

Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 20th, 2019

Attendance: Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Priscilla Chan, Brandyn Marx, Michael Dobson, Keith Hester (Managing Director, Non-Voting), Rishav Jasrotia (Financial Systems Administrator)

Guests: Abdul Alnaar (Senior Student Services Manager), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager)

Regrets: Chris Hakim (President), Michelle Marcus, Grace Ji (AVP Finance), Arash Shad-Kam

Recording Secretary: Rishav Jasrotia

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:13pm.

Agenda

Moved by Michael, **Seconded** by Brandyn.

1) SPF Approval

- Custom CNC Saw for Sustainable Wood Processing (\$6500)
 - Lucia: I like the idea but the proposed budget does not add up to the actual budget. We should send the budget back to get clarification.
 - Keith: What happens to the saw after the project is finished?
 - Michael: Might get put in Hennings??
 - Lucia: We will be sending it back then.

- Feeding 9 Billion Challenge (\$4,044)
 - Lucia: I recommended to them last week that they have additional connections to the clubs receiving the prize money. They should find additional funding from other parties.
 - Priscilla: The case competition happened last week.
 - Lucia: If we are unable to fund them then the LFSUS can also fund them (since they are under the LFSUS).
 - Lucia calls for motion to pass \$4044 contingent on the fact they have external support on top of prize money.
 - **Moved** by Brandyn, **Seconded** by Michael

2) SPF Block Approval

- 3D Print Recycler (\$1500)
 - Lucia: I like the 3D Print Recycler.
 - Everyone agrees.
 - **Moved** by Michael and **Seconded** by Brandyn.
 - Approved unanimously.

- Climate Policy Jam
 - Michael: It's a club event. Their numbers don't add up. They have 2 items on their budget and it doesn't add up. Their budget for requested funding is also off.
 - Lucia: SO no funding for the Climate Policy Jam?
 - Brandyn: I'd like to send this back to get more info as their proposal is confusing.
 - Lucia: So send it back and not deny their request.
 - Michael: They are asking for more than they need, as they are asking for more than they budgeted.

3) IT Project Approval

- AMS Tutoring App (\$15,000)
 - Abdul Alnaar and Ian Stone arrive at 3:32pm to present their case for the adoption of the Nimbus app for AMS Tutoring.

Pre-Presentation Discussion:

- Priscilla: CUS does not have any affiliation with Beat your course.
- Ian: BYC is out of UBC, so this is a prime opportunity for tutoring to fill the void they left behind.
- Ian: In the previous year(s), the quality of tutors employed by AMS Tutoring was not the best. We lost a few contracts with the Undergrad society because some tutors were unprofessional and difficult to get a hold of. Marketing and outreach is not the best. Sometimes students wouldn't come so Undergrad Society thought it wasn't the best use of their money. We have been improving the quality of Tutors. We have increased our numbers 20% of extra students compared to last year this time with less tutors. WE have an opportunity to work with the CUS as a few commerce students already use the AMS Tutoring service.

- Presentation Begins:
- Abdul: Present proposal to get additional funding for the Nimbus app for AMS tutoring since we don't have a system yet. Abdul giving a backstory about Helphub (Same as from the IT committee meeting). Nimbus is offering tutoring services. I liked that their team that offers additional support with their own Software developers. Nimbus charges a set amount based on the total number of students ($0.84\$ \times \text{uBC students}$) Helphub was paid by commission, rather than a licencing fee. But companies are moving away from the commission model.

- Michael: Do you see any reason to go with Proov (Other identified Software vendor) rather than Nimbus?
 - Abdul: I was not confident about Proov because of the time difference between Vancouver and Switzerland (Proov is based in Switzerland) to support us. They don't offer 24 hour support. We are not familiar with this product. Mostly used by German and Swiss universities. It was also more expensive. Nimbus also has more features, such as chat, which for Proov was extra. They also didn't have reviews for tutors.
 - Abdul: We usually hire tutors from undergrad who got 90%+ from that course. We have not yet decided how much we are charging students. We still pay tutors \$25/hour but we might charge students \$10 to recover costs for the program. Nimbus also charges 10% service fee (stripe manages credit card transactions (2.9% + \$0.30) remaining 10% goes in a fund for when a lesson cancelled. Stripe payment still goes through so that charge still exists and if a student needs a refund and provide them with extra credit (rare circumstance). So we might charge \$35 for students for an hour of tutoring. The Stripe charger is part of that \$35.
 - Ian: AMS Services are for helping students, not generating revenue. This is not to make money, we could pass costs on to students but it's not ideal because we want to help them.
 - Brandyn: I can see this platform in helping to increase the number of students who use tutoring.
 - Ian: We don't have a good system in managing appointments (use emails currently). With a better system, we can increase capacity and hire more. We might be able to increase revenue.
 - Lucia: Will Payroll be able to handle payroll for extra tutors.
 - Keith: It should be manageable.
 - Lucia: How often will Nimbus deposit money to the AMS.
 - Ian: End of the month.
 - Lucia: Add a clause to the contract that there will be repercussions if money is not sent monthly.
 - Lucia: Council needs to amend the budget because they need to move funds budgeted from Advocacy to Tutoring.
 - Lucia: be it resolved that the fincom amends the budget to move \$15000 budgeted for Advocacy to AMS Tutoring.
 - **Moved** by Brandyn, **Seconded** by Priscilla.
 - Unanimous approval of the council.
- CCTV for Great Hall (\$8,500):
 - Michael: Is the situation that bad that we need extra cameras?
 - Lucia: Yes the great hall was damaged badly recently during an event, so we need the extra security so this doesn't happen in the future.
 - Michael: I would approve.
 - **Moved** by Michael, **Seconded** by Brandyn.
 - Unanimous approval.

4) Quarterly Report

- Corrections in section 2.2 and 3.5 of the Quarterly reports and completing the incomplete sentences.
- The committee would like to formally thank Lucia for all the hard work she put into the quarterly report.
- Lucia: be it resolved that the quarterly report be passed to council with the changes we talked about.
- **Moved** by Michael, **Seconded** by Brandyn.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24pm.