Attendance
Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President, by phone), Max Holmes (VP Academic, left 2:40), Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance, arrived 2:16), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Sally Lin (VP External), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

Agenda
- The agenda was approved (Max, Pooja).

Minutes
- The minutes of November 22 were approved (Sally, Max).
- The minutes of November 15 were approved (Max, Pooja).

GSS
- Max:
  - Upcoming referendum about the GSS relationship with the AMS: about whether their members remain AMS members.
  - Hoping we can form a group on this.
  - The GSS has its own committee.
- Pooja: The Steering Committee?
- Alan: The Steering Committee will only be functioning the way it says in Code due to concerns raised by Councillors.
- Max:
  - I’d suggest a group consisting of six members, three from the AMS and three from the GSS.
  - It will have no power to decide, but will discuss issues and how to move forward.
  - It can then make recommendations and submit a report.
  - I see three core issues:
    - Advocacy
    - Business and Finance
Services
  o There are also other things, including events and clubs.
  o The group could meet over the next four months.
  o I see two meetings on each core issue, then two general meetings.
  o It won’t be a formal body.
  o I would suggest that I be the AMS person in the group to discuss advocacy and that Keith be named for business and Marium for services.
  o The GSS would choose its own members, preferably an Executive, a permanent manager, and a student manager.
  o Haven’t spoken to the GSS about this yet.
  o There would be six core members, but on specific issues others (subject matter experts) might attend: Sally on advocacy, Pooja on clubs. And the President for the general meetings.
  o The group could put together a document for next year’s Executive to help prepare them for the referendum.
  o Originally we thought the GSS referendum would be in March, but it’s been delayed to the fall.

• Alan: The group should be informal. I’m not sure it makes sense to be a formal committee of Council.
• Max:
  o Yes, we want to allow flexibility.
  o And the report would go just to next year’s Executive, who can decide what to do with it.

[Alim arrives.]

• Max:
  o This group would not have power, would not be an official working group.
  o It would start in January and meet twice a month.
  o Final report by end of April.
• Alan: The consensus seems to be that we go forward on this.
• Sally:
  o I’d like to discuss the scope of the conversation.
  o Hoping Execs will have an opportunity to give feedback.
  o If conversations don’t go well, will we have communications with the GSS?
  o If their referendum passes, how will that affect things like the U-Pass?
• Alan:
  o First their referendum would have to pass. Then we can discuss what that means:
    ▪ Does that change our bylaws?
    ▪ Does it mandate us to run a referendum to change our bylaws?
It would probably give us a year or 18 months to take effect, for things like the U-Pass and the Health and Dental Plan.

- Sally: So it’s something to discuss after their referendum.

Goal updates

- Alan:
  - Athletics and Recreation: communicating with the University.
  - Looking to do things to better support you.
- Max:
  - We need to do a report in January on the $21 athletics and intramurals fee.
  - Let’s discuss this next week.
- Marium:
  - Data collection system approved by Council, and work has started with the Services; then will act on your recommendations beyond the Services.
  - Quick chat with Louise Cowin (UBC VP Students) about Safewalk money.
  - UBC Security Director coming?
    - Keith: Yes, January 2.
  - How do we reimagine Services and wellness and the relationship between UBC Wellness and AMS Wellness?
- Max:
  - Discussing Policy 73 (on accommodation for accessibility for students with disabilities) with the VP Students.
  - Presentation to the Teaching and Learning Committee on Open Educational Resources: hopefully bringing a textbook heat map to compare the cost of degrees.
  - Strategic Plan moving forward.
  - Need to start talking about referendums and the issue of storing data outside Canada.
    - Sheldon: We’re allowed to do that.
- Pooja:
  - Clubs & Societies is discussing departmental clubs and others that don’t meet regular club requirements for elections.
  - Old SUB: 95% of the way to knowing how much over we will be. It has decreased.
  - Art Gallery: looking at goals.
  - SEEDS projects: facing some financial issues.
    - Alim and Pooja to discuss this offline.
  - Nest animation: Finally found someone to make proposals for designs outside the Pit.
- Alim:
  - Draft of MoU with Shoppers done.
US bank card on its way.
Fee restructure: spoke to former VP Finance Elin Tayyar.
Empower Me: Met Sophia Haque of studentcare to discuss the program.

[Max leaves.]

• Sally:
  Survey on U-Pass by BC Stats: we’re a stakeholder and can contribute in the
discussion of themes and questions.
  Survey by Stats Canada and the Ministry of Women on non-criminal sexual
violence on post-secondary campuses. We’re a stakeholder for that as part of
the UCRU (Undergraduates at Canadian Research-Intensive Universities).
  Rent with Rights doing well. May hold a joint event with the Student Legal Fund
Society.
  Receiving feedback on information on AMS student services provided to the
government.
  The UCRU is looking at a potential petition on international students.

• Keith:
  Everything going really well.
  We’re $484,000 ahead of budget.
  The Porch opened to good reviews and is doing well.

• Sheldon:
  There’s a book launch on Monday.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.