STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

********

Guests: Max Holmes (AMS Elections Administrator), Hussam Zbeeb (Student Services Manager), Marium Hamid (AMS Governance), David (Observer), Sruthi Tadepalli (Ubyssey), Dario Garousian (member at large), Liam Reeve (student), Sophia Haque (studentcare), Bahareh Jokar (studentcare), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to order and adoption of the agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

1. MOVED AKHIL JOBANPUTRA, SECONDED IAN SAPOLLNIK:

   “That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

2. MOVED AVA NASIRI, SECONDED JAMIU ABDSALAMI:

   “That the agenda be amended to add a Student Services motion.”

   ... No objections

3. MOVED AKHIL JOBANPUTRA, SECONDED IAN SAPOLLNIK:

   “That the agenda be adopted as amended.”

   ... Carried


Abstained: Mackenzie Lockhart

B) Membership: Introductions, new members, declaration of vacancies:

Welcome to our new Members:


Goodbyes: Harry Li (GSS), Arielle Brown (Nursing)
C) Speaker’s Business & Land Acknowledgement (5 minutes):

- The Speaker acknowledged our presence on the unceded and traditional land of the Musqueam people, adding that this land was a traditional place of learning and saying we are privileged to be here: living, working and learning on these territories.

D) Statements from Students at Large (3 minutes each):

E) Consent Agenda Items

4. MOVED BRIAN CHO, SECONDED DANIEL LAM:  

“That the following consent items be accepted as presented:

AMS Council minutes dated April 27, 2016

... Carried

F) Presentations to Council (10 minutes for presentation, 5 minute period):

AMS Health & Dental presentation – Sophia Haque, Bahareh Jokar [SCD177-17]

- Over $7.8 million in health and dental claims.
- Over 40,500 students enrolled.
- Over 550 dependants enrolled.
- This is insurance for things not covered by MSP.
- It’s a group plan, which saves money (over individual insurance) and does not discriminate by age or sex or against those with pre-existing conditions.
- Not a corporate-style plan. We’re former AMS Execs who know student societies, especially the AMS.
- Studentcare works with multiple insurers to get the best deal possible for the AMS.
- And we manage the plan for you.
- We work for the AMS, not the insurance companies.
- Also have dental networks that can save you an extra 20%.
- And now a new pharmacy network allowing you to save up to 50% (up to $40) on pharmacy products.
- And a vaccine clinic.

5. MOVED KATHLEEN SIMPSON, SECONDED SALLY LIN:

“That the time for the presentation be extended by 10 minutes.”

... No objections

- The claims break down as follows: $3.5 million for health; $4.37 million for dental.

Questions
Abdul Alnaar asked about the time it takes to opt out.
Sophia Haque:
- It takes 5 minutes, 5 seconds.

Jakob Gattinger asked about travel benefits.

Sophia Haque:
- In foreign countries there are additional fees, as much as $500,000. The plan can cover this for up to a year out of the country.
- There’s also travel cancellation insurance for medical reasons.
- But these benefits do not cover international students travelling to their own country.

Kathleen Simpson:
- I’ve heard you’re considering offering legal insurance.

Bahareh Jokar:
- This came up at the annual stakeholder meeting, and we’ve created a service for three categories:
  - Disputes with employers
  - Housing
  - Academic (re expulsion after exhausting internal university procedures).
- Plus an unlimited legal hotline.

Joanne Pickford:
- What happens to coverage when you graduate?

Sophia Haque:
- The policy year is September 1 to August 31: you’re covered every summer and the summer after you graduate.
- And even after that there’s Continuum, a plan you can purchase to continue most of the benefits for close to the same price.

Jamiu Abdusalamli:
- Where can we find more information on the legal service?

Sophia Haque:
- The legal service is quite new. It is available to be brought in by your school.

**Fees – Jakob Gattinger**

6. MOVED JAKOB GATTINGER, SECONDED HANNAH XIAO:

“That the Fees presentation be laid on the table.”

... No objections

G) Consultation Period

H) Appointments
7. MOVED BRAD BALATON, SECONDED JAMIU ABDSALAMI:

“That María de Fátima Lazo (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the Advocacy Committee effective immediately and ending April 30, 2017.”

“That Brian Cho (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the HR Committee effective immediately and ending April 30, 2017.”

… No objections

I) President’s Remarks (5 minutes):

Ava Nasiri - President
Working on:
- Sexual assault policy
- Legal case
- Referendum
- Orientations
- Block Party

J) Executive Remarks (3 minutes each):

Kathleen Simpson – VP External
- Went to Victoria on Monday with Kelsi (the AMS Policy Advisor) and other student associations in the U-Pass caucus on a business case we drew up.
- Spoke to the Minster for Advanced Education and TransLink.
- Going again on Monday for more lobbying.
- One point we were going to ask for we can remove because of the student loan interest rate reduction announced in the budget.

Chris Scott – VP Admin
- Nest animation project.
- Club transitions.
- Clubhouse set up.
- Working on transitioning from SAC to the Operations Committee.

Samantha So – VP Academic
- Just Desserts.
- Awards being posted.
- A thousand signatures verified for the BDS referendum, to take place March 27-31.
- Tuition consultations.
- Sexual Assault policy out for consultation.
- President’s Committee on disability culture, art, and equity.

Hussam Zbeeb – Student Services
- Hiring for next year.
- Services Review feedback: looking at improvements to counselling.

Keith Hester – Managing Director
- Block Party line-up announced.
• 3,500 tickets sold so far.
• Paperwork for refinancing.
• Michael Kingsmill, Chris Scott and I are working on the renos of the Old SUB.

K) Committee Reports (5 minutes each):

Operations Committee – Chris Scott
• Working on policies.
• Expulsion policy.

Governance Committee – María de Fátima Lazo
• Approved Code changes re committee chairs.

Advocacy Committee
• Working on new transit policy.

Student Life – Ava Nasiri
• Events working on a three-year strategy on programs (Block Party etc.).
• Coordinating between undergrad societies and the AMS Events Department.

Budget Committee – Nika Moeini
• Looking at funds and the investment policy.

Steering Committee – Ava Nasiri
Jakob Gattinger
• Haven’t had a report from the Steering Committee. I’m wondering about its feasibility.

Ava Nasiri:
• It hasn’t met for a long time. It hasn’t needed to meet.
• Waiting for the new Execs.
• Happy to make a report on its feasibility, but it may be best to wait for the next Executive.

Mackenzie Lockhart:
• Did the committee determine its terms of reference?

Ava Nasiri:
• This was quite a while ago. Happy to write a follow-up report.
• We discussed the purpose of the committee.
• It was going to be focused on coordinating committees and the strategic plan.

Jakob Gattinger:
• I don’t understand what the new Exec will have to offer.
• What is the purpose of this committee? I thought it was mainly to approve the goals of other committees.

Ava Nasiri:
• This would be more appropriate for the Governance Review Implementation Committee. Would refer it back to them.
• Because restructuring happened in the fall, there was a light approach by committees to their goals.

Jakob Gattinger:
• As chair of the Governance Review Implementation Committee, I would say that this is beyond our scope.
• The Governance Committee should deal with it.

Governance Review Implementation Committee – Jakob Gattinger
• Will be meeting right after the referendum to assess how to change Code if the Bylaw changes pass.

L) Constituency and Affiliates Reports (2 minutes each):

Arts – Brooklyn Rocco
• Limitless – annual networking conference.
• Launch of Hospitality, an AUS wellness service.
• Career Fair.
• Showcase with other faculties.

Commerce – Jennifer Zhen
• Hiring.
• Retreat in March.
• Case competition.
• Working on setting up a Networking Night.

Medicine – Daud Akhtar
• Match Day: 4th years chose specialties and found placements across Canada.

Science – Diane Nguyen
• Career development events.
• Science Career Info Fair.
• Selling swag in pop-up shops.

Pharmacy – Simon Qi
• Pharmacy Awareness Month this month.

VST – Roberto DeSandoli
• March 9th open house.

M) Board of Governors, Senate, Ombudsperson & Historical Update Reports (2 minutes each):

Board of Governors – Veronica Knott
• Haven’t met.
• Elections for new BoG reps.

Senate – Daniel Lam
• Senate elections.
• Meeting in two weeks.
Historical Update – Sheldon Goldfarb

- Kim Campbell did write her preface to the history book.
- Working on contract with publisher. Probably ready next time.

N) Minutes of Council and Committees of Council:

O) Executive Committee Motions:

8. MOVED AVA NASIRI, SECONDED JEFFREY PEA:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for the Student Services department as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Tutoring as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Safewalk as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Advocacy as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Volunteer Avenue and Volunteer Team as outlined in the attached document entitled “Services Review Report Final”;

Must be considered separately as it’s a 2/3rd motion

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Vice as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for the Foodbank as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Speakeasy as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Implementation Next Steps as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final.’”

Hussam Zbeeb:

- Presented an overview at the last meeting.
- Did lots of consultation.
- Produced 75 recommendations.
- Some require Code changes that will come back to Council.
- Important to address the new issues that have arisen since the 2013 review.
- We need to set the direction of the services team.

Sally Lin:
- Advocacy Office and the Advocacy Committee: confusion over the name.
- Will this be rebranded or stay as the Advocacy Office?

Hussam Zbeeb:
- Rebranding is outside the scope of the Services review.

Discussion of whether the recommendations constitute Code changes.

Ava Nasiri:
- My understanding is that this is just approving in principle.

9. MOVED AVA NASIRI, SECONDED JEFFREY PEA:

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“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Tutoring as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Safewalk as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Advocacy as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Vice as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

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“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Speakeasy as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final’;

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Implementation Next Steps as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final.’ ”

… No objections
10. MOVED JAMIU ABDSALAMI, SECONDED IAN SAPOLLNIK:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Volunteer Avenue and Volunteer Team as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final.’”

The Speaker:
- The correct way to do this would be to amend Code. This is not a Code amendment.

Hussam Zbeeb:
- This directs me to go to the Governance Committee. A Code change will come next meeting.

11. MOVED JAMIU ABDSALAMI, SECONDED IAN SAPOLLNIK:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT AMS Council approve the recommendations for Volunteer Avenue and Volunteer Team as outlined in the attached document entitled ‘Services Review Report Final.’”

... No objections

12. MOVED AVA NASIRI, SECONDED BRADLEY BALATON:

From the Executive Committee:
“That on the recommendation of the Executive Committee Council authorize the use of the Student Services in the campaign for the referendums being held March 6-10, 2017.”

Ava Nasiri:
- Code allows Council to use our Services to promote referendums if we pass a motion authorizing that.
- We’ll put posters on the Safewalk car and pursue other relevant and creative avenues.

Mackenzie Lockhart:
- Are there limits?
- Will Speakeasy offer its service and then say, Oh, and vote Yes.
- People in vulnerable positions may not want a lecture.

Hussam Zbeeb:
- It will probably just be Safewalk: conversations while with students, a sign on the car.
- Not in the more sensitive services.

Ian Sapollnik:
- I would be much more comfortable knowing which services will be used and which will not.

Jakob Gattinger:
- And we need to make sure people have training in promoting the referendum.
Ava Nasiri:
  • We could list the services, but I trust Hussam and the Service Coordinators.

13. MOVED AVA NASIRI, SECONDED BRADLEY BALATON:

From the Executive Committee:
“That on the recommendation of the Executive Committee Council authorize the use of the Student Services in the campaign for the referendums being held March 6-10, 2017.”

… Carried


Abstained: Jakob Gattinger, Mackenzie Lockhart

Jakob Gattinger asked that the fee presentation be brought forward now. There were no objections.

Fees – Jeanie Malone and Jakob Gattinger

• A new program in Biomedical Engineering.
• We were contacted about tuition consultation for the program.
• Problem: Fees being imposed outside of standard tuition. A program fee producing a 10-12% increase.
• Inadequate consultation because tuition and curriculum not considered at the same time. The Board of Governors does the finances while Senate does the academic side, and there’s no interaction.
• We suffered from a lack of information and unreasonable timelines, so it was hard to provide feedback.
• Recommendations:
  o The AMS needs to ensure consistency among Constituencies. The AMS should have quality control. The Constituencies have less experience than AMS Executives.
  o The AMS should take a stand against program fees that augment tuition. They’re understandable in professional programs, but in non-professional programs it’s not clear they are needed. We were told ours would be used for a capital project: that’s not right.
  o The AMS should look at the big picture and prepare for worst case scenarios.
14. MOVED JAKOB GATTINGER, SECONDED CHRIS HAKIM:

“That the presentation be extended by five minutes.”

… No objections

- Biomedical engineering students will have to pay an extra $750 for their labs.
- There is an epidemic of program fees like these.
- The University President has said he’s willing to raise tuition in professional programs.
- We should be ready, especially since this is an election year.
- It wouldn’t hurt for the AMS to be proactive on issues like these.
- The EUS will probably bring motions on this, along with a full report.

Questions
Kathleen Simpson
- Along with SFU and UVic, we’re asking the government to reaffirm the 2% tuition cap if re-elected.
- Are you open to having your recommendations go through Advocacy Committee?
- How many constituencies sign confidentiality agreements with their faculties?
- [No hands were raised.]

Samantha So:
- This is very important because of the high volume of tuition consultations.
- I’m preparing a tuition consultation protocol.
- Meet with the AMS VP Academic: bringing knowledge together will be useful.
- Some Constituencies have students on curriculum committees. Who does?
- [Arts, Science, Engineering and the GSS.]  

15. MOVED ARMIN REZAIEAN-ASEL, SECONDED MARÍA DE FÁTIMA LAZO:

“That the question period be extended by 10 minutes and turned into a discussion.”

… No objections

Ian Sapollnik:
- I shared some of the same frustrations on the Senate side.
- I suggest working with your Faculty Senators on these issues.
- The Senators don’t get information on tuition and financials, so it would be useful to share.

Jakob Gattinger:
- Yes, we need to ensure that Senators are involved.

Jeanie Malone:
- Important to involve all stakeholders and use all resources.

Ava Nasiri:
- Have you considered a general consultation policy created by the AMS?
This could prohibit an undergraduate society from talking directly to the government or the University without checking with the AMS VP External or VP Academic.

Jakob Gattinger:
- Don’t let Constituencies do wild things.

Jeanie Malone:
- Don’t let Constituencies be exploited.

Kathleen Simpson:
- We could probably get a policy through Advocacy to tell Constituencies to talk to me if going to speak to the provincial government.

Veronica Knott:
- This is a Board issue.
- It will be the most important issue for Board reps next year, the epidemic of lab fees.
- UBC says they’re regulated, but in truth they’re often spent on anything.
- The AMS needs to support the Board reps.

Jakob Gattinger:
- We have a set of recommendations to take to the University.

P) Constituency and Affiliate Motions:

Q) Committee Motions:

16. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED DANIEL LAM:

From the Ad-Hoc Committee on AMS’ Relationship with Constituencies
That Council adopt the following recommendations to be completed and updated on to Council at the latest by the first meeting in November 2017.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Council directs the AMS Executives to create:

1. Constituency Executive Orientation at the end of April including, but not exclusive to, the list of topics in Ad-Hoc report plus informal networking
2. An Undergraduate Handbook

RECOMMENDATION 2:
Council directs AMS Executives attend Constituency Councils in Term 1 to present on how AMS can integrate with their work.

RECOMMENDATION 3:
Council direct AMS Executives to review governance relationship between constituencies and department clubs to ensure appropriate financial and liability oversight.

RECOMMENDATION 6:
Council directs Governance Committee to formalize and create a AMS President's Council for Constituency Presidents and AMS Executives with a monthly meeting requirement as well as remove Constituency updates from AMS Council meetings.

RECOMMENDATION 7: Council directs Governance Committee to institute and review the council reporting metric suggested in Appendix D.

RECOMMENDATION 8: Council direct the Graduating Committee to review the responses from this consultation and improve incorporation with constituencies.

RECOMMENDATION 9: Council directs President’s Council to review the incorporation with First Year Council and Constituencies.

RECOMMENDATION 10: Council direct the AMS Executive to liaise with the Communications Department at the AMS to improve promotion and to bring the department to a President’s Council Meeting to improve collaboration.

RECOMMENDATION 11: **This recommendation has been resolved.** 

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the Governance Committee to review the risks surrounding the adoption of Bylaw 22.

RECOMMENDATION 12: Council directs Governance Committee to standardize Constituency Elections dates and timelines.”

Ryan Kamimura asked to have Recommendation 12 considered separately.

Veronica Knott:
- These are omnibused recommendations. Hope everyone is good with them.

Jakob Gattinger:
- Are the constituency orientations dates set?

Ava Nasiri:
- Two days after exams end: April 29 and 30.

Mackenzie Lockhart:
- Can we direct the new Presidents Council to do things? It doesn’t exist yet.

The Speaker:
- Once Code is amended.

17. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED DANIEL LAM:

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RECOMMENDATION 10:
Council direct the AMS Executive to liaise with the Communications Department at the AMS to improve promotion and to bring the department to a President’s Council Meeting to improve collaboration.”

… No objections

18. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED DANIEL LAM:

From the Ad-Hoc Committee on AMS’ Relationship with Constituencies

“That Council adopt the following recommendations to be completed and updated on to Council at the latest by the first meeting in November 2017.

RECOMMENDATION 12:
Council directs Governance Committee to standardize Constituency Elections dates and timelines.”
Veronica Knott:
- Standardizing Constituency election dates.
- Realize this will cause some Constituencies difficulty, but when all the Constituencies elect at different times, it makes the AMS inefficient.
- The idea is to ensure that every Constituency gets the same amount of orientation and support.

Jennifer Zhen:
- Standardizing the election date is not the best for us.
- We're earlier. We have a team in place before everyone leaves for the summer.

Chris Scott:
- Is your issue with the election date or the turnover date?

Jennifer Zhen:
- A little of both, but the main thing is turnover.

Ava Nasiri:
- We can leave this to the Governance Committee.

Akhil Jobanputra:
- What if Constituency executives don't show up for the mandatory orientations?

Veronica Knott:
- That was in the motion already passed.

Max Holmes:
- Standardizing election dates would certainly make the AMS Elections Administrator’s job easier.

Jakob Gattinger:
- The AMS is best at orientations. This would help with that.

19. MOVED MACKENZIE LOCKHART, SECONDED IAN SAPOLLNIK:

"That the motion be amended to change 'completed and updated on' to 'completed and/or updated on'."

Mackenzie Lockhart:
- Often with recommendations we take them as directives, and this wording is directive, but it shouldn't be.

The Speaker:
- Using recommendations is a new approach.
- Motions like these are just approval in principle.
- A Code change will still have to be passed.
20. MOVED MACKENZIE LOCKHART, SECONDED IAN SAPOLLNIK:

“That the motion be amended to change ‘completed and updated on’ to ‘completed and/or updated on’.”

... No objections

21. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED DANIEL LAM:

From the Ad-Hoc Committee on AMS’ Relationship with Constituencies

“That Council adopt the following recommendations to be completed and/or updated on to Council at the latest by the first meeting in November 2017.

RECOMMENDATION 12:
Council directs Governance Committee to standardize Constituency Elections dates and timelines.”

Bradley Balaton:
- How broad is the representation of Constituencies on the Governance Committee?

Veronica Knott:
- Any Councillor can attend committee meetings.

The Speaker:
- Reach out to the committee chair.

22. MOVED ARMIN REZAIEAN-ASEL, SECONDED JAMIU ABDSALAMI:

“That the question be called.”

Requires 2/3rds

... Carried


Against (2): Ryan Kamimura, Jennifer Zhen

Abstained: Mackenzie Lockhart, Ava Nasiri

23. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED DANIEL LAM:

From the Ad-Hoc Committee on AMS’ Relationship with Constituencies

“That Council adopt the following recommendations to be completed and/or updated on to Council at the latest by the first meeting in November 2017.
RECOMMENDATION 12:
Council directs Governance Committee to standardize Constituency Elections dates and timelines.”

... Carried


Against (3): Ryan Kamimura, Sumal Thalagala, Jennifer Zhen

Abstained: Bradley Balaton, Sally Lin, Mackenzie Lockhart

24. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED BROOKLYN ROCCO:

From the Ad-Hoc Committee on AMS’ Relationship with Constituencies

“That Council adopt the following recommendations to be completed and updated on to Council at the latest by the first meeting in November 2017.

RECOMMENDATION 4:
That Council direct the Governance Committee to review and update the Constituency Media Protocol Policy.

RECOMMENDATION 5:
That Council direct the Governance Committee to reintegrate the following revised sections of now-defunct Code:

Approval of Club and Constituency Deficits

1. Club or Constituency expenditures that would create any deficit under $1,000 must be approved by the Budget Committee and the Vice-President Finance.
2. Club or Constituency expenditures that would create a deficit of over $1,000 must be approved by the Budget Committee, the Vice-President Finance and the Vice-President Administration in advance. Such approval shall be in writing.

Credit Card Reimbursements

All credit card reimbursements over the amount of five thousand dollars ($5000.00) may be subject to the review and approval of the Budget Committee.”

Veronica Knott:
- The AMS VP Finance has raised concerns that I would like to respond to.
- The recommendation merely gives Budget Committee the discretion to look into credit card charges; it’s not required that they do so.
• On deficits, it’s said that $1,000 is too small to involve the Budget Committee, but there should be oversight. The Budget Committee should be involved.
• Some say this will create too much work. We don’t know that. Students want additional financial oversight.

Louis Retief (statement read by Keith Hester):
• I agree that financial oversight is needed.
• But the Budget Committee doesn’t meet every week.
• We do have full-time staff.
• Constituencies can’t wait for Budget Committee to meet.

Jakob Gattinger:
• Point of order re Keith speaking.

The Speaker:
• I recognize Keith, just as I recognize guests.

Jakob Gattinger:
• The people motivating and opposing a motion should be members of Council.

Ava Nasiri:
• In this case the Managing Director is not speaking for himself in opposition to the motion; he’s almost a proxy for the VP Finance.

Jakob Gattinger:
• Can the Speaker inform Council whether Executives can send proxies?

The Speaker:
• No.

Ava Nasiri:
• Let’s pass this and allow the Governance Committee to look at it.

Jeanie Malone:
• It’s reasonable to ask Budget Committee or one of its sub-committees to meet every week.

Jakob Gattinger:
• This is the primary reason the ad hoc committee was created in the first place.

Ryan Kamimura:
• What would it look like if the Budget Committee “may” act.

Veronica Knott:
• It means it’s up to the discretion of the Budget Committee.

Nika Moeini:
• This year we’ve been trying to make Budget Committee more efficient.
• The sort of work referred to in this motion should not be done by Budget Committee; it should go to the VP Finance and staff.

Mackenzie Lockhart:
• We need to clarify what “deficit” means in this motion.

Keith Hester:
• It means no money currently in their account.

Mackenzie Lockhart:
• Why is media protocol included here?

Veronica Knott:
• My bad.

Nika Moeini
• If this passes, can the Governance Committee change the dollar amounts?

The Speaker:
• This is merely a recommendation.

Niko Moeni
• We’re trying to move away from routine approvals at Budget Committee.

Bryan Starick:
• I can’t see how $5000 is routine.

25. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED BROOKLYN ROCCO:

From the Ad-Hoc Committee on AMS’ Relationship with Constituencies

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2. Club or Constituency expenditures that would create a deficit of over $1,000 must be approved by the Budget Committee, the Vice-President Finance and the Vice-President Administration in advance. Such approval shall be in writing.
Credit Card Reimbursements

All credit card reimbursements over the amount of five thousand dollars ($5000.00) may be subject to the review and approval of the Budget Committee.

... Carried


Against (1): Nika Moeini

Abstained: Mackenzie Lockhart, Chris Scott, Liam Simpson, Samantha So

R) Commission Minutes, Reports and Motions:

S) Other Business and Notice of Motions:

T) Discussion Period

Block Party
Ava Nasiri:
- How many have seen the video with the line-up? [Most Councillors raised their hands.]
- You as Councillor need to get your undergraduate society or program involved.
- Do councillors get free tickets? Depends. Comes with work. Not necessarily putting up posters, but involvement with social media.
- The last thousand tickets are the most difficult to sell.
- Asad, the Events Manager, is the go-to on this.

Hannah Xiao:
- What about the sound issue? Mitigating the effect of the sound on classes.

Ava Nasiri:
- Looking into that.

Jeanie Malone
- Are clubs running tents?

Ava Nasiri
- We’ll be sending out an email explaining.

Nika Moeini:
- Can you explain the booting idea?
Ava Nasiri:
- Wait for the Friday email.

Sumal Thalagala:
- Banners?

Ava Nasiri:
- That’s the referendum, which is actually more urgent than Block Party: change your Facebook photo to the referendum banner.

**Referendum Involvement**

Ava Nasiri:
- Promoting the referendum.
- Blue and Gold meeting tomorrow
- T-shirts, flyers, and posters. I encourage Councillors to help out.
- Sunday campaign rally
- Tuesday and Wednesday next week – Vote Party. Councillors encouraged to show up and send out links
- Posting a referendum video.
- Biggest barrier is lack of information. If students don’t know, they may vote No or not vote at all.

Armin Rezaiean-Asel:
- Will there be sound in your video? [Yes.] Good. I’ve seen the version without audio. It will be much less creepy with audio.

Jakob Gattinger:
- Concern online re art gallery question; need to dispel bad information.

Veronica Knott:
- There have been comments saying we can’t sell the art, but our research shows no evidence that that is true.

Ava Nasiri asked if Councillors could get information on the referendum into Faculty newsletters.

**Elections Committee Report – Max Holmes**
- Our agreement with the Ubyssey says that if we run a referendum or elections for them, we can charge them $5,000. Instead of asking for the cash, we’re getting $5,000 worth of free advertising about the election.
- I would ask that Councillors who have questions or complaints come talk to the Elections Committee or go to the Ombudsperson: go through the proper channels.
- Also, could all Councillors vote as soon as possible so we can be sure every Constituency is able to vote. If there are problems in a Constituency, we want to know right away.

Veronica Knott:
- What are the appropriate channels if there are concerns with Executives and their staff?
Max Holmes
- Written complaints are supposed to be submitted to the Elections Committee, not to Council.

Sheldon Goldfarb:
- Which Constituencies or Affiliates have had problems voting in the past?

Max Holmes:
- Regent and VST.
- UBC is trying to make sure those two will be able to vote electronically. If not, we will have to scramble and see what we can do.

The Speaker:
- Paper ballots?

26. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED SUMAL THALAGAL:

“That the agenda be amended to add a discussion on AMS executive and staff involvement in elections.”

... No objections

AMS executive and staff involvement in elections

Veronica Knott:
- Can VP’s and AVP’s file complaints? Once a sitting President dis-endorsed candidates: is that acceptable?

The Speaker:
- There is nothing in Code that stops an Executive from endorsing or working for candidates.

Mackenzie Lockhart:
- What is the perception? That it’s unfair? Icky?

Ava Nasiri:
- Any involvement with endorsements from the sitting Executive is toxic for the incoming team.
- I’d be in favour of some policy preventing Executives from endorsing.
- It would be difficult to apply that this year to staff; they weren’t given a heads-up.

The Speaker:
- It’s something to look at.
- It happens at the provincial level, the federal level: When you’re working you do your work duties, but you can campaign outside your employment
- Maybe look at rules adopted by other student societies. Or by provincial or federal governments.
Max Holmes:
- The rules currently say you can’t use AMS offices for campaigning.

The Speaker:
- In an election complaint last year, I ruled that using physical space is against the rules, but Veronica is talking about people.

Armin Rezaiean-Asel:
- The HR Committee could discuss this.
- A VP or AVP could be writing or researching, and campaigning in subtle ways. It’s not just endorsing; it’s much deeper than that.

Max Holmes:
- Using rooms for campaigning …

The Speaker:
- Using physical resources is not allowed, but a VP or AVP could go home and work on a campaign.

Ava Nasiri:
- How tightly do we want to approach this matter? Stop all election talk in AMS offices?
- I’d say no public endorsing of candidates and no lodging of complaints unless a candidate.
- Avoid socializing with the Elections Committee.

Mackenzie Lockhart:
- I’d lean towards looser: Please don’t actively campaign, as opposed to really firm no talking rules.

The Speaker:
- Maybe a compromise. Members who work for VP’s are students and have a right to express their views. Maybe allow them a leave of absence. It’s been done in other student unions.

Max Holmes:
- Not allowing staff members to submit complaints? I would say everyone should be allowed to submit. If you notice something unfair, you shouldn’t be prevented from submitting.

Kathleen Simpson:
- I wonder what Council thinks about extending this ban to all Councillors as well.

Dupreez Smith:
- Our council (in Kinesiology) discussed whether to endorse and decided not to, but individuals could say whatever they wanted.
Veronica Knott:
  • I agree that Councillors should not be involved either, but my main concern is about staff.
  • The Elections Committee is sometimes seen working in close quarters with the Executive and Executive staff members.
  • If staff or Execs use power or influence …
  • Does it look bad if all complaints from staff are being accepted?
  • We have to remember the influence we have.
  • The Elections Committee is so closely linked, and paid by the AMS.

Max Holmes:
  • To check this a little, we added two poll clerks to the Elections Committee this year. They don’t work in the AMS office at all.
  • The Elections Committee is pretty separated from the Society.
  • I might know the staff, but others on the committee don’t.

U) Submissions:

  AMS Ad Hoc Committee on Constituency Relationships Final Report [SCD179-17]
  AMS Services Review – Final Report [SCD180-17]

V) Next Meeting:

  Next Meeting: March 15, 2017

W) Adjournment:

  There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

X) Social Activity:

  • Pit Night
# March 1, 2017 Attendance

The Alma Mater Society of U.B.C. Vancouver – Student Council Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Present</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdul Alnaar</td>
<td>Speaker of Council</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ava Nasiri</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha So</td>
<td>VP Academic</td>
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<td>Chris Scott</td>
<td>VP Administration</td>
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<td>Kathleen Simpson</td>
<td>VP External Affairs</td>
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<td>Louis Retief</td>
<td>VP Finance</td>
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<td>Karianne Howarth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elise Mance</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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<td>Christopher Hakim</td>
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<td>Suyesha Dutta</td>
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<td>Lian Simpson</td>
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<td>Jeanie Malone</td>
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<td>Rachel Chew</td>
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<td>Daud Akhtar</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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</table>
V1: Agenda

V2: BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the recommendation of the Executive Committee Council authorize the use of the Student Services in the campaign for the referendums being held March 6-10

V3: Call To Question

V4: Council directs Governance Committee to standardize Constituency Elections dates and timelines.

V5: Motion 5- Ad hoc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>V1</th>
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<td>Samantha So</td>
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BoG 1 vacant
Veronica Knott Y Y Y Y
Brian Cho Y Y
Commerce Commerce 2
Namdar Shafiei
Jeanie Malone Y Y Y Y Y
Jakob Gattinger Y A Y Y Y
Jamiu Abdsalami Y Y Y Y Y
Sumal Thalagala Y Y Y N Y
Jakob Gattinger Y Y
Keskine Owusu-Poku
Mackenzie Lockhart A A A A A
GSS 4 vacant
Bradley Balaton Y Y Y A Y
Omar Alomeir
Dupreez Smith Y Y Y Y Y
Gloria Sun Y Y Y Y
Law Vacant
Library Vacant
Daud Akhtar
Karianne Howarth Y Y Y Y Y
Nursing Vacant
Planning Clicker
Simon Qi Y Y
Mitchell Ferreria
Diane Nguyen Y Y Y Y
Jeffrey Pea Y Y Y Y Y
Hannah Xiao Y Y Y Y Y
Lorenzo Lindo Y Y Y Y Y
Noah Bayless
Daniel Lam Y Y Y Y Y
Ian Sapollnik Y Y Y Y Y
Roberto DeSandoli Y Y Y Y Y
Louis Retief
Daniel Gao
Taranjit Singh
Jennifer Zhen Y Y N N Y
Rachel Chew Y Y Y Y Y
Ryan Kamimura Y Y N N Y
Armin Rezaiean-Asel Y Y Y Y Y
Kiara Scott Y Y Y Y