Attendence
Present: Cole Evans (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council and Privacy Officer)

Regrets: Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda
• The agenda was adopted (Kalith, Sylvester).

Minutes
• Approval of the minutes of November 4 (as corrected) and of November 18 was done prior to the meeting, by email vote.

U-Pass
• Kalith:
  o U-Pass will be continuing in second semester.
  o There will be a subsidy to support students and an exemption for students outside Vancouver. Also an exemption for immuno-compromised students.
  o There will be a heavy emphasis on communication before fees are assessed, informing students about options, subsidies, and exemptions.

Saudi Arabia
• Kalith:
  o The AMS, the GSS, and the SUO of UBCO are drafting a statement about Loujain Al-Hathloul, the former UBC student in prison in Saudi Arabia.
  o She is being tried as a terrorist, and we are very concerned about her safety.
  o In the spring UBC published a letter that we endorsed.
Now with news of her trial, it’s time for us to take action in support of her, calling on the federal government to advocate for her immediate release.

- We will reach out to other student organizations about this and will publish the letter with updates on the website.
- Planning to send the letter to the media on Tuesday.
- Will keep it up on the website for a month.

- **Keith:**
  - Would the Student Legal Fund Society be able to help?

- **Kalith:**
  - Good idea.
  - I’m sure she has good legal support, but we can see if the SLFS can play a role.

- **Cole:**
  - They’re pretty strict on how they can release money.

**U-Pass (continued)**

- **Lucia:**
  - How much have we used of the subsidy money?

- **Kalith:**
  - We used $60,000, which leaves $70,000 for second term.

- **Lucia:**
  - Can we find more money? From the tuition surplus?

- **Kalith:**
  - Unused money went back to the surplus.

- **Lucia:**
  - There was $60,000 in the summer and $60,000 in the fall.
  - If we spend $70,000 second term, there should still be money left over from the surplus.
  - If we can take more from the surplus, it would benefit a lot more students.

- **Cole:**
  - We’re not using the tuition surplus for AMS programs.
  - It’s for UBC-administered programs.

- **Kalith:**
  - Isn’t the $70,000 from the surplus?

- **Cole:**
  - U-Pass is a bit different; UBC is a major stakeholder in it.

- **Lucia:**
  - Can we open up the U-Pass subsidy to those who missed the Term 1 deadline and want to apply in Term 2?

- **Kalith:**
  - We didn’t do the best job of communicating last time, but this time will be better and we’ll get a lot more students reaching out.
May be tough to divide the $70,000.

- Lucia:
  - Can we open the subsidy to more students?
  - We did this for the Health & Dental subsidy, opening it to Term 1 students in Term 2.
  - If there’s more money, can we not do that?

- Cole:
  - It depends.
  - It’s not like the surplus is an endless supply.
  - If there’s money left over, we can look at that.
  - Logistically, though, Term 1 has passed.

- Lucia:
  - If the AMS can help, that’d be great.

- Cole:
  - We no longer have the original $1.2 million surplus to work with.

- Lucia:
  - The Health & Dental Committee used up its entire fund and added $20,000.

Simply Voting

- Sheldon:
  - Isabelle (the Chief Electoral Officer) and I had a meeting with the UBC IT people who liaise with Simply Voting on our behalf for the running of our elections.
  - Simply Voting is upgrading its system and moving to the cloud.
  - This raised issues of security, though the UBC people are pretty confident that the new system will be secure; in fact, sticking with the old system would be more of a problem because it will no longer be supported, and that might become a security issue.
  - There will also be a cost to changing over, plus there will now be an annual subscription fee.
  - We originally paid $43,000 to purchase the Simply Voting system; it was a one-time fee.
  - Now we would be paying $5,500 a year.
  - We’ve been using Simply Voting for close to ten years and have been quite happy with it.

- Cole:
  - Cloud-based is pretty secure. We have other things in the cloud.
  - As to price, we could negotiate.
  - We could also be invoicing our Constituencies for the cost of running their elections.

- Lucia:
  - That won’t go over well with the Constituencies.
• Cole:
  o It’s not unreasonable to ask for a few hundred dollars.
  o They’re getting software they don’t have to pay for.
• Action Item: Sheldon to send details to Cole and Lucia.

Adjournment
• The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.