STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

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Guests: Mathew Ho (member at large), Emma Livingstone (Ubyssey), Henry Anderson (Ubyssey), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

B) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Speaker:
- Since we are meeting virtually, some of us may not be on Coast Salish territories.
- I encourage you to reflect on whose territories you’re on.
- Here at UBC we’re on the unceded territories of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓-speaking Musqueam people.
- This should not be a routine, formalistic acknowledgement.
- We need to stand in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples and reflect on the ongoing colonial violence we are very much a part of.

C) Adoption of the agenda:

1. MOVED ALIREZA KAMYABI, SECONDED CHRIS SUNDBY:

“That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

Chris Hakim:
- I’d like us to remove introductions, membership, and declaration of vacancies and add a discussion “Convocation 2020.”

Cole Evans:
- We didn’t publish the link to the meeting.

Chris Hakim
- No. To avoid a logistical nightmare.

The Speaker:
- Can those here share the link?

Chris Hakim:
- Yes, this is a trial run.

Max Holmes:
- Add discussion on remote Council procedures.
2. MOVED ALIREZA KAMYABI, SECONDED CHRIS SUNDBY:

“That the agenda be adopted as amended.”

... Carried

Yes: 22 No: 0 Abstain: 0

D) Speaker’s Business (5 minutes):

The Speaker:
- I want these meetings to be accessible and efficient.
- Share feedback through the chat box or email me.

E) Statements from Students at Large (3 minutes each):

F) Consent Agenda Items

3. MOVED ALIREZA KAMYABI, SECONDED CHRIS SUNDBY:

“That the following consent items be accepted as presented:

- Executive Committee minutes dated March 6, 2020 [SCD344-20]
- Operations Committee minutes February 26, 2020 [SCD345-20]
- Operations committee minutes March 9, 2020 [SCD346-20]

... Carried

Yes: 21 No: 0 Abstain: 0

4. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED CHRIS HAKIM:

“That Council suspend Code Section VI, Article 7(1)(h) to allow postponement of the annual sustainability report until the next meeting of Council.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

Yes: 22 No: 0 Abstain: 0

G) Presentations to Council and Accompanying Motions (10 minutes for presentation, 5 minute ? period):

AMS Peer Support – Ian Stone [SCD347-20]
- Every three years we do a Services Review.
- One recommendation from that is to combine Speakeasy and Vice into one Service.
We looked at what other universities do; went to a conference on services in New Orleans which focused on mental health support.

Vice was the inspiration of a former Speakeasy Coordinator.

So we would create something called AMS Peer Support, with two “branch managers”: one to help survivors, one to do outreach.

This is the SASC model, and it’s worked well for them.

We’re aiming to keep up with the times: Speakeasy started in 1970, and hasn’t made a lot of significant changes since then.

On campus we see new things like the Wellness Centre and Empower Me.

Vice is not great on peer support, Speakeasy not on outreach.

Instead of each trying to develop in those areas, we’ll create a single strong structure.

This will also create cost savings.

We’re going to make sure there’s a quality change by measuring with KPI’s.

We’ve always measured cost per interaction. We’re also going to look at the quality of the interaction.

We’ll collect feedback at the end of interactions.

The Academic Experience Survey has questions asking things like, Are you familiar with Speakeasy?

That would be another KPI: we’ll see if it goes up.

Nothing will be taken away.

Vice had lots of things planned; unfortunately, they’re all cancelled now.

We’ll be adding more things, like online phone support: relevant to this time.

Working with campus partners more.

Want to make sure the AMS is at the forefront of well-being.

Questions
Michelle Marcus:

When will the Services Review be presented?

Ian Stone:

Still being worked on by Abdul.

Definitely before the end of the term.

Keith Hester:

Stage 1 is this presentation.

The full review will be at the next meeting.

Max Holmes:

I’m a little worried about awareness of the name change.

Not clear if the Vice aspect of the new Service will be communicated.

What are you planning to do?

Is there anything else at UBC with a similar name that could cause confusion.
Ian Stone:
- Vice is the second least known Service.
- I think this will help.
- It will take a few years to achieve peak branding.
- But the name change to Peer Support will help.
- It will take time with the new branding.
- We’ve done research, and we don’t see anything else marketed as peer support.
- UBC Wellness has peers, but not Peer Support.

Cristina Ilnitchi:
- Excited about this.
- I’m curious about how involved the Speakeasy and Vice coordinators were in the ideation of this.

Ian Stone:
- We consulted them a lot.
- Been speaking to them for a long time, going back to last term.
- They’re the first ones we spoke to, to see if they were on board.
- We wouldn’t have gone ahead if they were not.
- They’ve been very supportive, seeing this move as a really good way to support more students.
- This is a consultation; we’re looking for feedback.
- We’ll be reaching out to the UBC community.
- This is an ongoing project.

Cole Evans:
- Stats from the Nest Experience Survey back up what Ian is saying:
  - 40% were not familiar with Speakeasy.
  - 65% were not familiar with Vice.
- It’s a good time to do this merger: neither has great brand recognition.
- Combining them will help.

Michelle Marcus:
- Would love to see Peer Support run workshops and group support programs.

H) Consultation Period

I) Appointments

J) President’s Remarks (5 minutes):

Chris Hakim:
- I appreciate all of you coming into this meeting virtually.
- Hope you will have patience with us as we work out the logistics.
- Thanks to all our staff working from home.
• Working on responses to COVID in line with the recommendations of the health authorities.
• Preparing for unexpected costs from COVID.
• Hired new Indigenous Coordinator.
• Met with Hatch staff and the art community about the art collection.
  o After COVID-19, will have further meetings.
• Interviewing for new Student Services Manager.
• Executives are working on their goals.
• The $21 Recreation MoU is coming soon.
• The Ad hoc Council Governance Committee has produced a self-assessment survey for Board members.
• Once again, appreciation for our hardworking staff in these unprecedented times.

Questions
Max Holmes:
• What has the AMS been doing to advocate on an academic/financial response to COVID-19?

Chris Hakim:
• The Executive met to discuss what the University is doing and how we’re working with partners.
• Julia has been very involved with meeting with the Associate Deans and Provost about Credit/D/Fail, withdrawal deadlines, transcript notations, and empathetic concessions.
• Have connected to the VP Students about financial support.
• Lucia will meet with the VP Finance of the University to talk about budgets.

K) Executive Remarks (3 minutes each):

VP Academic & University Affairs – Julia Burnham
• Two weeks of being at home and attending Zoom meetings.
• Meetings with the new VPAUA candidates.
• On Advisory Committee on Reappointment of VP Equity and Inclusion.
• Senate met to pass an emergency motion to move business online.
• Drafting letter about compassionate response to students.
• Right now looking to summer terms.
• Just announced today that Summer Term One will be online.
• Still discussing Credit/D/Fail and Add/Drop deadlines.
• Main point of mine: Maintenance of awards: if a student withdraws, they won’t lose their award.
• Chris and I met with the GSS, the UBC SUO, and the Administration about convocation.
• Policy 131 review committee still meeting.
Questions
Max Holmes:
- What has the AMS done with the Provost’s office about the academic response to COVID-19?
- Have we sent any letters?
- Have we done anything separate from the Student Senate Caucus?
- Has there been adequate consultation?
- Is the AMS advocating for more?

Julia Burnham:
- We discussed this at Exec last Friday.
- Essentially, there’s been no student consultation, but I’m optimistic looking forward.
- More meetings are being set up now.
- People are learning to crisis manage and move forward together.
- I’ve been in close contact with the Provost’s office by email; not official, nothing formal.
- I wear two hats, as VP and also for the Student Senate Caucus.
- Want to ensure students are being cared for.
- We want our students to have choice.
- Also want to make sure residents in UBC residences are being supported.

Alireza Kamyabi:
- Students not taking classes (in co-op or workplaces) are being laid off.
- Grad students’ research has been halted, but they’re still paying fees.
- Will fees be waived?

Julia Burnham:
- There haven’t been any conversations on that.
- Thanks for raising it; will follow up

Mathew Ho:
- What is the University doing about students in residence?

Julia Burnham:
- It’s not the University’s intention to send anyone home from residence.
- We agree with this position.

VP External – Cristina Ilnitchi
- Received a response from the province about the federal economic stimulus package:
  - They added additional aid support: pausing student loan payments for six months.
  - Today support for renters:
    - Ban on evictions.
    - Rent increase freeze.
$500 rent support stipend.

- The AMS has sent multiple emails to government to inform them what students want, presenting our asks.
- We appreciate the government’s work. However, a lot of supports won’t capture all students: not all are eligible for EI.
- Spoke to the provincial government and have been heard.
- Working on a joint letter with UVic and SFU.
- We’re disappointed over the confusion there is for renters.
- The ban on evictions is fantastic, but the $500 stipend is only for those on EI, so we’re focusing on that to ensure students are not falling through the cracks.
- Federally, we congratulated the government via a press release on the student loan interest relief.
- But have to see how the emergency fund will apply to students.
- Will be creating a resource page to tell students what support is available and providing guidance on how to apply for it.
- Equity Plan.
- Anti-sexual violence programs.

**Questions**

Michelle Marcus:

- The government is giving a bailout to the oil and gas industry that could be going to students or building a regenerative economy.
- Money is going to corporations instead of workers or students.
- What is the AMS doing about this?
- Even though the climate strike has been cancelled, we still need to be advocating on these topics.

Cristina Ilnitchi:

- Right now we’re focusing on the short term: access to financial aid and rent support.
- These are the immediate needs of students: job loss, paying their bills.
- But the long-term work is incredibly important, just the conversation is not quite happening yet.
- We will definitely be having these conversations with other student unions: in a week or two from now when we’re not scrambling about eligibility for emergency support.

Mathew Ho:

- Students from other countries: will the AMS be trying to explain to them what supports they are eligible for?

Cristina Ilnitchi:

- Looking specifically at advocacy for international students.
- Visas, work permits.
- Ideating with UCRU.
Creating a Resource Platform to make sure members of the community know what the supports are, telling students how to access the resources.

Max Holmes:
- What is the AMS doing to ensure that universities in BC have the funding they need so they will not have to make spending cuts?

Cristina Ilnitchi:
- Right now we’re focusing on short-term relief.
- But next, in April when doing our provincial advocacy, we will be advocating to support institutions.
- We want to go in with a strong voice about the needs of universities and colleges.

**VP Administration – Cole Evans**
- Nest closed till April 14.
- That’s a preliminary date; we’re not sure about reopening on the 14th.
- This is the most vital time for clubs: renewals. We’ve had to improvise. Still trying to get thing finished on schedule.
- Still figuring out club executives orientation; potentially online.
- Office and locker allocations might be delayed into May.
- Sustainability:
  - Wrapping up year.
  - March report coming next meeting.
  - Also the Action Plan, hopefully.
- The Hatch is closed, but able to do a photo/video project which has been posted digitally.
- The Clubs Resource Centre was doing well before closing.
- Looking at a printer.
- Doing as much as possible to support students.

**Questions**

Alex Gonzalez:
- Have you confirmed what room will be made available for the Senate and BoG reps?
- Will the move-in date be affected?

Cole Evans:
- A popular question.
- Will I follow through on my promise?
- Yes, I will.
- It will be a room on the third floor: 3312.
- A larger corner office on the hallway, with a glass pane.
- Will the move-in be affected?
- Well, there’s a club currently in that space.
- If they can’t move out on time, the move-in will be affected.
In that case, a temporary room will be provided.

Kevin Zhang:
- Since the Nest closed so suddenly, how have communications with Constituencies been affected?
- Was the AUS kept informed?

Cole Evans:
- Sent out multiple communications.
- Constituencies should have received everything sent to the clubs.
- About the building closure, AGM’s, finances.
- But the one for treasurers only went to clubs.
- I can make sure that one goes to the Constituencies.

Max Holmes:
- Most of the profit for Conferences and Catering comes over the summer.
- If that is cancelled, are you going to explore allowing more C&C bookings during the regular school year?

Cole Evans:
- I haven’t talked to Keith and Christine (in C&C) about this yet.
- We need to make sure we are supporting our businesses, but not at the expense of clubs.
- We are looking at C&C diversifying how they get revenue.
- Will look at it this year and next.
- Will support our core values.

VP Finance – Lucia Liang
- Due to coronavirus, everything is online.
- We’re using an e-transfer system.
- Sent out communications to all Constituencies and clubs, and to all students through AMS Communications.
- Showpass is providing refunds for Block Party and club events.
- Meeting with a third party about a mobile platform.
- Meeting with the UBC VP Finance about the budget, discussing the uncertainty of enrollment numbers.

Questions
Mathew Ho:
- As the AUS VP Finance, I can say, yes, I received an email, but the e-transfer systems seems unclear.

Lucia Liang:
- The email included steps to follow.
- The forms are pretty self-explanatory.
- Happy to send out another email blast.
• Didn’t receive much feedback suggesting the form was hard to understand.
• If you have suggestions on how to make it clearer, let me know.

Max Holmes:
• How will all this affect the RFP process for the third party administrator for the Health and Dental Plan?
• How will affect the timeline?
• How will Council be kept up to date?

Lucia Liang:
• The Health and Dental Plan Committee met and plans to update Council next time.

Carmen Kim:
• The Simon Fraser Student Society passed a proposal about emergency bursaries for struggling students.
• Are we considering something similar?

Lucia Liang:
• We are looking into that.

Alireza Kamyabi:
• Are we ensuring that financial assistance applications are being processed and payments being made?

Lucia Liang:
• Discussing this in Fincom: evaluating that process.

**Student Services Manager – Ian Stone**
• Our services have been disrupted due to this situation.
• We are trying to run as many as possible.
• Safewalk is not operating: calls to it are forwarded to UBC Security.
• eHub is online completely.
• Tutoring is looking to move online.
• Vice and Speakeasy we currently are unable to offer online. Will do outreach campaigns.
• Food Bank:
  o Working to make sure we continue to operate.
  o Going to reduced hours.
  o Receiving incredible support.
  o Increase in usage.
• Advocacy is working online and doing longer term projects.

Mathew Ho:
• Should there be more messaging about social distancing?
Ian Stone:
- Absolutely. If you don’t already, follow the Speakeasy Instagram posts.

Executive Director – Keith Hester
- Working diligently on the budget for next year.
- About Conferences & Catering:
  - This summer is a bit of a train wreck. Redoing that.
  - But won’t affect our students.
- Block Party cancelled: refunds being made. That means we’re losing $250,000 on the event.
- COVID-19:
  - The decision to close the Nest till April 14 could change.
  - Had to lay off quite a number of hourly staff.
  - Thanks to HR for getting ROE’s out so that employees can claim EI. Investigating government assistance on that.
- E-transfers: a lot of companies don’t have that system, so it’s great that we brought it in.

L) Committee Reports (5 minutes each): (Advocacy, Finance, Governance, Human Resources, Operations, SHAPE, Steering, Student Life, Ad Hoc Committee on AMS Council Governance, Fermentation Lab Committee)

Advocacy – Nicholas Harterre
- Moved to bi-weekly meetings.
- Pushed back pipeline meeting, but it’s an important conversation to have even if there is no climate strike.

Questions
Max Holmes:
- Will the committee be adding COVID-19 to its agenda?
- Academic and financial aspects?

Nicholas Harterre:
- We’ve had consultations with Cristina and Julia.
- Not clear how much we can do.

Finance Committee – Lucia Liang
- Met last week to approve the CampusGroups project.
- Approved funds.
- Reimbursing clubs for their event expenses.

Questions
Mathew Ho:
- Is the AMS in a position to use existing funds to help students?

Lucia Liang:
- Yes, we’re definitely looking into options.
• Looking at the Financial Assistance Fund.
• For clubs, there’s the Clubs Benefit Fund.
• And applications are still open to the Sustainability Projects Fund.

Max Holmes:
• The pandemic could impact us into next year’s budget.
• Will you be pushing back the budget proposal?
• Creating a higher contingency?
• Multiple versions of the budget?

Lucia Liang:
• Thinking of delaying budget deadlines.
• That’s why I’ve been meeting with UBC and seeking general advice.
• If Council wants two budgets, happy to do that.
• Can reach out by email.

Max Holmes:
• Instead of reaching out to individual Councillors, it would be wiser if Fincom came here to talk about proposals.

Mathew Ho:
• Is the AMS taking measures to protect our investments?

Keith Hester:
• Lucia and I met with our investment advisors two weeks ago.
• All our investments have been doing well; we feel quite secure right now.

Lucia Liang:
• They compared the situation with past pandemics.
• Normally, there’s a dip, then it spikes right up.

**Governance Committee – Katherine Westerlund**
• Following up to make sure committees look at the internal policies they’re responsible for. Some have, some haven’t.
• The bylaw amendments are up for a vote this week: be sure to vote.

Max Holmes:
• Which committees haven’t reviewed their internal policies?

Katherine Westerlund:
• The Advocacy Committee, but it’s been through a lot of transition.

**HR Committee – Riley Ty**
• Hectic week last week.
• Hiring Ombuds, CEO, and Speaker.
• Exec pay.
• Want to amend some sections of Code.

 Operations Committee – Cole Evans
• Passed a new version of the Operations Committee Policy Manual to improve how things are done, clarifying procedures.
• Approved some new clubs.
• Looking to wrap things up.
• Policy I-7 finally here for approval.

Questions
Jeanie Malone:
• What’s the plan for communicating the new Policy Manual changes to clubs?

Cole Evans:
• Aside from including it in the executive orientations for clubs, will produce a summary going to all the clubs, Constituencies, and Resource Groups.
• Also on the website.

SHAPE – Chris Hakim
• Still hasn’t met, but I did meet with the Hatch staff and the art community.
• We couldn’t have a full meeting, but I hope for a more fulsome discussion about the AMS permanent art collection.

Questions
Mathew Ho:
• Will you talk to the Art History Students Association too?

Chris Hakim:
• The intention is to invite anyone interested.

Steering Committee – Chris Hakim
• Still hasn’t met. Delays.
• Next week hope to finalize a report on a consultant for a strategic plan.

Questions
Max Holmes:
• Why does this committee still exist?
• Maybe we don’t need a strategic plan.

Chris Hakim:
• The strategic plan has been worked on off and on for years.
• If we can finally crack down on a plan, that would be good.
• We need continuity.

Student Life – Cole Evans
• Finally some Code changes about the committee’s terms of reference.
Meeting with Riley (HR) about elections, having been directed by Council last time to look into this.

Ad Hoc Committee on Council Governance – Chris Hakim
- This committee met earlier this week and identified key issues concerning Council.
- Out of that came questions about what we might do now, what later, and where do we see this all going?
- We saw some short-term solution and also had some ideas for the longer term.
- Hoping to pass the file to the Governance Committee in the future.

Fermentation Lab – Cole Evans for Kia Teimouri
- A little interesting.
- Planning may change yet again.
- UBC is getting anxious about delays, concerned about donor money.
- Looking at an alternative location, by the bookstore.

M) Report from Presidents Council (2 minutes):

Chris Hakim:
- Haven't met.

N) Board of Governors, Senate, Ombudsperson & Historical Update Reports (2 minutes each):

BoG – Jeanie Malone
- Teleconference most likely.
- Clearing items from the April agenda.

Senate – Dante Agosti-Moro
- Senate has not met as a whole, was cancelled.
- A barebones meeting conducted business.
- Next meeting as a whole will be April 15.
- The Student Senate Caucus is drafting a letter about the University’s COVID-19 response.

Questions
Mathew Ho:
- April will be the new Senate year.
- What is happening with transition?

Dante Agosti-Moro:
- Currently, the transition date is April 1.
- There are a lot of returning student senators.
- Current chairs are doing transitions.
• Electing new chairs.

Historical Update – Sheldon Goldfarb
• The last pandemic to affect UBC seriously was the 1919 Spanish flu.
• The University shut down for five weeks, and three students died.
• But the University survived, as it did after a smallpox scare in the early 60’s.
• There were also serious issues during the Depression and even talk of shutting the University down then, but it kept going.

O) Minutes of Council and Committees of Council:

P) Executive Committee Motions:

Q) Constituency and Affiliate Motions:

R) Committee Motions:

5. MOVED LUCIA LIANG, SECONDED COLE EVANS: [SCD348-20]

From the Finance Committee
“That the Campus Groups contract be approved as presented.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Cole Evans:
• Working on this for a while.
• Replacement for Clubhouse.
• A lengthy process of examining options.
• Looking for the best for our clubs.
• This company ticks all the boxes:
  o Subsidiary management, surveys, polls, elections, event management and group discovery.
• Can integrate online dues payments.
• May provide ticketing solutions moving forward.
• May also be able to handle room bookings/reservations.
• Also integration with Services for data analysis.
• A multi-faceted platform.
• Did demos with clubs
• This will allow clubs to go beyond the basics.
• The contract is technically confidential. I won’t discuss price points in public, and it will be difficult to go in camera online, but we were able to be quite successful in negotiations to get a good deal.
• We will have flexibility. Not locked in.
• Ops, Fincom, and Exec were all involved.
• It’s important to get this finalized, especially now that everything is online.

Max Holmes:
• Point of order.
• Even if it’s inconvenient to have an in camera session we should have one if requested.
• We must do things in the best interests of the Society.

Chris Hakim:
• We can go in camera if we want to.

6. MOVED LUCIA LIANG, SECONDED COLE EVANS:

From the Finance Committee
“That the Campus Groups contract be approved as presented.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

Yes: 20 No: 0 Abstain: 0

7. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED CHRIS HAKIM:

From the Student Life Committee
"That Council accept the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Student Life Committee as presented and amend the Code accordingly.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Cole Evans:
• This is the result of our work in the committee to move in a new direction.
• The emphasis will be on creating a bridge with Services, Events, and Communications.
• Now Council members can have input into what happens in Services, Events, and Communications.
• If Council has anything it wants concerning those departments, there will now be a committee directed to do that.

Max Holmes:
• As well as liaising, what will this mean the committee does?
• Is this typical of our committees?

Cole Evans:
• It will be similar to the HR Committee, following the style the HR has in interacting with management.
• But it will be a little different. The HR Committee is more operational. Student Life is more strategic.

Max Holmes:
• I have two concerns.
• First, this says that the Student Services Manager will bring annual goals for feedback.
• Does that follow I-9, the policy on goal-setting?
• It seems to put a greater burden on the Student Services Manager than the other Executives.
• Second, can you explain the wording about working with the President to select groups to participate in “cooperative engagement initiatives”?
• It's confusing to add this if it's not explained.

Cole Evans:
• This wasn’t meant to put a burden on the Student Services Manager.
• They can just bring their I-9 goals for feedback.
• Council has asked for Services to be included.
• The part about coordinating with groups on campus has to do with things like the Blue and Gold Society.
• We’ve never really seen consistent existence of these groups.
• The Blue and Gold Subcommittee has not been active since 2017, so this is meant to be more flexible.
• If a group becomes active, then they can be one we work with.

Michelle Marcus:
• Did you consider mentioning the Senior Student Services Manager?

Cole Evans:
• The Senior Student Services Manager is not mentioned because the Student Services Manager is already on the committee.
• It could be Senior Student Services Manager if that’s what you want.

Max Holmes:
• Did you get consent from the managers?

Cole Evans:
• All the managers were looped in and gave consent.
• Not in writing, but perceived consent.

8. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED CHRIS HAKIM:

From the Student Life Committee
"That Council accept the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Student Life Committee as presented and amend the Code accordingly."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Yes: 16 No: 0 Abstain: 0

9. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED JACKSON SCHUMACHER: [SCD350-20]

From the Operations Committee
"That Council rescind the old Policy I-7 (AMS Policy on Suspensions and Expulsions from AMS Property) and replace it with the new Policy I-7 as presented."
Note: Requires 2/3rds

Cole Evans:
- We were hoping to get this done by January or early February.
- It got pushed back, but it’s here now.
- This is a whole new policy.
- We threw out a lot of the old one and created a new one.
- Done with our legal counsel to make sure everything is solid.
- Going to be creating a resource related to this policy: a quick form to fill out for staff and also for the respondent.

Michelle Marcus:
- I do have some concerns.
- Some of the prohibited actions seem ambiguous, e.g., unauthorized storage.
- Some of the things are things members of Council do: not wearing footwear, rollerblading, drinking outside of designated areas.
- Seems like hypocrisy.
- Public space is limited in society.
- We should be doing what we can to make the Nest available for marginalized individuals.
- We also need to be supporting activism and free expression.
- I’m concerned about the possibility of infringing students’ ability to use the Nest.
- Why are there no accountability measures in the policy to make sure it does not repress students.
- The scope is very broad.
- Are there reporting mechanisms so we will know how many times the policy has been invoked and for what? So we will know it is not being used to target a specific group.

Cole Evans:
- No additional restrictions were put in for this new version of the policy.
- This is a semi-public building: we want people to move freely in it, but we are also setting out expectations for the use of the building.
- There are a broad scope of issues, safety concerns, damage to the building, insurance issues.
- We realize there is a difference between rollerblading and lighting a room on fire.
- We’re always making sure we’re following our mission statement.
- This year we haven’t used the policy at all.
- It’s only invoked in limited circumstances.
- There’s no way for an individual to abuse power under this policy.
- The VP Administration has the largest unilateral power: can ban a person for 14 days.
- But has to be referred to the Ombudsperson, a neutral party.
- There are lots of checks and balances.
- We’re also making sure there’s no conflict of interest.
- The Operations Committee is responsible for the policy and can make sure there’s no abuse of power.
I’d argue that this version has more restrictions in place (on abuse of power) than the existing policy.

Michelle Marcus:
- It says the Services and the Food & Beverage Manager can suspend for up to a month without review.

Cole Evans:
- That’s existing practice.
- In the old policy Services could do it for three months.
- We’ve reduced it to one month in the new policy.
- Safewalk uses this for individuals abusing the service.
- Food & Beverage could essentially make permanent bans until now. Now it will be just one month.

Max Holmes:
- I wonder, with policies like this, if it’s a good idea for Execs to chair committees that oversee their work.

Cole Evans:
- That may be more a Governance Committee question.
- It certainly opens up an argument.
- The VP Administration chairs OpsCom because it has a lot to do with the VP Admin portfolio.
- But a Councillor could chair a committee like that.
- Not a bad thing.

Chris Hakim:
- This has been a difficult policy to navigate.
- We should make sure our policies follow the Policy I-1 format.

10. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED JACKSON SCHUMACHER:

From the Operations Committee
"That Council rescind the old Policy I-7 (AMS Policy on Suspensions and Expulsions from AMS Property) and replace it with the new Policy I-7 as presented."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Yes: 18  No: 0  Abstain: 1

11. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED ALEX GONZALEZ:  [SCD351-20]

From the Operations Committee
"That Council approve the changes to the relevant sections of the Code of Procedure relating to the Capital Projects Fund and the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund as presented."
Note: Requires 2/3rds

Cole Evans:
- Looking at how to handle small expenditures.
- There was a table motion: Council had to vote on an $1800 expenditure.
- We were looking at the idea of a Building Management Subcommittee.
- Or maybe just have OpsCom do the approving: that’s what’s reflected in the Code changes before you now.
- Another option, if people are hesitant to let a non-Finance Committee approve expenditures, maybe just increase what the Finance Committee can do.
- Having Operations Committee handle approvals could make the process more efficient and make things less burdensome to this board.

Lucia Liang:
- I do have concerns about funds not being approved by the Finance Committee.
- A majority of funds are done by the Finance Committee.
- But I second the thought of the Finance Committee being over capacity.

Max Holmes:
- I’m quite mixed on this Code.
- How much is 2%?

Cole Evans:
- For the Capital Projects Fund: about $5,000.
- For SUB Repairs 5% would be about $32,000.

Max Holmes:
- I just worry about giving this power to the Operations Committee.

Lucia Liang:
- It will set a precedent for another standing committee to administer funds.
- I’d love for this proposal to go to the Finance Committee.

Cole Evans:
- We can motion to refer to the Finance Committee.

Max Holmes:
- I oppose referring this motion.
- Just adding Fincom doesn’t create efficiency.
- Just give it to OpsCom.
- But it should specify that the power is to renovate for maintenance, not for cosmetic reasons.

Cole Evans:
- Happy to see how this goes.
- We can come back if it doesn’t work.
12. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED ALEX GONZALEZ:

From the Operations Committee
"That Council approve the changes to the relevant sections of the Code of Procedure relating to the Capital Projects Fund and the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund as presented."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

Yes: 16  No: 0  Abstain: 0

S) Other Business and Notice of Motions:

T) Discussion Period

Remote Council procedures
Max Holmes:
- This format is not conducive to open discussion or debate.
- I’m disappointed nothing was presented from a governance perspective.
- Other organizations are delegating powers to committees.

Mathew Ho:
- The accessibility of this meeting hasn’t been the best.
- The only reason I got the link was because of the AUS reps.
- There was no information out there.

Chris Hakim:
- We’re going to circulate a chat/email for feedback to improve the quality of these virtual meetings in terms of accessibility and functionality.
- I agree with the idea of empowering committees more.
- What that will look like is difficult to say.

Kevin Zhang:
- One benefit of in person meetings is that you give the public the ability to drop in.
- If we’re resorting to this format, we should be encouraging Councillors to distribute this link.
- It would keep our meetings transparent.

The Speaker:
- Can put the link on the website.

Max Holmes:
- There’s more to this than transparency.
- It’s also about the AMS operating efficiently during this time.
- Loosening restrictions about email votes etc.
Michelle Marcus:
- Poor discussion is a longstanding Council issue.

Chris Hakim:
- We will post the link online.
- This time I wasn’t sure how this would go.
- In the ad hoc Council Governance Committee we’re looking at the nature of Council discussions.
- Maturity and competency of Council itself is another issue.
- We’re looking into purchasing new software.
- Committed to exploring changes to do with delegating work to committees.

Max Holmes:
- I just want a commitment from the Executive that proposals will come back for the next meeting on what our operations will look like. Will you do that?

Chris Hakim:
- Yes.

**COVID-19 Student Support**

Michelle Marcus:
- I would like more details on how the AMS will be responding to student needs in this crisis.
- Can the Executives provide more details about how students can easily contact the AMS?
- It can be difficult for students to know where to go.

Cristina Ilnitchi:
- My team is working on a Resource page.
- We’re responding about U-Pass and transit.
- The Resource page will deal with everything.
- Also making sure there’s a way for students to email us: a mechanism to gather information from students about the difficulties they may be facing in accessing government sites. Red tape etc.

Keith Hester:
- Our great Communications Manager is scouring media sites for any information on support for students.

Cristina Ilnitchi:
- Communications and Eric (the Manager) have already added support resources online, but we’re going to enhance these.

Chris Hakim:
- We are absolutely committed to doing our best to support our students.
• Advocating to government and the University.
• Communications.
• HR.
• In contact with Studentcare to send out information.
• We heard concerns from clubs early on and are moving to an e-transfer system for processing things.
• Also looking to repurpose our funds to emergency use.
• Some are set by referendum for specific purposes, but we may be able to use others.
• The Indigenous Committee has opened up its fund.
• This work is being done. We’re looking at all avenues to help students.

Mathew Ho:
• How are we making sure we get our resources into students’ hands?

Chris Hakim:
• Most of our services are still available virtually.
• Food Bank: The folks who work there have been tirelessly working.
  - We’ve received a huge amount of donations internally and externally.
  - Creating care packages to hand out via Campus Security.
• Trying to make sure our services are still widely accessible.

Max Holmes:
• I am disappointed that there has been no formalized communication to do with University advocacy.
• We need to be doing formalized communication in a public way.
• Petitions from at large students have probably done more than we have done.

Chris Hakim:
• I absolutely agree that we need to continue to voice the concerns of students, making sure we are communicating.
• We’ve done a lot of communication to the University about Credit/D/Fail informally.
• We can always do more and better as we look to delegate more to committees.

Julia Burnham:
• I absolutely agree that there is more that we can do, but I want to remind everyone that we are all students dealing with this crisis, and humans as well: not machines.

Alex Gonzalez:
• I want to reiterate that the Student Senate Caucus is not part of the AMS.
• If we want to send a clear message from the AMS, it should not come through the Student Senate Caucus.
Max Holmes:
- The AMS has the responsibility to respond and tell Councillors what it is doing.
- The AMS isn’t the SSC; the SSC is only looking at academics.
- There’s also a financial side.
- We need more formal communications and better updates to Council.
- The situation is probably going to last for months.
- We need to be proactive.

Convocation 2020
Chris Hakim:
- Kaili Sun (Architecture rep) is curious to know what the AMS is doing to ensure students still get an experience when they graduate.
- UBC will look to cancel, but that would be a hit to morale.
- Julia and I, and Nicolas from the GSS, and the UBC SUO have spoken to the University about their plans for convocation.
- We’re looking for our students to get a similar experience to what they would get from graduation, so we’re looking for there not to be a cancellation.

Kaili Sun:
- This has been a discussion in Architecture.
- Concerns about morale.
- The sudden end to the year.
- No conclusion to degree.
- Can the AMS do something?
- A virtual convocation?

Katherine Westerlund:
- My individual take as someone who’s graduating is that things are obviously dead.
- The Iron Ring ceremony was cancelled, everything is cancelled, I won’t be able to say goodbye to my classmates.
- I’m interested in options, for instance attending ceremonies in December.
- Now there potentially could be online ceremonies, but I’d rather go in person later.

Max Holmes:
- There’s no reason there can’t be a combination of things.
- I hope the AMS can look into possibilities.
- It’s important for the AMS to be leading the conversation and not let it just be the University’s decision.

Chris Hakim:
- We have asked for a combination.
- Something like Harvard: a virtual ceremony and then those interested can attend a later ceremony in person.
- The University was very open to this.

U) Submissions:

AMS COVID-19 Response and Actions [SCD352-20]
Peer Support Services Proposal [SCD353-20]
ALSS 2020 Election and Referendum results [SCD354-20]
LASSA 2020 General Election results [SCD355-20]
PhUS 2020 General Election results [SCD356-20]
Operations Committee Policy Manual [SCD357-20]

V) Next Meeting:

April 8, 2020

W) Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.

X) Social Activity:
### March 25, 2020 Roster

**The Alma Mater Society of U.B.C. Vancouver – Student Council Attendance**

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