

ACRONYMS

**[presentation by Sheldon Goldfarb, Clerk of Council,
June 3, 2015]**

This is actually a two-part presentation: first a song and then a fairy tale. It all goes back a couple of years, to 2013, when Caroline Wong, the AMS President at the time, asked me to give a presentation to Council about acronyms.

Acronyms, I thought: what an exciting topic. But if the President asked for it, I would do it, and I thought the best way might be in song. I remembered the old Periodic Table song of chemical elements: "There's hydrogen and helium and oxygen and nitrogen" – that one.

I thought, well, maybe I could do something similar. In fact, I thought, why don't I just steal the whole idea and set the AMS acronyms to the same tune as in the Elements song? Tom Lehrer, who created that song, couldn't really complain because he stole the tune himself from Gilbert and Sullivan; it was the Major-General's song in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Anyway, without further ado here is my version:

There's UBC and VOC and VST and Robocom
And CUS and AUS and GSS and Educom
There's ESP and SRC and SOL and AGM
And F&B and UAC and IPF and VFM.

There's ISA and LPC and CVC and Photosoc
And UNA and UEL and OCP and Aquasoc
There's SUS and SUDS and AVP
And MoU and SRC
And SAC and CORP and SLC
And maybe even Fillimsoc

There's GAP and DAP and CFS
And CASA and SLCC
And SUB and SEEDS and AMS
And also MASS and PSP
There's BAGB and CiTR
And Metro and GVRD
And Rec and SASC and Unecorn
And also WOW and TRC.

These are the only acronyms that I could fit onto this screen
There may be many others, but I think I've picked the carcass clean.

And now the fairy tale.

Once upon a time a tired **Unecorn** thought it should say its prayers, so it decided to go to **MASS**; but on the way it decided to **SUS** out what had happened to the **ACF**.

First it asked the **SEEDS**, but they didn't know. Then it wandered into a **BoG**, but no one could help it there.

"Perhaps they know at the **AMS**," someone said, so the Unecorn wandered over to the **SUB**, but there was nobody there. "This is the **Old SUB**," somebody finally said. "You want the New **SUB**."

"Oh, it's not called that," said someone from **COMMS**. "It's the **AMS Student Nest**." So the Unicorn went there, and found that people were very excited, but still no one could answer its question, so it thought it might give up and just go drown its sorrows in a **MUG** full of **SUDS**. "I'll go to the Pit," it said.

But the Pit wasn't open, and it suddenly felt very tired, and decided to hit the **SAC**. And it fell asleep and dreamed of going to an **AGM** to talk about **Aquasoc** or **Photosoc**. Then the dream turned troubling; it found itself falling into a deep **GAP**, which made it feel it should go to **SASC**. **SASC** cheered it up again and it felt so positive it decided to apply for an **IPF** grant to do something fun: advocating for a change in **SOL** rules.

When it awoke, it found it had grown so **old** it would have to become a grad student and join the **GSS**. But on the way to the **GSS** building it met someone who said they had the power to interpret dreams.

"You must have **ESP**," said the Unecorn.

"Better than that. I *am* an **ESP**, and I can tell you that the most practical thing for you to do is become a **DAP** student."

So the Unecorn headed to Sauder. But before it could get there it fell into another deep sleep and dreamed of crimes and thought it should consult the **CSI** or at least **Educom** or **LPC**. Or maybe **SLCC**.

"Or maybe," it thought, "I should apply to get some money from **CPAC**."

"It's called Student Spaces now," said someone. "No, no," said someone else, the chair of **Fincom**, "it's **CPF**, but you can't use it for dreams: maybe for software."

So the Unecorn walked sadly away, thinking perhaps it should just go watch a movie put on by **Filmsoc** in the **Norm**. But on the way it saw **people with signs**.

“What’s going on?” it asked.

“It’s the referendum,” said an official looking person who said he was the **EA**. “The **BDS**.”

“What’s that?” said the Unicorn.

“Something to do with boycotting businesses, I think,” said the EA.

“Business,” said the Unicorn. “That’s what I need. Someone to tell me about business.”

“Why, then, what you need is BAGB,” said the EA.

“What’s a BAGB?” said the Unecorn. “I’ve heard of **honey bees and bumble bees**, but a BAGB? A **BAG and a Bee?**”

“No, no,” said the EA, “it’s the **Business and Administration Governance Board**.”

“Oh,” said the Unecorn. “That sounds very intimidating, and why do you call it one thing when its name is really another?”

“Oh, it’s just to make things easier,” said the EA. “But I have to go now. I have a referendum to oversee.”

“It doesn’t seem easier to me,” said the Unecorn, who sat there forlornly waiting for **illumination [picture of light bulb over Unicorn’s head]**.

Then along came a cowboy.

“Who are you?” said the Unicorn.

“I’m the **GM**,” said the cowboy. “Here, read this, and everything will be made clear.”

“**WOW**,” said the Unicorn, and lived happily ever after, reading about **acronyms**.

ACRONYMS

ACF: Arts County Fair

AGM: Annual General Meeting

AMS: Alma Mater Society

Aquasoc: the Aquatic Society, an AMS club which runs the scuba shop

AUS: Arts Undergraduate Society

AVP: Associate Vice-President

BAFCOM: Business and Facilities Committee (defunct AMS standing committee)

BAGB: Business and Administration Governance Board

BCIT: British Columbia Institute of Technology

BoG: Board of Governors

CACUSS – Canadian Association of College and University Student Services

CASA: Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (federal student association AMS used to belong to)

C+CP: Campus and Community Planning (UBC Department)

CFS: Canadian Federation of Students (the other federal student association)

CiTR: the student radio station

Comms: Communications Department

CORP: Committee for Organizational Review & Planning (1994 committee which produced a report that led to major AMS structural reorganization)

CPAC: Capital Projects Acquisition and Construction (old name for the AMS fund now called CPF)

CPF: Capital Projects Fund (new name for what was formerly called CPAC and then the Student Spaces Fund)

CSHG: Canadian Student Horizons Group (group of student societies, including the AMS, which formerly owned part of Travelcuts)

CSI: Centre for Student Involvement and Careers (UBC body)

CUS: Commerce Undergraduate Society

CVC: Chinese Varsity Club

DAP: Diploma in Accounting program

EA: Elections Administrator

EC: Elections Committee

ECSS: Executive Coordinator of Student Services (old name for Student Services Manager)

Educom: the Education Committee (an AMS standing committee)

ESP: Enrollment Services Professional (UBC advisers)

EUS: Engineering Undergraduate Society

F&B: AMS Food and Beverage Department (the Pit, Pie R Squared, etc.)

Filmsoc: AMS Film Society (a club; it shows films in the Norm)

Fincom: the Finance Commission

GAP: Genocide Awareness Project (U.S. anti-abortion group)

GCC: Grad Class Council

GM: General Manager

GSA: Graduate Students Association (old name for the GSS; it currently still exists for certain legal purposes)
 GSS: Graduate Students Society
 GVRD: Greater Vancouver Regional District (the governing body for Greater Vancouver; now called Metro Vancouver)

IPF: Innovative Projects Fund (joint AMS-UBC project funded by AMS)
 ISA: International Students Association (AMS club)

JV: Journal Voucher (used in AMS financial transactions)

LEAP: Learning Enhancement Academic Partnership Program (UBC program)
 LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (rating system for green buildings: LEED Platinum, LEED Gold, etc.)
 LFS: Land and Food Studies (the former Agriculture Undergraduate Society)
 LPC: Legislative Procedures Committee (AMS standing committee)

MASS: Meekison Arts Social Space (AUS social space for Arts students in Buchanan building)
 MOA: Museum of Anthropology
 MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
 MUG leader: My University Group leader (guiding first years through orientations)

NSSE: National Survey of Student Engagement (U.S. survey of universities)

OCP: Official Community Plan (GVRD plan for campus development)

Photosoc: Photo Society (AMS club)
 PSP: Pacific Spirit Place (University-run food court in the old SUB)

REC: UBC Recreation (includes Intramurals)
 Robocom: Restructuring of Business Operations Committee (a defunct ad hoc AMS committee)

SAC: Student Administrative Commission
 SALA: School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
 SASC: Sexual Assault Support Centre
 SEC: Student Environment Centre (an AMS student resource group)
 SEEDS: Social Ecological Economic Development Studies (UBC sustainability program)
 SFU: Simon Fraser University
 SLAIS: School of Library, Archival and Information Studies
 SLC: Student Leadership Conference (annual UBC-AMS conference)
 SLCC: Student Life and Communications Committee
 SLFS: Student Legal Fund Society
 SOL: Special Occasion Licence (for alcohol functions)
 SRC: Student Recreation Centre
 SSM: Student Services Manager
 SUB: Student Union Building (the old building, pre-Nest)
 SUDS: Student Union Development Summit (annual conference at UBC, formerly the Student Union Development Symposium)
 SUS: Science Undergraduate Society

TA: Teaching Assistant

TLEF: Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, a UBC fund

UAC: The old University Athletics Council or the current U-Pass Advisory Committee

UBC: University of British Columbia

UBCO: the Okanagan campus of UBC

UBCSUO: UBC Student Union – Okanagan (the student society at UBCO)

UEL: University Endowment Lands

UNA: University Neighbourhoods Association (non-student residents of campus area)

UNBC: University of Northern British Columbia (Prince George)

Unecorn: University and External Relations Committee (an AMS standing committee)

U-Pass: the universal transit pass for UBC students

UVic: University of Victoria

VFM: Voter-Funded Media (old name for the contest for media covering AMS elections;
now called VoterMedia)

VOC: Varsity Outdoors Club (AMS club)

VST: Vancouver School of Theology, a college affiliated with UBC

WOW: Whistler Orientation Weekend, the old orientation program for new Council
members, commissioners, etc. (held at Whistler Lodge)

WUSC: World University Services of Canada (its UBC branch is an AMS club)