C) **Presentations to Council**

**Vancouver School of Economics Undergraduate Society (VSEUS) – Viet Vu and Logan Graham**

- The old Department of Economics became the Vancouver School of Economics, with a new degree program, a large student body, and a new building.
- We want to package an exceptional undergraduate experience into a Constituency.
- We have a established a governing body, attracted interest, and drafted a constitution and a code with your help.
- In January we decided to become a Constituency. We consulted with the AMS and the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS). There was some miscommunication, so we have done more consultation to fix things.
- We had elections; also a fee referendum in which 90% of the voters were in favour (17% of those eligible voted).
- The fee will be $25, indexed to CPI.
- One issue we found is that there are no standard rules or procedures around creating a Constituency.
- We thus consulted a wide range of people in the AMS and also the AUS President.
- The old Economics Students Association (ESA), which was for any students interested in Economics even if not enrolled in Economics, is not functioning this year, but hopefully will return next year.
- Question of when to start the new Constituency: now or later (in September).
- There are valid concerns about resources and partnerships.
- We think it’s best to start now; otherwise we will spend the first term of next year training instead of providing the exceptional services we want to provide to students.
- If we develop our infrastructure this summer, we can establish ourselves for next term.

**Questions**

- Andrea Palmer: Now you can go ahead and work out common ground, so why negotiate at this meeting?
  - Viet Vu: The main issue was the fee deadline: we need to get it to the Board of Governors. We went over the constitution yesterday.
- Veronica Knott asked about students who move into Economics after their first two years: will they be switching Constituencies?
  - [The answer was yes.]
- Veronica Knott: How will you tell them they’re switching? And what if someone runs for the AUS, then switches to VSEUS?
  - Viet Vu: This situation is not new. It happens in Architecture and with students who switch their Faculty or School. We’ve been discussing with the AUS. The AUS has provisions for honorary members.
- Jenna Omassi: What about combined Majors?
  - Viet Vu: They would be in VSE.
Chris Roach: If you use the summer to build up your organization administratively and financially, you still won't receive fees till October. How will you run September activities?
Viet Vu: There was a huge surplus in the ESA which we hope to transfer to VSEUS. In order to do that, we need a solid fee structure and budget.
Chris Roach: The new BIE (Bachelor of International Economics) program is cut and dried, but are Economics Majors going to be in VSEUS or the AUS?
Tanner Bokor: That decision has already been made by the Senate. BA's in Economics and BIE's are in the VSE. Council can't change that.

3. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED VERONICA KNOTT:

“That the question period be extended by 10 minutes.” … No objections

Ava Nasiri: The ESA is a club open to non-Economics students. ESA funds may be from non-VSEUS students. This may raise some concerns.
Niloufar Keshmiri: What communication has there been to students about services?
Viet Vu: There were several rounds of communications.
Niloufar Keshmiri: Were they told they would be losing access to Arts services?
Viet Vu: Yes.
Sebastian Silley asked for details about the consultation process.
Viet Vu: We held a consultation session in March which was attended by 12-15 students. That was the only formal one, but we had many informal ones. We received a lot of feedback.
Marjan Hatai: How many students voted?
Viet Vu: 124.
Marjan Hatai: And you sent email to whom?
Viet Vu: We had email access to Majors, Honours, and BIE students throughout the School. There were 18 candidates for the Executive positions.
Logan Graham: There were discussions in classes as well.
Jason Quach: What concerns were brought up in the consultation process?
Viet Vu: Mostly there were questions about space, but we now have a building and an agreement to have student space.

K) Constituency and Affiliate Motions:

4. MOVED ARMIN REZAIEAN-ASEL, SECONDED BRANDON PARKER: [SCD062-15]

From the Vancouver School of Economics Undergraduate Society
“That Council recognize the Vancouver School of Economics Undergraduate Society as a Constituency.”

Viet Vu: We’ve done the presentation. At this moment we think it would be in the best interests of the student body to approve this now so we can have the summer to build partnerships.
5. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED BRANDON PARKER:

“That the motion be postponed until the first meeting in September.”

- Jenna Omassi (AUS President):
  - There are still quite a few questions. Changes are still being made to the VSEUS constitution and code, even in the last few days.
  - Economics students are currently provided services by the AUS.
  - We have a responsibility to make sure that those students are going to an undergraduate society that is ready for them.
  - We’re happy to work with VSEUS over the summer to fix all these questions.
- Logan Graham: If we wait till September, there will be a lot more uncertainty for us. It will mean postponing providing services until next year.
- Paul McDade: There are still things in the constitution and code that need to be changed. We really shouldn’t rush this. This is not just about this year.
- Andrea Palmer: If we pass this motion, are we approving the constitution as well?
- Tanner Bokor: By default, yes.
- Sheldon Goldfarb: Council can change a Constituency’s constitution at any time.
- Chris Roach: Constituting this organization is arguably one of the most important things this Council does. And what services are we talking about?
- Jenna Omassi: After the latest version of the constitution that Council saw, the provision for honorary members was struck; there were some corrections made. These were not passed by the VSEUS council, so they weren’t sent to you. As to services, we are reaching out to the students to make sure they get the services they want. We are getting the fees; transferring them later (to VSEUS) by MoU would not be a problem.
- Chris Roach: So there is still code work to be done, and the AUS is saying they’d like to invite VSEUS to run joint September activities together after working together in the summer, and then transfer the fees.
- Sebastian Silley: To pass this now is rushing the process, and there’s no reason to rush. We shouldn’t hang students out to dry by sending them to a new Constituency without answers to these questions.
- Viet Vu: The latest approved code was passed at a council meeting. Over the summer we have experienced ESA members working on projects: operationally we are ready. We are capable and experienced, and doing what Economics students want.
- Paul McDade: This is the second time you’ve come to us and said we have a new version of the constitution that Council hasn’t seen. If we could see the constitution, we’d be more likely to say yes.
- Daniel Levangie: Why September and not August?
- Jenna Omassi: September gives us time to run Frosh.
- Tanner Bokor:
  - The AMS bylaws say Council is to recognize Constituencies but includes no procedures.
  - Both parties – the AUS and VSEUS – have done their best. The question is what is best for all UBC students.
  - There’s a right of Economics students to have a Constituency.
o Was there proper consultation?
  o The ESA is not functioning, and there’s a danger of VSEUS losing momentum.
  o What path has the least risk?

- Chris Roach: I see a lot of the concerns, but if I was starting an organization could I not get a loan from the AMS? I don’t want momentum to falter; I’m looking for an assurance from the AUS that this won’t fall off the radar.
- Jenna Omassi: My Executive is on board. We’re ready to see this flourish; we just want to make sure it’s done in the right way.
- Chris Roach: Would such an arrangement allow VSEUS to proceed?
- Viet Vu: One of the things with Frosh: BIE students have got together to plan their own Frosh. They are a separate program. By allowing us to become a Constituency we would be able to communicate more easily.
- Chris Roach: Neither extreme is ideal. Is there some way to meet in the middle?
- Logan Graham: One disadvantage to not being a Constituency now is that we’d have to do negotiating in September. Now we’re just the ESA under the AUS. The best would be if we can function as a Constituency and communicate as such. We want to work with the AUS; we’re best able to do that as VSEUS. It’s best not to make Economics students face a transition process in September.
- Cole Leonoff asked about the power to expel members in the VSEUS constitution.
- Viet Vu: It’s the same as in the Science constitution.
- Paul McDade: That’s true.
- Cole Leonoff: We haven’t been shown the most recent version of the code and constitution. There are things that need to be done before we can grant recognition.
- Ava Nasiri: Are we willing to recognize VSEUS with autonomy but not as a full constituency?
- Viet Vu: Miscommunication has been a concern. There was no procedure. By approving and putting a VSEUS rep on Council who will be accountable, an accountability framework would be created.
- Anne Kessler: I don’t see why you couldn’t still do Frosh: The AUS could give the ESA $10,000 to run a Frosh. If I were an Economics student, what would I want for the fall? Because the AUS has been around, they have bursaries and all sorts of things. There’s an advantage leaving that in place till fall.
- Sebastian Silley:
  o Viet came to me in January when I was AUS President. The plan was for us to work on things over Term 2 and summer.
  o But then two months later they came to Council without further consultation.
  o This should definitely happen: VSEUS should become a Constituency. But I don’t think it should happen tonight. Things need to be ironed out. Passing this tonight is irresponsible. We don’t even have an up-to-date constitution.
- Logan Graham: We did our best to consult, and came back with something and looked for feedback. This procedure has never happened before.
• Bahareh Jokar: If we approve VSEUS tonight. what means would there be to ensure they are ready for September?
• Jenna Omassi: The first thing we asked is what would be the relationship between VSEUS and Arts. They’ll be their own independent society. Once that happens, we can help them with planning, but only in a mentorship role. We would not be providing resources. They would not be our students.
• Viet Vu: We’ll work together either way. We’re at a unique point where we can create our own identity.
• Sebastian Silley: I see some sort of committee being formed. Up to now it’s been just random meetings. We need a cohesive group.
• Veronica Knott: If Council passes policy on creating Constituencies, will they have to follow that?
• Sheldon Goldfarb: If Council creates policy, that is what would have to be followed.
• Niloufar Keshmiri: The constitution and code are not ready; these are huge issues.
• Mateusz Miadlikowski: Where will VSEUS get its money from? Fees only come through in October. How would you do a Frosh in September?
• Viet Vu: We’ve been talking about sources of funding.

6. MOVED MARJAN HATAI, SECONDED SERENA NG:

“That the question be called.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds … Carried

For (26): Jojo Das (proxy for Mohamed Shaaban), Tiffany Dinh, Nick Echeverria, Marjan Hatai, Niloufar Keshmiri, Anne Kessler, Alina Khakhuda, Veronica Knott, Elaine Kuo, Alexandra Lee Mann, Cole Leonoff, Paul McDade, Mateusz Miadlikowski, Maria Mohan, Serena Ng, Jenna Omassi, Andrea Palmer, Brandon Parker, Steven Pi, Armin Rezaiean-Asel, Christopher Roach, Gurvir Sangha, Sebastian Silley (proxy for Harsev Oshan), Lauren Telford, Carmen Wong, Michael Wynne

Against (3): Jaelem Bhate, Tanner Bokor, Vyas Saran

Abstained: Jason Quach

7. MOVED JENNA OMASSI, SECONDED BRANDON PARKER:

“That the motion be postponed until the first meeting in September.”

… Carried unanimously

For (28): Graham Beales, Jaelem Bhate, Jojo Das (proxy for Mohamed Shaaban), Tiffany Dinh, Nick Echeverria, Marjan Hatai, Niloufar Keshmiri, Anne Kessler, Veronica Knott, Elaine Kuo, Alexandra Lee Mann, Cole Leonoff, Paul McDade, Mateusz Miadlikowski, Maria Mohan, Serena Ng, Jenna Omassi, Andrea Palmer, Brandon Parker, Steven Pi, Armin Rezaiean-
Asel, Christopher Roach, Gurvir Sangha, Vyas Saran, Sebastian Silley (proxy for Harsev Oshan), Lauren Telford, Carmen Wong, Michael Wynne

8. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED CHRIS ROACH:

“That the agenda be amended to add a motion directing the AUS to work with VSEUS to create the new Constituency and transfer money to VSEUS.”

- Anne Kessler: The Arts reps have left. Can we still proceed?
- Sheldon Goldfarb: There’s no rule against it.

9. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED CHRIS ROACH:

“That the agenda be amended to add a motion directing the AUS to work with VSEUS to create the new Constituency and transfer money to VSEUS.”

... Carried unanimously

For (25): Graham Beales, Jaelem Bhate, Tanner Bokor, Jojo Das (proxy for Mohamed Shaaban), Tiffany Dinh, Nick Echeverria, Marjan Hatai, Bahareh Jokar, Niloufar Keshmiri, Anne Kessler, Alina Khakhuda, Veronica Knott, Elaine Kuo, Cole Leonoff, Mateusz Miadlikowski, Serena Ng, Andrea Palmer, Steven Pi, Armin Rezaiean-Asel, Christopher Roach, Gurvir Sangha, Vyas Saran, Lauren Telford, Carmen Wong, Michael Wynne

10. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED NICK ECHEVERRIA:

“Be it resolved that Council mandate the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) to create an exploratory committee to assist in the creation of a separate constituency for the students of the Vancouver School of Economics with representation from the AMS and the Economics Students Association (ESA).

Be it further resolved that Council direct the AUS to transfer the amount of $25 per registered BA student pursuing a degree in Economics and those students pursuing a BIE to the Economics Students Association.

Be it further resolved that Council direct SAC to call an election for the ESA for the ESA executive as dictated in the constitution of the ESA.”

- Tanner Bokor: This is just codifying what the AUS reps said they’d like to go ahead with to make sure we don’t lose momentum.
- Chris Roach: I have an issue with the second clause. Make it $13, not $25, to match the AUS fee. There’s still an issue with giving it to the ESA: how can it later be transferred to VSEUS?

11. MOVED CHRIS ROACH, SECONDED ARMIN REZAIEAN-ASEL:

“That the motion be amended to change $25 to $13.”

- Chris Roach: We should only be directing Arts to give the amount they collect, not the amount VSEUS will collect.
12. MOVED CHRIS ROACH, SECONDED ARMIN REZAIEAN-ASEL:

“That the motion be amended to change $25 to $13.”

... No objections

13. MOVED ANNE KESSLER, SECONDED TIFFANY DINH:

“That the second clause be struck.”

- Anne Kessler: When would the fees be transferred? This hasn’t been talked about in detail. I’d like to talk about it with the AUS and VSEUS.
- Viet Vu: The second clause does raise lots of questions, so I support striking it.
- Niloufar Keshmiri: We should be telling Arts not to spend that money; it should be sectioned off in the budget for VSEUS.
- Graham Beales: Who is paying for Frosh? If Arts does that and then gives up all the money …
- Viet Vu: The BIE is planning to self-fund their Frosh by charging for it.

14. MOVED ANNE KESSLER, SECONDED TIFFANY DINH:

“That the second clause be struck.”

... No objections

15. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED NICK ECHEVERRIA:

“Be it resolved that Council mandate the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) to create an exploratory committee to assist in the creation of a separate constituency for the students of the Vancouver School of Economics with representation from the AMS and the Economics Students Association (ESA).

Be it further resolved that Council direct SAC to call an election for the ESA for the ESA executive as dictated in the constitution of the ESA.”

- Andrea Palmer: Should there be an LPC rep on the committee?

16. MOVED CHRIS ROACH, SECONDED CARMEN WONG:

“That the first clause be amended to mandate both the AUS and the ESA to create a joint committee.”

... No objections

17. MOVED TANNER BOKOR, SECONDED NICK ECHEVERRIA:

“Be it resolved that Council mandate the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) and the Economics Students Association (ESA) to create an exploratory committee to assist in the creation of a separate constituency for the students of the Vancouver School of Economics with representation from the AMS.

Be it further resolved that Council direct SAC to call an election for the ESA for the ESA executive as dictated in the constitution of the ESA.”

... Carried unanimously
For (24): Graham Beales, Jaelem Bhate, Tanner Bokor, Jojo Das (proxy for Mohamed Shaaban), Tiffany Dinh, Nick Echeverria, Marjan Hatai, Bahareh Jokar, Niloufar Keshmiri, Anne Kessler, Alina Khakhuda, Veronica Knott, Elaine Kuo, Cole Leonoff, Paul McDade, Mateusz Miadlikowski, Serena Ng, Andrea Palmer, Steven Pi, Christopher Roach, Gurvir Sangha, Lauren Telford, Carmen Wong, Michael Wynne

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

Access AMS – Tanner Bokor [SCD063-15]

- Working on transparency, especially in connection with the move to the New SUB.
- Want to follow our Mission Statement and be democratic and fair.
- This means Open Government, being accountable and transparent, improving public participation and engagement.
- Governments around the world are pursuing this principle.
- The idea is to provide our original documents in an easy to read fashion while still adhering to legal restrictions, privacy laws, etc.
- We need technology and resources to achieve this.
- Are we open now? No. Our technology can’t search easily.
- We have some policies around records and access, but not enough.
- There are technological challenges and policy issues.
- AMS membership is compulsory; we act as a quasi-government and service provider.
- We’re going through our greatest re-imagining ever.
- We have so much history and research, but are not making it all available.
- We should be on the cutting edge.
- So I’m proposing Access AMS to open the AMS.
- Aiming for a May 25 strategy document, then submission to Council in late June for a July start.

Questions

- Michael Wynne asked for details about the technology.
- Tanner Bokor: Looking into a number of solutions, including a product called Laserfiche for archival uploading and creating a public portal. Also something for email archiving and financial reporting.
- Niloufar Keshmiri: Is the timeline long enough?
- Tanner Bokor: It’s true there’s no rush.
- Alina Khakhuda asked about cost and wondered if students would really want to look at all the AMS documents.
- Tanner Bokor: It won’t be cheap. In part we will look at how time is spent by current staff, but there will also be a capital contribution. But I think the benefits outweigh the expense.
- Cole Leonoff: This would be useful for the Constituencies as well.
- Tanner Bokor: This would not just be for AMS Central.
- Jude Crasta: Would this be integrated with the AMS online presence?
- Tanner Bokor: We’re looking to integrate with our website.