

STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

Guests: Charlotte Alden (Ubyyssey), Justin Zheng (AMS staff), Ben Du (student at large), Michael Kingsmill (AMS Designer), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

B) Territorial Acknowledgement

The Speaker:

- We are uninvited guests performing an act of ongoing violence.
- We should act in solidarity with the host nation.
- This is not a formality.
- I want to draw attention to this and to the ongoing issue of Black folks which is particularly acute now.
- We need to engage with what it means to be settlers.

C) Approval of the Agenda

1. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED JACKSON SCHUMACHER:

“That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

... Carried

For (28): Cole Evans, Georgia Yee, Sylvester (Sly) Mensah Jr., Kalith Nanayakkara, Lucia Liang, Ruby Barnard, Lawrence Liu, Joshua Kim, Mathew Ho, Carter MacLean, James Chen, Varada Saha, Ryan Wong, Haruka Higo, Nadir Nurali, Alexandra Arbelaez, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Sebastian Cooper, Rachel Chan, Christian Bailey, Kevin Kang, Elsabe Fourie, Chris Sundby, Jimmy Kim, Clara Sismondo, Danny Liu, Sean Ryan

D) Membership: Introductions, New Members, Declaration of Vacancies

Welcome to our New Members:

Vacancies: Audiology, Indigenous Seat, Journalism, Population & Public Health, GSS

Goodbyes: Alireza Kamyabi (GSS)

E) Speaker's Business (5 minutes)

The Speaker:

- Email or message me with recommendations to make Council more accessible or if the procedures are too fast.

F) Statements from Students at Large (3 minutes each)

- Contact Joanne if a student at large wants to make a statement.

G) Consent Agenda Items

2. MOVED JIMMY KIM, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the following consent items be accepted as presented (regular vote):

| | |
|--|-------------|
| AMS Council minutes dated February 5, 2020 | [SCD017-20] |
| AMS Council minutes dated February 12, 2020 | [SCD018-20] |
| Executive Committee minutes dated May 6, 2020 | [SCD019-20] |
| Executive Committee minutes dated May 13, 2020 | [SCD020-20] |
| Executive Committee minutes dated May 20, 2020 | [SCD021-20] |
| Operations Committee minutes dated May 27, 2020 | [SCD022-20] |
| Clubs and Societies Working Group minutes dated May 21, 2020 | [SCD023-20] |

... Carried

For (29): Cole Evans, Georgia Yee, Sylvester (Sly) Mensah Jr., Kalith Nanayakkara, Lucia Liang, Ruby Barnard, Lawrence Liu, Joshua Kim, Mathew Ho, Carter MacLean, James Chen, Varada Saha, Ryan Wong, Haruka Higo, Emma Dodyk, Nadir Nurali, Alexandra Arbelaez, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Sebastian Cooper, Rachel Chan, Christian Bailey, Elsabe Fourie, Chris Sundby, Jimmy Kim, Clara Sismondo, Danny Liu, Chrissa Rassias, Sean Ryan

3. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED NADIR NURALI:

"That the following consent items be accepted as presented (2/3rds vote):

From the President

'That Council suspend Section VI: Executive, Article 1, Sections (5) and (6)(a), which relate to the keeping of office hours, until August 31st, 2020, or until the President notifies Council the suspension is no longer needed, whichever is sooner.'

Mathew Ho:

- Will there be alternative ways to contact the Executive?

Cole Evans:

- We'll be advertising hours by appointment.
- Will meet virtually or in person.
- Indicated on the website.

Georgia Yee:

- Can link online to book appointments.

4. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED NADIR NURALI:

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... Carried

For (30): Cole Evans, Georgia Yee, Sylvester (Sly) Mensah Jr., Kalith Nanayakkara, Lucia Liang, Ruby Barnard, Lawrence Liu, Joshua Kim, Mathew Ho, Carter MacLean, James Chen, Varada Saha, Ryan Wong, Haruka Higo, Emma Dodyk, Nadir Nurali, Alexandra Arbelaez, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Sebastian Cooper, Rachel Chan, Christian Bailey, Elsabe Fourie, Chris Sundby, Jimmy Kim, Clara Sismondo, Danny Liu, Chrissa Rassias, Sean Ryan

H) Presentations (10 minutes, Questions: 5 minutes)

I) Consultation Period

AMS Strategic Plan – Cole Evans

[SCD024-20]

- Update on the strategic plan.
- It has a long history, going back almost 20 years.
- The latest version is a carryover from last year.
- In 2016 the MNP consultants recommended that we adopt one.
- Since then successive presidents have tried, but it never got beyond drafts.
- Without a plan, we are lacking overarching goals, as opposed to our annual goal-setting.
- If we go back to the beginning, there was an attempt in 2001 that only produced one progress report.
- In 2005 Spencer Keys produced a Strategic Framework; it was a lot more strategic, but very complicated, and died in transition.
- Between 2010 and 2014 the focus was on business plans.
- Then there was something called Vision 2030.
- There were some weird suggestions along the way, such as that we start something called UBC's Got Talent, a talent competition.

- After the 2016 recommendations, three presidents looked at this: first Alan Ehrenholz and Marium Hamid, then especially Chris Hakim last year, who did a lot of preliminary work.
- There were lots of reasons why the various plans got abandoned: lack of internal capacity, not getting traction at Council, and not really a solid attempt since the 2005 Framework.
- What have we learned from two decades?
- It takes time and capacity.
- Also, the plan itself can't be too specific or it gets chucked.
- In-house attempts have failed.
- We need an implementation framework.
- Why do we need a plan?
 - For values, strategy, goal-setting guidance, vision.
 - To know where we're heading.
 - Consistency.
 - Accountability.
- Hypothetical scope could include core values, KPI's, a five-year strategy, and a vision.
- And we should amend Policy I-9 (on Executive goal-setting).
- Next steps/options:
 - Hire an external consultant who knows what they're doing, so the task can be offloaded from the Executive.
 - This gives a higher chance of success, but costs money.
 - Could be \$40-70,000.
 - Could issue an RFP to test the waters without committing money in the budget.

5. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED JOSHUA KIM:

"That the time for the consultation be extended by 10 minutes."

... No objections

AMS Strategic Plan – Cole Evans (continued)

- Next steps/options:
 - Second option: just focus on businesses and services.
 - Less cost.
 - More targeted
 - But potential bloat: could lead to too many plans.
 - Third option: Hire a student staff member to do it.
 - Lower cost, but lack of experience.
 - May not be taken as seriously.
 - But student-led.
 - Fourth option: Continue as we have.
 - Expecting a different result from doing the same thing is the definition of insanity.

- Fifth option: Scrap the Strategic Plan.
 - Many don't think it's a priority.
- Even with hiring someone external, would still make sure it student-driven by creating an ad hoc committee.
- Have to make sure to show how the plan affects students and the community.
- Looking for direction.

Comments

Alex Gonzalez:

- It seems that lots of effort went into this.
- However, I'm concerned.
- Nothing will happen if Executives decide not to do it.
- Can't force the Executive to follow a strategic plan.
- Could end up spending lots of money for something that will be disregarded.
- I also don't see how this will benefit students.
- If we're going to spend money, there are other things that may require our attention
- I don't think this year is the year to implement it.

Max Holmes:

- We are receiving more information about the strategic plan than we are on COVID.
- I'm very concerned over the decision to prioritize this when there are lots more important things to focus on.
- Also, the historical analysis was inaccurate for Marium's year and Alan's year:
 - The initial recommendation came from an external consultant, but then there was an internal committee, GORECOM, that went through the recommendations.
 - There were things we didn't accept from the external review.
- An external consultant is not needed.
- The President's staff has ballooned in recent years.
- We didn't add a person for the governance review.
- We have the capacity if we want to do this.
- But mostly this is the least important thing we could be working on.
- And it's going to be unsuccessful because of annual turnover.
- The sustainability plan was great.
- An Indigenous plan would be great.
- A large strategic plan will add zero value.
- After watching how many times it's been tried ...
- Students could be doing this instead of external consultants, but it's not the thing to focus on in any case.

Cole Evans:

- Your points resonate.
- If people hate this, that's fine.

Mathew Ho:

- What is the estimate for the cost of Option 2?
- Can a strategic plan be flexible enough?
 - Different issues come up, like COVID-19 this year.
- Will there be additional resources allocated for the consultation on the plan this year?
- It will be hard to consult with everyone off campus.

Cole Evans:

- No pricing yet around Option 2; we have to do an RFP.
- As to flexibility, we'd have to find out from the proposals. With any plan, you can make it as loose or as rigid as you want.
- Right now I'm just looking for direction from the Board.
- Part of the fee for a consultant would be for engagement activities.

Ryan Wong:

- An external consultant would be a better way to do this if it goes forward.
- They would bring a lot of value, especially for business and services.
- However, I think doing it now would be a mistake.
- Key metrics would be tough to measure given COVID.
- We don't know what the next 12-18 months will bring.

Jackson Schumacher:

- COVID is an issue, but in general a strategic plan can be valuable.
- The GSS has one. It's not perfect, but it's useful.
- We are constructing the next one in-house: it's a slow process, but effective.

Cole Evans:

- Thanks for the insight.
- I think what I'm hearing is that there is no sense of urgency.
- We'll probably sit on this for a while, brainstorm.
- If we did issue an RFP, that would be harmless. Just testing the waters.
- But bringing back to Council should maybe be delayed until 2021.

Max Holmes:

- Our capacity to do this is the responsibility of senior management and the Advisory Board.
- That's the reason we pay the Advisory Board: can get experts who know the AMS and can give advice.
- External consultants add zero value.
- I don't think an RFP should go forward: we need to be seriously discussing how to help students during this crisis, and I would like to add a Discussion Topic on that.

Chris Hakim:

- The urgency for this isn't here.
- But the topic is worthwhile.
- I would caution against sending out an RFP to test the waters.
- It just wastes the time of the consultants.
- If we want to do an RFP, it should be because we want to choose a consultant.

J) Appointments

Operations Committee

Councillors Nominated (1 needed): Mathew Ho (Arts), Nadir Nurali (Engineering)

Chosen: Nadir Nurali

6. MOVED JOSHUA KIM, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

“That Nadir Nurali be appointed to the Operations Committee for a period effective immediately and ending at the first Council meeting in September 2020.”

... Carried

For (4): Kalith Nanayakkara, Joshua Kim, Christian Bailey, Daniel Martin

K) President's Remarks (5 minutes)

Cole Evans:

- Hope everyone is staying safe. Expanding bubbles but keeping safe.
- Things going pretty well with our reopening plan: Blue Chip, Honour Roll and the Gallery are open.
- The Executive is working on goal setting. That's why the presentation on the Strategic Plan: looking for your insights. Want Council feedback.
- Working with my assistant Justin to revise policy: one on Executive expenditures, another on a new committee appointment process.
- Potentially big governance projects.
- Just closed up submissions on the Equity Plan: the Executive has shortlisted potential proposals. Presentations on those will now go to a working group.
- Working with Eric and Keith about communications: funding, restructuring the Communications Department, brand image, marketing.
- Working with UBC about orientations, programming. Including Events and Communications in this.
- The Indigenous Committee is working on how to appoint someone to fill the Indigenous seat.
- Looking through the UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan. Considering whether we should have one too.
- Working with Lucia on the budget.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- Is Council ever going to meet physically?

Cole Evans:

- Do I think ever? Eventually.
- Hard to say when.
- Once it's appropriate to have 50 people or less in a room.
- Potentially late summer, early fall.
- Have to be respecting provincial health guidelines.
- People also may be comfortable in bedroom stockings.

Max Holmes:

- When can Council expect to see COVID-19 plans for returning in the fall?
- What will September look like?

Cole Evans:

- A lot of our COVID work so far has been reactive: patching holes in the boat.
- But as things begin to open up, we will look more to strategy: hopefully by the end of the month.
- The June 24 meeting seems pretty full, so maybe July 15.

L) Executive Remarks (3 minutes)

VP Finance – Lucia Liang

- Putting up signs about reimbursements.
- Creating an FAQ for our website to answer all the questions we're getting.
- Preparing accounts for the auditors.
- Processing payments for clubs, Constituencies.
- Showpass ticketing contract sent back for revision to see if we can get a better price:
 - The event industry is not doing well, so we're pushing hard to get a good deal.
- Authorized club and Constituency treasurers (200 of them).
- Talking to accounting companies to get best prices.
- Working on the budget to ensure essential services will be provided.
- Also looking into an increase in wages for employees in our Student Services.
- Seeing what we can do to support Services.
- First meeting with the Health & Dental Committee:
 - Approved intake period in May for grad students, so they don't have to wait till September.
 - Approved subsidy.

- Received April refund from Studentcare: seeing how to disburse it to students.

Questions

Chris Hakim:

- Great to see hazard pay for Services.
- Have you looked at our businesses too for those front line workers? Will they also get a wage increase?

Lucia Liang:

- I'll work with Keith to see what funds are available.
- Have to check enrollment numbers to see what our budget is.
- Will get a better projection than on what we can do.

Georgia Yee – VP Academic & University Affairs

- Recent incidents of anti-Black and anti-Asian racism remind us that it's not enough to make statements.
 - We must work to acknowledge that this is part of a systemic problem.
 - Working on bystander intervention programs.
 - Here's an action item: To have discussions with friends and in your Constituencies about your own internal biases and privileges.
 - Community dialogue.
- Survey on COVID-19 going out to give us concrete data and help our advocacy.
 - Some glitches:
 - UBC email lists use legal names; we're trying to work with them to get the system to use people's chosen names.
- Working on UBC Student Well-being Fund allocations:
 - Digital food hub.
 - Digital meal donation program (Swipe it Forward)
 - UBC meal plan: if have money left over, donate to people who are food insecure.
 - Reducing food waste; affordability concerns.

Two submissions to the Board of Governors about Policy SC-17 (on sexual misconduct) from SASC and my office.

- Advocating for a seat for SASC on the implementation committee.
- Sexual violence prevention education: create a culture of consent.
- Conversations about the fall term, when more classes will be in the evening to accommodate people who are away.

Questions

Chris Hakim:

- Thank you for what you said about anti-Black and anti-Asian racism.
- Thanks to the Executive for drafting a statement and sending a strong message on racism.
- UBC also released a statement with commitments.

- What are some of the advocacy priorities: what are you doing?

Georgia Yee:

- Holding the University accountable on the implementation of the Inclusion Action Plan.
- Discussion of diverse hiring.
- Something we explored today: creating a safe space for people of colour.
- A big part is education beyond our bias training, on how we think.

Mathew Ho:

- Raising awareness in this environment: what are your plans for letting students know about the campaigns?

Georgia Yee:

- Hoping for a community engagement piece, a virtual Town Hall or webinar.
- Happy to talk to different Faculties.

Daniel Martin:

- Did the surveys go out, and are the Affiliates included?

Cole Evans:

- There is a chance that the initial email (from UBC) did not include the Affiliated Colleges, but the AMS is sending one out too, so you'll get that.

Chris Hakim:

- Also important to think about the UBC budget.
- What are we doing in University advocacy to ensure that the University is not compromising in its contributions to student-centred programs?

Georgia Yee:

- We are writing a submission to the Board now asking them not to cut funding for student-centred programs and to make sure to provide COVID-19 support.

VP External – Kalith Nanayakkara

- Further to Georgia's comments about current happenings associated with Black Lives Matter, we are interested in race-based data collection.
- We don't collect data based on race, but it could be helpful, for instance in relation to equity-based grants.
- My team has created office goals:
 - Some from last year, some from my campaign, but a lot to do with the pandemic.
 - Working with other stakeholders on these.
 - Important to create strong relationships.
- Transit issues: the U-Pass suspension.

- UNA-related matters.
- First draft of BC budget consultation submission: a speech and a written document. Focusing on:
 - Open Education Resources (OER's)
 - Funding to postsecondary institutions (PSI's) during the pandemic: want to make sure the pandemic doesn't force PSI's to fend for themselves.
- Working with other student unions: wanting to make sure we're realistic and asking for similar things.
- Looking at minimum standards in BC's Bill 23 (on sexual violence and misconduct policies required of PSI's).
- U-Pass taking up most of my time: meeting with the U-Pass Advisory Committee (UAC) and the GSS.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- How do you plan to raise awareness of these issues?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- Currently working on equity-based grants and race-based data collection, which is something new.
- Also working with UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office.

VP Administration – Sylvester Mensah Jr.

- Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Exhibitions.
 - Figuring out ways to remain active.
 - Online programming.
 - Colouring book on relevant issues like racism and COVID.
 - Also working on Hatch online database for our permanent collection so students can always see what's in it.
 - Want to have our permanent collection incorporated in the art history curriculum.
- Sustainability/Food Security initiatives: situation aggravated.
- ASAP (the AMS Sustainability Action Plan):
 - Taking the Council feedback.
 - Looking to get the Indigenous section of the plan completed.
 - Overarching tracking systems.
 - Making sure policies like this don't get forgotten.
- Updating SEEDS MoU.
- Finalizing wayfinding projects: updating outdated signage.
- Hoping to heighten the mood for Clubs Days.
- COVID plan for the coming year for clubs:
 - Explaining how to still operate: more virtual activities.
 - Letting clubs know what additional resources will be available.
- COVID plan for room bookings.

Questions

Chris Hakim:

- Good to hear you're taking feedback on ASAP.
- This may be a good time to invest in capital projects.
- Is there an opportunity to take on projects to reduce our carbon footprint? Solar panels?

Sylvester Mensah Jr.:

- Definitely something to look at.
- There are a couple of projects we're already working on:
 - The Interactive Sustainability Centre: doing consultation before coming to Council. Looking into programming: who will use the space?
 - Composter, runoff gardens: student-led initiatives.
 - Maintenance of past projects.

Keith Hester:

- Re solar panels:
- UBC is doing a feasibility study on that.
- Report probably in August.

Student Services Manager – Ian Stone

- Food Bank hiring volunteers.
- Working on longer term projects:
 - Restructuring of Vice and Speakeasy into one Peer Support service.
 - Making sure we're promoting good online services.
 - Working with SASC.
 - Making our services accessible.
- Advocacy helping students in these strange times.
- Tutoring active online.
- Cool stuff at eHub: trialling a project with the Arts Co-op (about starting your own business).
- Our software provider (Olivewood) for Safewalk is ceasing operations, so we're exploring data collection options and a new dispatch system.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- Will we be seeing greater accessibility to the Food Bank? Increased hours?
- Will there be incentives for volunteering?
- Is it safe?

Ian Stone:

- We're adhering to BC government guidelines on safety:
 - Masks, gloves, distancing, barriers, keeping people out of the building.

- Safety for our clients and volunteers is a priority.
- We're hiring more volunteers to increase our hours.
- As to incentives, we have a volunteer appreciation budget.

Managing Director – Keith Hester

- Working diligently on the budget.
- Looking at RFP for AMS Equity Plan.
- Working on automating expense reimbursements.
- Busy with Year-End.
- Auditors coming next month.
- Half million dollar refund from Health & Dental for students.
- Update on how the building is doing:
 - Three outlets open.
 - 200 customers a day
 - More important: seeing students using the building while maintaining social distance.

Questions

Nadir Nurali:

- Is the planning going forward assuming things will be getting better or worse?

Keith Hester:

- We are planning for both.
- COVID restrictions are relaxing, but a lot of people think a second wave is coming, and we're planning for that too.

M) Committee Reports (5 minutes each)

Advocacy Committee – Joshua Kim

- Met once and discussed projects from the VPAUA and the VP External.
- UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities).
- Policy review.
- Pipeline and climate change: we think we should be discussing climate change.
- U-Pass and COVID survey.
- Recovery after COVID.

Finance Committee – Lucia Liang

- Working on budget.
- Minutes coming to the next meeting.
- Monthly report coming too.
- Get Thrifty is working on their budget.

Governance Committee – Sebastian Cooper

- Elected a Vice-Chair.

- Developing long term and short term goals.
- Working on motions for Council: a Code change on chairpersonships.
- Looking at how to do committee appointments in a way that achieves equity and efficiency.
- Looking at recommendations from the Ad Hoc Council Governance Committee.

HR Committee – Lawrence Liu

- First meeting this coming Friday.
- We'll focus on goal-setting.

Indigenous Committee – Cole Evans

- They're a committee, but they don't usually report.
- They're looking into how to choose someone to fill the new Indigenous seat on Council.

Operations – Sylvester Mensah Jr.

- Talking about club membership fees: some club members are facing financial strain, so we're looking at the fee levels.
 - Clubs should be mindful of creating a burden if they ask for more than the \$1 minimum.
 - We may suspend the rules on the club fees to allow them to be lowered.
- Inviting the Resource Group Allocation Committee to explain the name of the new Resource Group (Neurodiverse and Disabled Alliance).
 - Working on other names.
- Maintaining safe distancing in the Nest (by reconfiguring), and not allowing bookings till further notice.
- Deconstituting clubs that haven't met requirements.

SHAPE – Cole Evans

- No update.
- Waiting on the Hatch team to work on their vision before auctioning off high price pictures.
- Also probably not a good time to sell: the economy bad.

Sylvester Mensah Jr.:

- We want an online presence for the Gallery to increase the visibility of the art collection.

Mathew Ho:

- Would appreciate updates even if there are no meetings.

Steering – Cole Evans

- Will be meeting soon: as soon as the committees present their goals.
- Did a committee chair orientation, presenting tips and tricks.

Student Life Committee – Chrissa Rassias

- First meeting tomorrow.

Fermentation Lab Committee – Lawrence Liu

- Trying to reach out to the past chair.

Cole Evans:

- I sat on that committee.
- Let's set up a time to discuss.

N) Report from Presidents Council (2 minutes)

Cole Evans:

- Meeting tomorrow to discuss COVID-19 responses etc.
- Also ToR changes.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- Will you be addressing problems of racism?

Cole Evans:

- Yes, and we have already been speaking offline with Constituencies about that, giving advice on actions to take.

O) Board of Governors, Senate, Ombudsperson, and Historical Updates (2 minutes each)

Board of Governors – Max Holmes

- Committees met over the past week.
- Sustainability and Climate Action Committee:
 - Responsible investing.
 - Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- People, Community & International Committee:
 - Employment report – census data.
 - President Ono delivered remarks about anti-Black and anti-Asian racism.
 - Student financial aid report.
- Policy SC-17 (on sexual violence) discussed:
 - Needs clarification re jurisdiction of investigations.
 - We expressed our dissatisfaction that SASC was not included on the committee.
 - Student representation and SASC representation should be separate.
- Indigenous strategic plan.
- COVID impact on grad students.
- Many capital projects:
 - Arts Student Centre – Board 4.

- Board 1 approval for Rec Centre.
- Brock Commons project delayed.
- Board 1 approval for Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation building at UBCO.

Senate – Alex Gonzalez and Chris Hakim

Chris Hakim:

- Student Senate Caucus is releasing a statement on anti-Black racism on Friday.
- It will list all the ways the University is supporting these communities through Senate.

Alex Gonzalez:

- Approved all the graduates.
- Change to exam period policy because of the new Fall Reading Break.
 - The new break will be two extra days attached to the Remembrance Day holiday.
 - To gain those two days, the exam period is being shortened from 14 to 12 days.
 - There will still be a three-day gap at the end of classes before exams.
 - There will be exams on Sundays.
- Withdrawal deadlines being changed.
- Senate is working on a transcript notation for students about attending UBC during COVID:
 - There has been pushback about the notation from students.
 - Back to the drawing board.
- Student evaluation forms will be renamed Student Experience of Instruction, and questions are being rephrased to elicit more personal responses.
 - Also considering how to address bias in answers.
- Admission deferral change of dates.
 - The Admission Office is anticipating a lot of deferral requests.
- Will be discussing Fall COVID-19 planning.

Questions

Ryan Wong:

- What is the Student Senate Caucus position on a transcript notation?

Alex Gonzalez:

- Everyone agrees there should be a notation on the transcript, but we wanted a better one, in line with what is being done at U of T and McGill.

Mathew Ho:

- Did you discuss how COVID will affect student evaluations?

Alex Gonzalez:

- The report on student evaluations did not consider COVID-19 as the work was done before the pandemic hit.
- The Teaching & Learning Committee and Senate will have to consider that next year.

Historical Update – Sheldon Goldfarb

- June 1 was the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Nest.
- We heard tonight that one suggestion arising from a strategic plan was to hold a competition called UBC's Got Talent.
- This actually took place in 2011 and featured a duet between AMS President Bijan Ahmadian and UBC President Stephen Toope, performing "Sweet Dreams are Made of These": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B7vZqD6XkE>

P) Minutes of Council and Committees of Council

Q) Executive Committee Motions

R) Constituency and Affiliate Motions

S) Committee Motions

7. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED LAWRENCE LIU:

From the Finance Committee

"That Council approve an expenditure of \$218,380 from the Capital Projects Fund for the SASC Office Expansion Project."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Note: Available Balance in the CPF: approx. \$234,000

Total Balance in CPF: approx. \$2.1 million

Cole Evans:

- We had positive feedback from Councillors.
- Made a couple of tweaks.
- SASC very happy.

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T) Other Business and Notice of Motions

9. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED LUCIA LIANG: [SCD025-20]

“Be it resolved that AMS Council reject the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA).

Be it further resolved that AMS Council direct the Executive to seek an agreement with the UNA that ensures adequate student representation on the UNA Board.

Be it further resolved that the Executive seek student representation that can directly vote on matters at the UNA Board.”

Cole Evans:

- About a year ago the UNA did a governance overhaul to restructure its board.
- They wanted to push for “democracy,” for a board of elected representatives.
- As part of this, they decided to eliminate the voting seat filled by an AMS appointee, proposing to replace it with an “observer status” seat.
- The UNA represents communities at UBC in Wesbrook Village, the condos by Allard, the condos on Wesbrook Mall, etc.
- Last year the AMS External team under Cristina tried to reach a solution with them, but they wouldn’t agree.
- They said student residents in these areas could run for election to the board, but there are lots of barriers for students, including the proposed introduction of three-year terms.
- Our position is that reducing student representation is unacceptable.
- Looking for feedback: want to make sure our Board has given direction.

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- Currently, directors on the UNA board serve for two years.
- They want to change that to three years and get rid of the AMS-appointed seat.
- It’s unrealistic to expect students to run, but a big chunk of the population is students, for instance in Wesbrook Village.
- We as the AMS think this is not equitable: students need representation.

- Not a lot of students are aware of the UNA, though they pay into it and are eligible to run.
- Currently, I sit as the AMS-appointed director, but if the bylaw changes go through, we'd be just observers, except for some committees.

James Chen:

- If they believe in democracy, what is their rationale for removing a student body seat?
- In place of the AMS-appointed seat, have they come up with alternatives?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- There's no solid explanation for getting rid of the AMS seat.
- Last year Chris Hakim told them their plan is not really democratic.
- Their compromise is giving the AMS access to meetings as a non-voting observer.
- We would be allowed to speak.

Cole Evans:

- We offered to run elections for them.
- Also asked them to create a student seat: they didn't want to do that.
- Asked them to provide money to encourage students to run: they said no.
- Frustrating: this is cutting off the student voice.

Nadir Nurali:

- What kind of representation is there now on the board?
- Property owners? And students don't own property.

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- The UNA board is made up of three appointed directors, two from UBC and one from the AMS.
- All others are elected by the residents.

Chrissa Rassias:

- What's their demographic? Are they alumni?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- A good chunk either work for or do research here.
- Some are alumni, but none are current students.

Emma Dodyk:

- Is there any relationship between the UNA and the Musqueam?
- Are there any other observers on the board?

Cole Evans:

- I'm not aware of a working relationship with the Musqueam.

- I think they work with each other through the University.

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- There are no other observer seats.

Mathew Ho:

- Will the AMS encourage students who are residents to speak out against this situation?
- To pressure the UNA?
- It may seem weak if it's just AMS Council.

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- Wanted to discuss with you folks, and then can act on that.
- We will begin campaigning to make students in the UNA aware.
- If it goes to their AGM, we will encourage students to attend and vote against the bylaw change.

Emma Dodyk:

- Would there be any limitation on which students can run?
- Do you have to reside in a UNA neighbourhood?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- You have to be a resident of the UNA and have a UNA card.
- There are lots of barriers.

Chris Hakim:

- If you're trying to figure out the reasons for what the UNA is doing, forget it.
- The biggest reaction would come from action: students mobilizing.
- Not just encouraging students.
- Need to get students to attend and vote this down.
- Also send a submission to the Board committee responsible for this, noting that we've been offering compromises, noting that they're cutting out representation for students who are a large part of their constituency.

Cole Evans:

- You're right: the action is important.
- The motion in itself, no, but now we can say the organization itself is against this.

Max Holmes:

- It's good for the AMS to put forward a position.
- We have made it clear that student representation is important.
- It doesn't make sense that they make it impossible for students to sit on their board.
- The UNA is highly important in campus planning.

- There's also the issue of access to athletic facilities.
- There's a significant student population that lives in the neighbourhood.
- There needs to be student representation (not necessarily AMS representation).
- It's important that the AMS Board play a role: a clear statement from the AMS would be helpful if a mediator gets involved.
- There should be a clear ask.

Sebastian Cooper:

- There are two UBC appointees: they take direction from UBC.
- What is the position of UBC?

Cole Evans:

- The University acts like a mediator, like the parent in the room trying to get the kids to stop fighting.
- Not necessarily a strong stance either way.
- They recognize we are being co-operative.
- We're going to push them to take a stronger stand.

Chris Hakim:

- The University technically oversees the UNA.
- The UNA receives all its funding from the University.
- The UNA proposal not only cuts out the AMS seat; it cuts out the UBC seats too.
- But UBC doesn't mind because everything coming out of the UNA has to go to UBC.

Mathew Ho:

- Student residences are not under UNA jurisdiction?

Cole Evans

- Correct.

10. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED LUCIA LIANG:

"Be it resolved that AMS Council reject the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA).

Be it further resolved that AMS Council direct the Executive to seek an agreement with the UNA that ensures adequate student representation on the UNA Board.

Be it further resolved that the Executive seek student representation that can directly vote on matters at the UNA Board."

... Carried

For (28): Cole Evans, Georgia Yee, Sylvester (Sly) Mensah Jr., Kalith Nanayakkara, Lucia Liang, Ruby Barnard, Lawrence Liu, Joshua Kim, Mathew Ho, Carter MacLean, James Chen, Varada Saha, Ryan Wong, Haruka Higo, Emma Dodyk, Nadir Nurali, Alexandra Arbelaez, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Annika Szarka, Sebastian Cooper, Rachel Chan, Christian Bailey, Elsabe Fourie, Chris Sundby, Jimmy Kim, Clara Sismondo, Danny Liu, Sean Ryan

Against (2): Kevin Kang, Chrissa Rassias

May 20th, 2020 Email Vote Results

11. MOVED COLE EVANS:

“That the AMS Council extend the suspension of Code Section V, Section 1(21)(a) to allow committees to conduct email votes on items that have not been previously been discussed at an in-person meeting of that committee and suspend the provisions of Code Section III to allow Remarks and Reports to be made in written form instead of being verbally presented to Council meetings until August 31, 2020, or until the President notifies Council that the suspension is no longer needed, whichever is sooner.”

YES: 23 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

12. MOVED COLE EVANS:

“That the AMS Council allow the AMS Executive to run an additional membership survey around the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students to the general membership, in accordance with Policy I-12: Academic Experience Survey Section 5, Item (a).”

YES: 22 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

U) Discussion Period

U-Pass Program

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- U-Pass is currently suspended because of the pandemic.
- Ridership is down more than 80%.
- But now as restrictions are being lifted we anticipate students using transit more, and they may be buying regular bus passes, which average \$120 (they range in price from \$98 to \$200).
- This would be a massive jump from the U-Pass price.
- There are negotiations underway.
- The suspension is scheduled to last till August 31.
- We need to give TransLink 30 days’ notice to reinstate the U-Pass.

- The problem with reinstating is that every student would then have to pay \$42 per month.
- Should we lift the suspension?
- For June and July we're setting up a subsidy fund for students who have to access transit.
- Still looking into plans for the fall: reinstate or ask TransLink for a further suspension?
- There are 31,000 students in online courses this summer; 8,100 of those are grad students.
- Based on the Academic Experience Survey, we estimate 18% of undergraduate students and 54% of graduate students would use transit: a total of 8700 students.
- To partially reimburse these students (covering the difference between the U-Pass price and the regular bus pass price) would cost about \$700,000 a month.
- Full reimbursement (covering the full cost of a regular bus pass) would cost \$1 million per month.
- Looking at a subsidy solution for the summer.
- We will advocate to TransLink to increase the number of opt-outs allowed.
- We will advocate to the province for funding.
- Or we could ask for a concession fare or an opt-in system.

Mathew Ho:

- Where does the \$120 price come from?
- A 2-zone pass is \$131.
- A subsidy for students who live further away will cost a lot more.

Nadir Nurali:

- What was the survey question?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- It asks how often you use transit.

Ryan Wong:

- Under what conditions would the AMS recommend reinstating the U-Pass?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- Ideally, if the majority of students are using transit.
- The biggest fear is charging students who won't be able to use transit.
- We're having trouble estimating the numbers.

Nadir Nurali:

- When will you check in with us again?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- We are speaking to other student unions.
- The key thing is to all be on the same page.
- There are lots of things to consider.
- We don't know about Term 2; that's too far ahead for us to guess.
- Lots of student unions are facing the same situation.
- Need to consider the second wave.

Cole Evans:

- We want your feedback for guidance.

Chris Hakim:

- The U-Pass program is I think the Number 1 way we impact students.
- I'm finding it difficult to ask questions or give guidance.
- Need a presentation.
- I'd suggest going to the Advocacy Committee.

Sebastian Cooper:

- It's confusing without a proposal or numbers in front of us.
- Is there a way to share the numbers?
- Then we can email back.

Response to COVID-19

Max Holmes:

- I'm a bit worried because other organizations are already releasing plans for September.
- I'm concerned that we're just being reactive and only now are looking at planning for September.
- When can we expect plans?
- Next meeting is the budget, but we've just been told that the plans are not coming till July.
- Some departments will need less if we're working remotely; others more.
- How can we approve the budget before we know the plan?
- This is probably the most important issue until September.

Cole Evans:

- We're discussing this a lot internally.
- A lot depends on what UBC is doing for their orientation planning.
- They've indicated they want us to have greater involvement, but are not telling us much.
- Also, Conferences & Catering is gearing up, but we're not sure how much booking will happen.
- It's dependent on how many residents will be here in the fall.
- It's hard to get ahead of the curve; there are lots of hypotheticals in the air.

- The new Executives were settling into their roles; now we are looking to do forward planning.
- We can try to get a plan done for next Council, but that gives our managers only two and a half weeks to come up with something, and rushing will mean things are not as good as they need to be.
- I understand that it's hard to approve a budget, but we want to produce something comprehensive.

Keith Hester:

- I agree with Cole.
- We have had our managers thinking about what to do, and we've given them until the end of the month.
- A lot depends on what the University is doing, and they've been slow to tell us.

Chris Hakim:

- I completely empathize with the situation we're in, relying on the University for information.
- Don't expect the University to give you much, because the University is in the same situation: they're waiting for the province.
- I'd say: Plan Ahead.
- We should be planning for different options/scenarios, like with the preliminary budget.
- Give the Board the plans.

Max Holmes:

- Other organizations share plans with their boards.
- Maybe we can approve a budget this month, but bring an amendment in August.
- Not enough is being communicated to us.
- We know a lot will be online.
- There could be a second wave.
- I'm not saying come with a complete plan, but there's not even an update, which is worrying.
- We should have regular updates.
- Everyone understands things will change, but we're looking for updates and information we can discuss.

Georgia Yee:

- That's good feedback, and as to shifting to being proactive, we can look at scenarios: if Clubs Days is online, if we can't do orientation in person.
- And speaking of plans, we need a general plan for emergencies and crises.
- We should have a pandemic game plan so we know what to do and how to do it in the future, building off what we've learned from COVID-19.

Written reports

The Speaker:

- Would it be useful to have written accompaniments to Committee and Executive reports?

[Lots of Yes responses]

Cole Evans:

- That will mean more work, but fine if it's useful.
- I have analytics that show that not that many people read the docket.
- If you're asking for written reports, then read the reports.

V) Submissions

W) Next Meeting

June 24, 2020

X) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm

Y) Social Activity

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Jeremy Zuo | Medicine | | | | | | | | |
| Christian Bailey | Music | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Jake Reznik | Nursing | | | | | | | | |
| Kevin Kang | Pharmacy | | | | | | N | | |
| Elsabe Fourie | Planning | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | | |
| | Population & Public Health | | | | | | | | |
| Chris Sundby | Regent | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | | |
| Jimmy Kim | Science | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | | |
| Clara Sismondo | Science | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | | |
| Danny Liu | Science | Y | Y | Y | | Y | Y | | |
| Chris Hakim | Senate | | | | | | | | |
| Alex Gonzalez | Senate | | | | | | | | |
| Chrissa Rassias | Social Work | | Y | Y | | | X | | |
| Sean Ryan | St Mark's | Y | Y | Y | | | | | |
| Daniel Martin | VST | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | | |

June 3, 2020 Roster

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

| Name | Constituency | Present | Proxy |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| Kareem Ibrahim | Speaker of Council | X | |
| Cole Evans | President | X | |
| Georgia Yee | VP Academic | X | |
| Sylvester Mensah Jr. | VP Administration | X | |
| Kalith Nanayakkara | VP External Affairs | X | |
| Lucia Liang | VP Finance | X | |
| Ian Stone | Student Services Mgr | X | |
| Ruby Barnard | Architecture | X | |
| Lawrence Liu | Arts | X | |
| Sherly Prince | Arts | | |
| Joshua Kim | Arts | X | |
| Mathew Ho | Arts | X | |
| Carter MacLean | Arts | X | |
| | Audiology | | |
| Jeanie Malone | BoG | X | |
| Max Holmes | BoG | X | |
| Sanjay Khemani | Commerce | | |
| James Chen | Commerce | X | |
| Varada Saha | Dentistry | X | |
| Ryan Wong | Economics | X | |
| Haruka Higo | Education | X | |
| Emma Dodyk | Engineering | X | |
| Nadir Nurali | Engineering | X | |
| Alexandra Arbelaez | Forestry | X | |
| Jackson Schumacher | Graduate Studies | X | |
| Arash Shadkam | Graduate Studies | | |
| Nevena Rebic | Graduate Studies | X | |
| | Graduate Studies | | |
| | Indigenous Seat | | |
| | Journalism | | |
| Annika Szarka | Kinesiology | X | |
| Rachel Chan | Land & Food Systems | X | |
| Sebastian Cooper | Law | X | |
| Rio Picollo | Library/Archival | | |
| Jeremy Zuo | Medicine | | |
| Christian Bailey | Music | X | |
| Jake Reznik | Nursing | | |
| | Ombudsperson | | |
| Kevin Kang | Pharmacy | X | |
| Elsabe Fourie | Planning | X | |
| | Population & Public Health | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---|--|
| Chris Sundby | Regent College | X | |
| Danny Liu | Science | X | |
| Clara Sismondo | Science | X | |
| Jimmy Kim | Science | X | |
| Chris Hakim | Senate | X | |
| Alex Gonzalez | Senate | X | |
| Sean Ryan | St. Mark's | X | |
| Chrissa Rassias | Social Work | X | |
| Daniel Martin | VST | X | |