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Question

"Do you support your student union (AMS) in boycotting products and divesting from companies that support Israeli war crimes, illegal occupation and the oppression of Palestinians?"



Facts to Date

- Petition arrived at the AMS at 4:00PM on Thursday, February 26th by Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (UBC)
- Petition was provided to Davis LLP for auditing, result received at 5PM on Wednesday (March 4th)
- Question did not meet the required threshold of 1,000 signatures (994) from Davis.
- Executive Committee met on Monday March 2nd to discuss recommendations



Guiding Questions

- How does this ensure that we're following a fair, transparent, and equal process for our students?
- How does this ensure that we're following our governing documents and purpose?
- How does this ensure that we're being respectful to varying points of view, and encouraging responsible dialogue?



Address Petition Quorum

- Options: Request signatures, validate signatures against audited petition, or request that Council initiate the referendum
- Recommendation: N/A
- Determination on process and validation vs. fairness



Referendum Dates

- Options: Thursday (March 5th – March 12th), Monday (March 16th-20th)
- Recommendation: March 16th-20th
- Rationale: Question received on Friday, audited petition was not received until Wednesday, processes for referendum need to be followed, with a fair period of debate and discussion



Council Position

- Options: Yes stance, No stance, no position (by default)
- Recommendation: Do not endorse either a “Yes” or “No” position.
- Rationale: The AMS should position itself as the facilitator of a fair and equitable process, establishing spaces of respectful and responsible debate.



Student Court

- Options: Submit the question to Student Court for review, do not submit the question for review, submit the question pending result
- Recommendation: Submit the question if the referendum vote passes re. implementation
- Rationale: Student Court is still being established and hired; bylaws are clear on the ability for the question to be voted on as either “Yes” or “No”



Discussion/Debate

- Options: Hold mediated discussions, hold no debates or discussions
- Recommendation: Hold mediated discussions on the topic
- Rationale: The AMS should act as a facilitator of a fair and equitable process, and create spaces for respectful and responsible dialogue.



Project Management

- VP Administration: Responsible for working with the clubs (SPHR, Hillel BC, Israel on Campus), and for the SUB (bookings, postering policies, etc.)
- VP External: Our external face to government, managing relationships municipally, provincially, and federally.
- VP Academic & University Affairs: Managing our relationships with the University, Faculty Association, RCMP, Campus Security, and on campus unions, as well as with the Residence Hall Association
- VP Finance: Responsible for overseeing expenditures for the Yes and No committees, and for the executive/Council on this issue
- President: Traffic control of the various portfolios, communications strategy and plan, media requests, liaising with the Ombudsperson
- Executive Director: Support to all executives and council, and working with other staff to bring in resources to support the work of the society on this issue
- A working group has been established, including key staff and executives to check-in daily on the progress of the campaigning (including the Executive Director, VP Academic, President, VP Admin, and Communications Manager.)
- These meetings will be open to AMS Councilors who wish to attend and express their view points.
- A daily progress report will be sent by the President to the executives and key staff on progress, as well as a regular update email to Council.
- Executive Committee will meet each week to discuss, and this topic will be a standing item on the agenda.

