STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

Guests: Jude Crasta (AMS AVP External), Pierre Cenerelli (AMS Gov’t Relations), Saarah Ghazi (Assistant to the AMS President), Jake Mullan (PCRA/RHA), Kathleen Simpson (AMS Clubs Administrator), Joshua Sunga (AMS President’s Special Projects Assistant), Jacob Helliwell (MNP), Griffin Legrander (student), Neal Yonson (GSS Government Relations), Stephen Abosi (ISA), Sareena Mohamed (Engineering), Kavi Toor (UBC Athletics), Mike Tan (UBC Athletics), Josh Bokor (AMS Art Gallery Commissioner), Abby Blinch (AMS Communications), Rae Barilea (AMS), Jovana Vranic (Ubyssey), Veronika Bondarenko (Ubyssey), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (AMS Admin)

A) Call to order and adoption of the agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

1. MOVED PAUL McDADe, SECONDED GURVIR SANGHA:

“Be it resolved that in accordance with Code Section III, Article 1(25), Council not have roll call votes during the meeting unless by a request of a member of Council to the Speaker.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

- Tobias Friedel: Why?
- Speaker: The old software won’t work, and the new software is not ready.
- Gurvir Sangha: Can you give us an update on the new voting software (from eScribe)?
- Tanner Bokor: I’ve spoken to them about compensation for the delay. They agree that it’s been an unusually long implementation.

2. MOVED PAUL McDADe, SECONDED GURVIR SANGHA:

“Be it resolved that in accordance with Code Section III, Article 1(25), Council not have roll call votes during the meeting unless by a request of a member of Council to the Speaker.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... No objections

3. MOVED JOSHUA GALBRAITH, SECONDED ALEXANDRA LEE MANN:

“That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

4. MOVED JOSHUA GALBRAITH, SECONDED MARJAN HATAI:

“That the agenda be amended as follows:
• Add appointment motions for the Wesbrook Scholarship Committee
• Add two motions from Oversight
• Move governance audit after the presentation
• Move the budget motion

... No objections

5. MOVED JOSHUA GALBRAITH, SECONDED ALEXANDRA LEE MANN:

“That the agenda be adopted as amended.”

... Carried

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

Welcome to our new Members: Shelly Sharma (Education)

Vacancies on Council: Audiology, Dentistry, Journalism, Population & Public Health, Social Work, St. Mark’s

Good-byes: Elaine Kuo (Education)

C) Speaker’s Business & Land Acknowledgement (5 minutes):

• Speaker: It’s okay to criticize, but personal attacks will not be entertained.

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

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

**Athletics Planning – Kavi Toor & Mike Tan (UBC Athletics & Recreation)**

[SCD298-15]

Kavi Toor:

• Update on new athletic facilities and master planning exercises as part of the 20-year capital plan.
• War Memorial Gym and Thunderbird Stadium are well past their life cycle.
• New facilities coming: new Aquatic Centre, Field House, indoor Baseball Training Centre.
• Future needs assessment: addressing aging infrastructure. Looking at funding models, partnerships.

Mike Tan:

• Programs to drive facilities.
• 23,000 unique students use our programs.
• Our goal is to engage students.
• Looking to complete the assessment in a couple of months.

Kavi Toor:

• Preliminary findings: Need a fitness centre, gym space, space for competitive clubs.
• Key questions: Who is not participating? What can we do to engage more students?
Questions

- Tanner Bokor: What are your funding sources?
- Kavi Toor: We’re looking to identify the priorities and then look at funding. We want to raise the profile.

Sustainability Report – Chiyi Tam

- Our last presentation was on our annual priorities.
- There were four goals, but we’ve gone way beyond that and have a great many projects going on:
  - Expanding the composting program; we have several tens of thousands of worms at the SUB. Have ordered an InVessel composter.
  - Sustainability Centre in the New SUB: consulting on what to use it for.
  - Hired two composting coordinators. May be able to sell the compost.
  - Building Energy Monitors: That will be in the new building next door.
  - Sustainable packaging at food outlets: Very far along on this. Eco-to-go; 100% Oceanwise with QR tracking. It’s written into our leases. We’re working with Food & Beverage.
  - Looking into heating patios in a sustainable way.
  - Local, fair trade coffee.
  - Looking into preservation workshops.
  - Looking into canning berries.
  - Looking into a sustainable food truck.
  - Four pieces of art with sustainability themes for the New SUB.
  - A rooftop garden in the New SUB.
  - Working with Divest UBC.
  - Waterfillz stations: they’re controversial, but we have them. Working to see how to use them.
  - New projects for New SUB:
    - Pedal power
    - Bike parking study
    - Envisioning the club lounges in the New SUB

Questions

- Marjan Hatai: Will there be recyclable containers for sushi?
- Chiyi Tam: There already are. In the New SUB definitely.
- Tobias Friedel: What about compostable plastic solutions?
- Chiyi Tam: Anything if left long enough can be composted, but we’re not going to pursue that.
- Shelly Sharma asked about QR tracking.
- Chiyi Tam: We don’t have to pay; we’re a start-up.

Oversight – Veronica Knott

- Council passed a motion directing the Oversight Committee to do an overhaul, originally for September, then postponed until February. But there is too much work for us to do both the overhaul and support the Executives. Perhaps it would be best to add this to the Governance Review or create an ad hoc committee to do it.
- Currently we deal with three sorts of complaints against the Executives:
  - Breach of duties, which we investigate.
Harassment, which goes to the AMS Ombudsperson.
Performance complaints: that’s less punishment, more a learning experience.

- This year’s PAI review will culminate in a final report on April 29.
- This year we want to add in summaries on Executive achievements.
- We also want to give the Executive the ability to update their goals.

6. MOVED AARON BAILEY, SECONDED NILOUFAR KESHMIRI:

“That the presentation be extended by five minutes.”

… No objections

Veronica Knott (continued):

- There was talk of having Executives appeal to Oversight, but we think it should be to Council.
- Everything works with what is in Code now, except the timelines.

Questions

- Aaron Bailey: How would you address complaints that cross boundaries?
- Veronica Knott: Harassment goes to Ombuds. Any mix of 1 and 3 is misconduct that we would look at.
- Aaron Bailey: What if it’s misconduct and harassment?
- Veronica Knott: We would address each complaint on a case-by-case basis.
- Aaron Bailey asked about the subjectivity involved in distinguishing between partially and mostly met goals.
- Veronica Knott: There is subjectivity in the whole process. We’ve done our best to mitigate it.

7. MOVED AARON BAILEY, SECONDED TOBIAS FRIEDEL:

“That the question period be extended by five minutes.”

… No objections

- Mohamed Shaaban asked about “partially and fully met” goals and whether the distinction has to do with the metrics.
- Veronica Knott: No, there are sub-targets within goals. That will help.
- Mohamed Shaaban: Does this take into account larger and smaller goals?
- Tobias Friedel: A larger goal comes with more sub-goals.
- Veronica Knott: The system isn’t perfect.
- Niloufar Keshmiri: Why remove the two outliers in evaluating? Did you consider other ways?
- Tobias Friedel: We juggled a few ideas.
- Aaron Bailey asked about the anonymity of complaints and what staff resources there were besides the Ombudsperson.
- Veronica Knott:
  - We would respect anonymity, but would have to address it on a case-by-case basis.
  - Re staff resources: There could be conflict of interest if we involve staff. That will obviously also be case by case.
**Build AMS Governance Review – Tanner Bokor, Josh Sunga, Ross Horton**  
[SCD301-15]

Tanner Bokor:
- This is the project I’m most proud of.
- In the past there was the 1994-95 CORP Report, which looked into the AMS structure. We implemented 75% of its recommendations (the Resource Groups and the Services come from that).
- There was also a 2009 committee review, which established the current committees. And in 2012 Robocom brought about a business reorganization.
- Meanwhile Code and Bylaws have been amended in pieces over the years.
- There are structural problems remaining, so what to do? How do we fulfill our mission in the 21st century?
- The plan is to start by conducting a governance review, both internal and external (hiring a consultant).
- We’re looking to best practices, flexibility and efficiency; reducing bureaucracy and red tape.
- We’ll work in tandem with the AMS 2030 Strategic Plan.

Ross Horton:
- We’ve made a lot of changes to the organization in the last six or seven years, but we haven’t looked at the Society as a whole, so we have a structure that really doesn’t function very well.

Tanner Bokor:
- BAGB supports this process, and we’ve spoken to Jenna at LPC.
- It will be similar to how CORP was done in 1994.
- The idea is to rebuild from the ground up.

Josh Sunga:
- We chose MNP as the external consultant because of cost and also because they have the most extensive experience and are based in Vancouver.

Tanner Bokor (after introducing Jacob Helliwell from MNP):
- Cost: $36,000. Not cheap, but we’ll get a bang for our buck. And we had set aside $38,000 for consulting in the budget.
- There will be another cost of $6,615 to market this to students, and $1,200 for Food and Beverage for consultation days.
- The timeline is October 2014 – January 2015.

Questions:
- Ayush Datta asked for details about the consultation.
- Jacob Helliwell: This will be finalized in discussions.
- Tanner Bokor: The goal is to speak to the Executive, Council, staff.
- Jude Crasta asked about the other consulting firms.
- Tanner Bokor: They were more expensive and with less experience or not locally based.
- Ayush Datta asked about Oversight.
- Veronica Knott: Oversight is part of our governance.
- Niloufar Keshmiri: The timeline seems very rushed.
• Josh Sunga: It’s tentative; we will have to revise the schedule.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: But you still see a January 30 finishing date?
• Josh Sunga: Yes.

**New SUB Update – Ava Nasiri**

Schedule:
• Delayed due to the number of changes and the process of construction. The team has had to ask for clarification from the designer. This is still ongoing.
• The fins for the Nest within the Nest need to be finished before we can get safety approval.
• We met all the stakeholders last week and got a revised design this week, but there will be no completion until the end of December.
• Millwork is stretched the most.
• Everyone is working very hard, doing their best, but change orders keep coming in.

Finances:
• Finance meeting tomorrow.
• Need $600,000 for Bird (the construction company) for the extra number of months.
• Some things depend on the renovation of this building (the old SUB, which is going to become UBC’s Life Building). The Life Building Project is now on hold, which is not the best of news. We had $750,000 in shared costs which are now on pause.
• We may have to increase our loan or cut programs. It’s a delicate balance.
• We’re looking at keeping more AMS spaces where they are: less building of new things.

Questions
• Tobias Friedel: Who will pay the costs associated with the delays? Some were not caused by unforeseeable things. Someone must have miscalculated. Where were mistakes made?
• Ava Nasiri: This is difficult to determine. People are pointing fingers at each other. We get told things can be done in six weeks, then it turns out they can’t. We’ve been billed extra by architects for spending time correcting things.
• Marjan Hatai: We’re paying designers extra money because what they designed didn’t work?
• Ava Nasiri: Yes.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: Are there any guarantees to students booking the New SUB?
• Ava Nasiri: We’re working on accommodating them. If they booked the Great Hall in the New SUB, maybe they can use the Old SUB Ballroom. As to tenants, Business Operations is working with them.
• Gurvir Sangha: Are there legal options?
• Tanner Bokor: These are the same questions the Executive has asked. The architects point their fingers back at you. Granted, the AMS asked for changes too. It’s legally difficult, so we’re not pursuing that.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: Have there been financial damages sought from us?
• Tanner Bokor: No.
O) Committee Motions:

8. MOVED BAHAREH JOKAR, SECONDED TANNER BOKOR: [SCD303-15]

“That Council approve the budget for the Governance Audit as presented and amend the AMS Budget accordingly.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds
Note: This has been passed by Budget Committee

- Tanner Bokor: The average cost for a consultation including an external consultant is $55,000 to $56,000. Budget Committee raised concerns over that; we put forward a cap of $35,000 plus funding for marketing and food.
- Cole Leonoff: This has never been brought to Council before. An RFP was put out without deciding whether we want to do this. Unfortunately, MNP has put in all this work before we decided we want to do this.
- Chris Roach: The Budget Committee reviewed the process that produced the amount, but the majority of the committee opposed the project. We agreed that the AMS could use a review, but now is not a good time for that. We’re moving to a new building, we’re drafting a new strategic plan: our purpose and vision could change. It would be improper to put $40,000 to this now. It’s a great idea for two years from now. We could do an internal review first.
- Tanner Bokor: The idea was to do the review in tandem with the strategic plan, and it’s connected to opening the new building. We want this in place first. An internal review is problematic; we do so many things in isolation, creating patchwork.
- Ava Nasiri: Josh’s job description went to LPC and Council. Council should have been fully aware of this project.
- Niloufar Keshmiri:
  - The idea is good, but the timing is poor. The Society Act is under review, and that could affect us. The January 30 deadline won’t allow us to take that into account. In another five years we’d have to do it again.
  - The AMS report that was submitted to us was unprofessional, though the MNP report was great. The timeline is out of date. If we’re looking to fundamentally revise our society, then we need something better than this.
- Shelly Sharma: I agree with not doing this now. Will there be additional costs if it takes more time?
- Tanner Bokor:
  - No, just extra hours.
  - I take exception to the description of our report.
  - And this did not appear here overnight. It’s been discussed by staff and the Executive. It’s one of my PAI goals. It was in my ternary report. Perhaps I should have come to Council, but it was in the ternary and my goals.
- Chris Roach:
  - I knew there was a review in the works, but I never saw details till the proposal came to Budget Committee.
  - I think we should look into things internally.
  - The GSS did an external review a few years ago, and for $30,000 we got nothing that students couldn’t have done.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: Nowhere in your PAI goals did you say this was an external consultation. I thought it meant an internal review, not necessarily involving an external consultant.
• Tobias Friedel: The governance review has been mentioned a few times, but it was never made explicit that it would be an external review.
• Veronica Knott: I support an external review because students are swamped. An Oversight overhaul is needed, but has been pushed back because students don’t have the time. An external review might be beneficial.

9. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED TOBIAS FRIEDEL:

“That motions 3 and 4 (the current motion and one to hire MNP as the consultant) be deferred to a future Council meeting.”

• Tanner Bokor: I’m going to take this back and think about it. There are process issues.
• Chris Roach: It’s not so much about process. People are either for or against. We should just vote the proposals down. Something can be brought back later.
• Bahareh Jokar: I think there is merit in giving Tanner more time.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: If we have already put so much work into this, why can’t we address the issues now?
• Jenna Omassi: This probably should have come to Council first. Council hasn’t properly heard about this. Postponing allows Council to look and comment.
• Gurvir Sangha: We should wait for the Society Act review.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: What are the implications for MNP?
• Tanner Bokor: We did tell them that our Board might postpone. They said they’re fine with that.

10. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED TOBIAS FRIEDEL:

“That motions 3 and 4 (the current motion and one to hire MNP as the consultant) be deferred to a future Council meeting.”

… Carried

E) Appointments

11. MOVED LIAM REEVE, SECONDED ALEXANDRA LEE MANN:

“That ______ (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the Premier & Undergraduate Wesbrook Scholarship committee effective immediately.”
Nominees: Jenna Omassi (Arts), Anne Kessler (VP Academic)
Chosen: Jenna Omassi

“That ______ (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the Oversight Committee effective immediately for a period ending at a Council meeting in April 2015.”
Nominees: Lauren Telford (Commerce), Aaron Bailey (Senate) – Aaron Bailey withdrew
“That _____ (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the Student Administrative Commission effective immediately for a period ending April 30, 2015."
Nominee: Saniel Chand (Arts)

12. MOVED LIAM REEVE, SECONDED ALEXANDRA LEE MANN:

“That Jenna Omassi (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the Premier & Undergraduate Wesbrook Scholarship committee effective immediately."

“That Lauren Telford (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the Oversight Committee effective immediately for a period ending at a Council meeting in April 2015.”

“That Saniel Chand (1 x Councillor) be appointed to the Student Administrative Commission effective immediately for a period ending April 30, 2015.”
... Carried
Mohamed Shaaban abstained

F) President’s Remarks (5 minutes):

President – Tanner Bokor:
- A moment of silence for the shooting in Ottawa.
- And we lost one of our AMS staff members, Michelle Macatangay, who died this month. There was a service yesterday attended by a great many of our staff.
- TransLink Compass Program: we have a date now for rollout. Check their website for the announcement.
- Tuition: Meeting with President Gupta and the Board Chair.
- Equity Review going on concerning the creation of a new Equity Office.
- New SUB conversations.
- Everything else is in my ternary report.

H) Executive Remarks (3 minutes each):

VP Finance – Mateusz Miadlikowski
- Read my ternary report.
- Finance Commission approved loans.
- Over 400 applicants for subsidies.
- Interviewing for a Funds and Grant Commissioner.

VP Administration – Ava Nasiri
- Tours of New SUB being conducted.
- SAC:
  o Hired Clubs Management Research Associate.
  o Office spaces finalized.
  o Highlighted club: Older Wiser Learners (OWL) aimed at students over 65 (but arms open to others).
  o Grad Class Council.
  o New committees meeting:
    - First Year Inter-Constituency Committee
    - Dance Club Committee
Inter-campus Cultural Committee.
  o Guidebook of tips for clubs being drafted.
  • Art Gallery: Finishing restoration of Lionel Thomas piece.
  • Equity Commissioner: Equity Training workshop.
  • Meetings on tuition and housing issues.

VP External – Bahareh Jokar
  • It’s been a rough couple of weeks. I’d like to thank the permanent staff, especially the ladies at the front desk, who are under-appreciated and do so much for us.
  • Outreach AMS is up and running.
  • Get on Board forum.
  • Municipal Elections: the ABCS created a video.

I) Committee Reports (5 minutes each):

University & External Relations Committee – Tobias Friedel
  • Looked at the proposed Policy on Policies.
  • Looking into the idea of creating Position Statements for short-term goals as an alternative to long-term policies.
  • Divestment Policy (fossil fuels).
  • UBC’s Policy 69.
  • The Life Building and the tall wood building.
  • Tuition and consultation policies.

Student Life & Communications Committee – Serena Ng
  • Collaborating with Events.
  • All Presidents Dinner may be postponed until the end of February.
  • Faculty Cup end of January.
    o Jason Quach: UBC Storms Thunderbird: from the Pit to the basketball game.

Legislative Procedures Committee – Jenna Omassi
  • Recruiting students.
  • Cheque signing policy.
  • In camera code.
  • Policy on Policies.
  • Conflict of Interest.
  • Speaker’s Powers.
  • Student emails.

Education Committee – Armin Rezaiean-Asel
  • Tuition increases: academic implications.
  • Mid-course evaluations.
  • Policy 69.

Budget Committee – Chris Roach
  • In accordance with Code, announcing open spots on BAGB.
Executive Committee – Tanner Bokor
  • Our meetings are open. Councillors are welcome.

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

Arts – Jenna Omassi
  • Council retreat.
  • Halloween Party.
  • Coffee hAUS.
  • Working with ISA on public education.

Land & Food – Tiffany Dinh
  • Food drive.
  • Wednesday night dinner.
  • LFS swag.
  • Beer garden.

Kinesiology – Jason Quach
  • Kin alum panel.
  • Boat cruise.

Education – Shelly Sharma
  • Pop-up shops selling clothes.
  • Western conference.

Science – Carmen Wong
  • Peer advising training.
  • Club grants.
  • Looking into new server.

Regent College – Joshua Galbraith
  • Council retreat.
  • Cookie day.

Library/Archival – Abeer Siddiqui
  • Our director’s term is ending.

Commerce – Niloufar Keshmiri
  • Elected first year reps
  • Sustainability conference.
  • National Strategy Consulting Conference.
  • Board approved $40,000 for National Investment and Banking Conference.
  • Ski trip.
  • POITS.
  • Movember team.
  • Transportation and logistics.

Forestry – Riley Fisher
  • No report.
Engineering – Veronica Knott
- Oktoberfest.
- Paintball.
- Halloves Eve: events all next week.
- Running club.
- Movember campaign.
- MOOSTACULAR
- Tuition consultation process.

GSS – Colúm Connolly
- 21 new people on our Board.
- No more slates in our elections.
- Music conference.
- Submission on Society Act.

Architecture/Landscape Architecture (SALA) – Brandon Parker
- Overhaul of Environmental Design program.
- Grad trip to Portland.
- SALA-ween event.

Medicine – Steven Pi
- No real updates.

Music – Jaelem Bhate
- Discussion on tuition.
- Winter formal.
- Showing support for BC Council on Arts.
- Music funding Town Hall.

K) Board of Governors, Senate, and Ombudsperson Reports (2 minutes each):

Board of Governors – Chris Roach
- No report.

Senate – Aaron Bailey
- Chris Roach substituted for Arvind Gupta, presiding over the last Senate meeting: it was the shortest meeting ever (35 minutes).
- Shift in Faculty of Medicine curriculum: towards more case-based learning.

Ombudsperson
- No report.

L) Minutes of Council and Committees of Council:

13. MOVED TOBIAS FRIEDEL, SECONDED PAUL McDADE:

“That the following minutes be accepted as presented:

AMS Executive Committee minutes dated October 3, 2014 [SCD304-15]
M) Executive Committee Motions:

14. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED MARJAN HATAI:

From the Executive Committee
“Be it resolved that Council establish the Build AMS Committee, charged with the responsibility of spearheading a governance review process for the Society.

Be it further resolved that the committee have the following composition:

a. A chair appointed from within the committee’s membership.
b. Two members of the Executive Committee, as designated by the Executive Committee.
c. Three Councillors appointed by Council, including one member of the Legislative Procedures Committee.
d. Three Students-at-Large.
e. The Archivist and Clerk of Council, who shall be non-voting.
f. The General Manager, who shall be non-voting.
g. The Executive Director, who shall be non-voting.

Be it further resolved that the Committee have the following terms of reference:

a. review and summarize the activities of the Alma Mater Society;
b. review and evaluate:
   i. the administrative structure reporting to the Student Council, including subsidiary organizations, services, governance, businesses, and administration;
   ii. the Committee structure within the Society, and the actual student involvement therein;
   iii. the Society’s support structure available to student volunteers;
   iv. the Society’s support structure for advocacy within and outside the University; and
   v. the Executive structure.
c. recommend to Council any necessary and expedient changes to improve the effectiveness, productivity, and direct student involvement of the aforesaid structures in the Society;
d. suggest to Council any changes which may be incidental or conducive to the above recommendations; and
e. engage members of the Society to encourage them to take an active role in the governance review process.
Be it further resolved that the Committee be discharged on 30 April 2015, or once all activities of the Committee are completed, whichever is sooner."

- Tanner Bokor: The composition is similar to the old CORP committee. That's the precedent for creating a committee to discuss options and bring forward recommendations about the structure of the society. It will meet about once a month.
- Niloufar Keshmiri: Given that we postponed the previous motions about an external review, should we be going ahead with this?
- Tanner Bokor: This committee is probably the best tool to answer the questions raised in our discussions earlier tonight.
- Jenna Omassi: This looks at the whole process. It can be Step One.

15. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED MARJAN HATAI:

From the Executive Committee

"Be it resolved that Council establish the Build AMS Committee, charged with the responsibility of spearheading a governance review process for the Society.

Be it further resolved that the committee have the following composition:

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e. The Archivist and Clerk of Council, who shall be non-voting.

f. The General Manager, who shall be non-voting.

g. The Executive Director, who shall be non-voting.

Be it further resolved that the Committee have the following terms of reference:

a. review and summarize the activities of the Alma Mater Society;

b. review and evaluate:

   i. the administrative structure reporting to the Student Council, including subsidiary organizations, services, governance, businesses, and administration;

   ii. the Committee structure within the Society, and the actual student involvement therein;

   iii. the Society's support structure available to student volunteers;

   iv. the Society's support structure for advocacy within and outside the University; and

   v. the Executive structure.

c. recommend to Council any necessary and expedient changes to improve the effectiveness, productivity, and direct student involvement of the aforesaid structures in the Society;

d. suggest to Council any changes which may be incidental or conducive to the above recommendations; and
e. engage members of the Society to encourage them to take an active role in the governance review process.

Be it further resolved that the Committee be discharged on 30 April 2015, or once all activities of the Committee are completed, whichever is sooner.” … Carried

N) Constituency and Affiliate Motions:

O) Committee Motions:

16. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED AARON BAILEY: [SCD312-15]

From the Legislative Procedures Committee

“That Council adopt the report of the Legislative Procedures Committee entitled ‘Code Changes 2014: Recruiting Students At Large/Executives on Committees’ and thus amend the Code as recommended.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

- Jenna Omassi: We were already looking at recruiting and advertising for members at large. Then we were asked to look at the nominating process and the issue of whether students should be limited to applying for only one committee. We’ve aimed here for accessibility but also ensuring that things are done better.
- Colúm Connolly: Restricting students to applying for only one committee is a drastic change.
- Niloufar Keshmiri: Letting them apply for only one committee is a little limiting.
- Paul McDade: It’s one committee per student only if they don’t come to the Council meeting. If you come to the meeting and don’t get the committee you want, then you can apply to be on another. This will work better than trying to do rankings.
- Jenna Omassi: Council tasked LPC with doing a better job for nominations. We’re encouraging students to come, but will allow them to apply online. However, if they apply online, then they can only apply for one committee. That’s because of the logistical problems when we set up a spreadsheet of applicants who weren’t at the meeting.
- Joshua Galbraith: If 20 people apply online, there still seems limited time at the Council meeting to read through the applications.
- Jenna Omassi: We will get those beforehand, hopefully.
- Tobias Friedel: If you don’t get the committee you want, you may not be able to apply for another you want; it depends on the order in which appointments are done.
- Jenna Omassi: If we have enough students, we won’t be looking at students’ second choices. Students can’t sit on two committees.
- Tobias Friedel: If I don’t get Educom, I might want to run for Unecorn.
- Jenna Omassi: That’s not how we do it.
- Cole Leonoff: The process is incredibly burdensome for Council, and rushed. Have we considered using a Nomination Committee process?
- Paul McDade: LPC chose not to pursue that option.
Jenna Omassi: The general consensus was that using a Nominating Committee would mean taking power away from Council. It would mean filtering out of applications, taking away from Council’s ability to do the appointing.

Cole Leonoff: But the quality of the decision-making might make this limitation on democratic processes worth it.

Mohamed Shaaban: If there are more spots than students who want them, how do we address that?

Paul McDade: LPC did discuss this. We realized that people in attendance might not want to run for the committees that still had positions open. But we saw inefficiency if we allowed people not attending to send in multiple choices that we would have to go through.

Tanner Bokor: As one pushing for a Nominating Committee as the best practice, I support the idea of vetting candidates. Perhaps we could use the Agenda Committee for that. I don’t advocate failing this Code amendment; it includes many good things. But I’d like it on record that this part of it is against best practice.

Niloufar Keshmiri: If the aim is efficiency, the least efficient thing is to have students attend. If applications are submitted online, they can be read beforehand and Council could vote online. Take the whole process online.

Ava Nasiri: When we have students at large actually here, they tend to be picked over the online applicants. When the ad is put online, students can be told it’s in their interest to attend: people making the effort to attend are usually viewed favourably.

Paul McDade:
  o Some people are focusing on efficiency, others on trying to get people to come to Council. LPC’s first priority was to get students to represent themselves. This was not about efficiency. But beyond that we do want to be efficient. The two aims are not in conflict. LPC thought this proposal was the best of both worlds.
  o Pre-screening by Council was never brought up at LPC, and a nominating committee wasn’t where we wanted to go: it would have limited Council’s involvement by letting a committee screen out applicants that Council might want to look at.

Jenna Omassi: We wanted to encourage attendance; wanted students who would show commitment. But if Council wants to send this back to LPC, then we need to ensure that Councillors show up at LPC with alternative ideas.

Tobias Friedel: I want a fair process for everyone. It shouldn’t be a two-stream process where people who attend have a better chance. Council pre-screening online may be something LPC could address.

17. MOVED TOBIAS FRIEDEL, SECONDED MOHAMED SHAABAN:

“That this motion be referred to the Legislative Procedures Committee to discuss the pre-screening option.”

Ava Nasiri: I would recommend not deferring, but if it does go back to committee, express all the ideas you want LPC to mull over now or come to the LPC meeting.

Ayush Dhatta: It’s not worth the time and effort to send this back.
• Paul McDade: Council pre-screening in practice is no different from Council voting on candidates. As long as the information is sent out beforehand, it shouldn’t make a difference. If there are no other new ideas than that, then LPC will probably just come back with the same thing.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: Doing a pre-screening would help us evaluate the merits of the candidates. That would save Council’s time. Would LPC be opposed to considering that?
• Tobias Friedel: Council pre-screening is not the same as voting at Council. The option of applying to several committees at once should not be off the table.

18. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED ALEXANDRA LEE MANN:

“That the question be called on the motion to refer.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

… Carried

19. MOVED TOBIAS FRIEDEL, SECONDED MOHAMED SHAABAN:

“That this motion be referred to the Legislative Procedures Committee to discuss the pre-screening option.”

… Defeated

20. MOVED CHRIS ROACH, SECONDED MOHAMED SHAABAN:

“That the question be called on the main motion.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

… Carried

21. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED AARON BAILEY:

From the Legislative Procedures Committee

“That Council adopt the report of the Legislative Procedures Committee entitled ‘Code Changes 2014: Recruiting Students At Large/Executives on Committees’ and thus amend the Code as recommended.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

… Carried

22. MOVED MOHAMED SHAABAN:

“That the agenda be amended to add a motion directing LPC to address the possibility of creating a nominating committee.”

• The Speaker ruled this out of order on the grounds that LPC had discussed this already, but said it could be brought forward at a future Council meeting.

23. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED AARON BAILEY: [SCD313-15]

From the Legislative Procedures Committee
"That Council adopt the report of the Legislative Procedures Committee entitled ‘Code Changes 2014: In Camera Rules’ and thus amend the Code as recommended."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

- Jenna Omassi: We were directed to look at the rules about voting in camera because of an inconsistency. This resolves the inconsistency.

24. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED AARON BAILEY:

From the Legislative Procedures Committee
"That Council adopt the report of the Legislative Procedures Committee entitled ‘Code Changes 2014: In Camera Rules’ and thus amend the Code as recommended."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

25. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED TANNER BOKOR: [SCD314-15]

From the Legislative Procedures Committee
"That Council rescind the previous Cheque Signing Policy (passed November 15, 2006 and amended October 13, 2010) and replace it with the new Cheque Signing Policy as presented."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

- Paul McDade: All that’s been changed is adapting to the format of the upcoming Policy on Policies. The old policy already allowed for using electronic and facsimile signing of cheques if they’re less than $350.
- Tobias Friedel: Is the new format not in contradiction to the Code?
- Sheldon Goldfarb: Good point. We should wait until we adopt the new format and other new rules (on expiry dates and so forth).

26. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED TOBIAS FRIEDEL:

"That the motion be postponed to the next meeting."

- Tobias Friedel: What if the Policy on Policies, with the new rules, is not passed at the next Council meeting?
- Jenna Omassi: I expect it to be passed.
- The Speaker: If not, it can always be postponed again.

27. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED TOBIAS FRIEDEL:

"That the motion be postponed to the next meeting."

... No objections
28. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED TANNER BOKOR:

From the Legislative Procedures Committee
“That Council rescind the previous Cheque Signing Policy (passed November 15, 2006 and amended October 13, 2010) and replace it with the new Cheque Signing Policy as presented.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

… Postponed

29. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED TANNER BOKOR:

“That Council direct LPC to review Code around the Oversight timeline.”

- Veronica Knott: Turnover changed. This Code should reflect that.

30. MOVED VERONICA KNOTT, SECONDED TANNER BOKOR:

“That Council direct LPC to review Code around the Oversight timeline.”

… No objections

P) Commission Minutes, Reports and Motions:

31. MOVED AVA NASIRI, SECONDED PAUL McDADE:

“That the following minutes be accepted as presented:

SAC minutes dated October 2, 2014 [SCD315-15]

… No objections

Q) Other Business and Notice of Motions:

R) Discussion Period

Tuition and Housing
- Tobias Friedel: I was asked to raise the question of whether Council would see value in holding a referendum on the tuition and housing increases.
- Lauren Telford: What sort of questions would these be?
- Tobias Friedel: The referendum last January was very general; it did not include action items. One proposal is to tailor something to the current situation.
- Aaron Bailey: How would the timeline of such a referendum fit with the timing of the next Board of Governors meeting in November?
- Tobias Friedel: If there was a referendum call, the vote would have to take place between 10 and 30 days later, and I think the BoG meeting is actually in December. So that timeline fits.
- Niloufar Keshmiri: Is this a referendum Council would call? Is this something the AMS would take a position on?
• Tobias Friedel: Our bylaws provide for two ways of calling a referendum.
• The Speaker: Do you expect Council to take a position?
• Tobias Friedel: If it so chooses.
• Marjan Hatai: Would this be mostly about housing since we had one on tuition in January?
• Bahareh Jokar: The purpose would be to provide clarification on the tuition question. It's difficult for Unicorn to advocate for reduced tuition. A new referendum could provide some context.
• Ava Nasiri: I assume this is checking the temperature in the room.
• Paul McDade: A referendum is to change bylaws or direct Council to take a position on something. In this case, Council has already taken a position in line with the students. We could do a referendum just to check, but I'm not sure it's worth it financially.
• Mohamed Shaaban: The referendum already said what to do on tuition. Would a new referendum override a previous one?
• The Speaker: There's no mechanism to override. You'd have two questions with two answers.
• Mohamed Shaaban: So if we'd like to override, we'd have to explicitly say so.
• The Speaker: Yes, you'd have to allude to the previous question in this one.
• Jenna Omassi: Asking us to discuss a referendum question without knowing what the question is will just produce a circular discussion.
• Tobias Friedel: These were the questions brought to me as something to bring up:
  o Should the AMS oppose the proposed increases in international student fees?
  o Does the student body empower the AMS to negotiate for all funds from the increases to be used for financial assistance?
  o Should the Board of Governors approve or object to the increases?

32. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED COLÚM CONNOLLY:

"That the meeting be extended for one hour (till 11:08 pm)." ... Carried

• Tobias Friedel: As to Council having already done this, our tuition motion last time was flawed because it used such specific numbers.
• Tanner Bokor:
  o The Academic Experience Survey (AES) asked questions about the referendum. We could rely on that information even before the AES is complete.
  o We can't throw caution to the winds in developing our strategy. We've been a bit rushed. We need to breathe and hash things out calmly and seriously.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: We can't discuss this until we know what the referendum questions are.

I Am A Student
• Jenna Omassi:
  o Where does the AMS stand in relation to the I Am A Student movement?
The AMS partially funded the I AM A Student General Assembly yesterday, but this did not come to Council; we didn’t look at the budget; we incurred a liability. Our Executives were putting working hours into this.

- Last week we voted to oppose the increases, but the Executives haven’t expressed this.
- Are we going to be with this movement or support in spirit while speaking separately and not budgeting for it?

- Mohamed Shaaban: I think this concern is irrelevant because it addresses problems with the motions from last time. We didn’t say how the Executive should oppose the increases. Funding the movement could be seen as fulfilling the motion.

- Ayush Dhatta: We can’t say we had no connection to the movement; we gave them space for the General Assembly.

- Aaron Bailey:
  - There are two directives guiding us: the referendum and the potentially flawed motion passed last time. The method the Executive has chosen is within those.
  - And as Ayush said, the General Assembly was to provide space for the students to come together to consider proposals to be voted on at the AGM.
  - Is providing that space outside the mandate of the AMS?

- Jude Crasta: I AM A Student is a student movement not the student movement. The blame is on us for not having a strategy. We don’t know what most of the students think. As to funding, the Resource Groups receive funding from students, and there’s a lot of contention on how they spend their money.

- Tanner Bokor:
  - Here are the issues:
    - What is Council’s strategy on this?
    - Are we looking to support other groups?
    - What should Executive messaging be?
  - We’re seeing a bit of a fracture here; we need to find a constructive way to go forward.
  - We need to go back to ground zero, do consultations, work out a strategy so that at meetings with the University we can show a united front.

- Aaron Bailey: Are you just referring to Council?

- Tanner Bokor: Constituencies, Clubs, Resource Groups.

- Ava Nasiri:
  - We have an AGM next Tuesday that could discuss these issues.
  - The Resource Groups have autonomy to control their budgets; they’re somewhat removed from the AMS for advocacy.
  - Is it a major concern that Executives spend time on the I AM A Student Movement?

- Veronica Knott: I’m concerned that, without meeting with Oversight, the Executive has decided to shift goals. Affected parties said they didn’t want the goals shifted, but the goals still shifted.

- Colúm Connolly: There was a meeting on Monday. Some Constituency Presidents said they had concerns about the direction being taken, and Executives continued in that direction. It’s too bad that we’re just talking now about strategy and that this had to be brought up in Discussion Period.
• Aaron Bailey: Who was invited to that meeting?
• Jenna Omassi: Constituency Presidents, AMS Execs, GSS Execs.
• Aaron Bailey: Was this a strategy meeting about how to talk to the University or on how the AMS might develop a strategy to address the issue overall?
• Colum Connolly: It holistically touched on all those points.
• Paul McDade:
  o Although the AMS is required to represent the students, we’re not required to support all student initiatives.
  o I want to express my concern that the Executive was not clearly letting the University Administration know that the AMS is opposed to the increases.
  o There was a suggestion that we go back to ground zero even though we have no time to do that.
  o We can’t keep sitting on our hands.
  o There was a meeting to decide the strategy of the AMS. This was not brought forward to the AMS Board of Directors (i.e., AMS Council). I would like to see this strategy document.
• Victoria Knott: It outlines our strategy and if it goes public, then it means nothing.
• Tanner Bokor: It was only drafted on Sunday. It’s just a draft.
• Paul McDade: It was sent to some Councillors and not others.
• Veronica Knott: As to funding of the General Assembly, it’s a grey area on who paid. Are we supporting that event? The Social Justice Centre is saying we’re directing nothing, but we funded this meeting. We’re in between. Are we going to support the General Assembly? Everyone is getting mad at us. There’s a protest coming on Friday.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: Lack of transparency is the issue. Can we decide what we want to do?
• Tobias Friedel: We need to find common ground and base our actions on what we can agree on. We do need to accept that Executives are students as well and can volunteer their time and should be free to do so unless they’re breaking AMS policies.
• Bahareh Jokar: One student leader said they were not able to bring forward what they wanted to bring forward. We count on this body to give direction and support us. Do we want to go in camera or appoint a committee?

33. MOVED TOBIAS FRIEDEL, SECONDED BAHAREH JOKAR, THIRDED GURVIR SANGHA:

  “That the meeting enter an in camera session.”

The Speaker declared himself in a conflict of interest because he is also an employee of the University.

The chair was passed to Tanner Bokor.

The meeting went in camera.

Council briefly came out of camera for the following motion:

34. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED NILOUFAR KESHMIRI:
“That the meeting be extended until midnight.”

… Carried

35. MOVED AARON BAILEY, SECONDED NILOUFAR KESHMIRI:

“That Code be suspended to allow those in a conflict of interest to take part in debate.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

- Aaron Bailey: The conflict of interest rules would bar the majority of us from speaking or even staying if we go back in camera.
- Jenna Omassi: Council could invite people to stay.
- Tobias Friedel: Would GSS reps have to leave?
- The Chair (Tanner Bokor) said no.
- Aaron Bailey: Would anyone in housing this year or next (and affected by the price increases) or employed by the University have to leave?
- Tanner Bokor: No.
- Sheldon Goldfarb read out the conflict of interest rules from the Code.

36. MOVED AVA NASIRI, SECONDED NILOUFAR KESHMIRI:

“That the question be called.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

… Carried

37. MOVED AARON BAILEY, SECONDED NILOUFAR KESHMIRI:

“That Code be suspended to allow those in a conflict of interest to take part in debate.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

… Defeated

38. MOVED TOBIAS FRIEDEL, SECONDED ARMIN REZAEIAN-ASEL, THIRDED LIAM REEVE:

“That Council go in camera.”

Council went in camera again at 10:47 pm.

The meeting left the in camera session at 10:53 pm.

S) Submissions:

Student Life Committee – October Report [SCD316-15]
Second ternary Report – President [SCD318-15]
Second ternary Report - VP Admin [SCD319-15]

T) Next Meeting:

AGM October 28th
Next Meeting: November 5, 2014

U) Adjournment:

39. MOVED COLÚM CONNOLLY, SECONDED VERONICA KNOTT:

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 pm.

S) Social Activity:
# October 22, 2014 Attendance

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

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