintaining that trust will be a key focus of the *Neighbours' Agreement* negotiations.

Year-end Timing

A suggestion was made to change the timing of the UNA year-end. Currently, it coincides with UBC's year-end. Changing that might complicate matters but could be investigated.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

The UNA has made communicating its role and the benefits of membership to residents a priority and is taking steps to do that.

An information package will be sent to residents as part of the Special General Meeting notice that will also include information on the public consultation along with all required information under the Societies Act and current bylaws.