STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

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Guests: Andrew Ha (Ubyssey), Charlotte Alden (Ubyssey), Claire Ewing (AMS Sustainability Projects Coordinator), Saad Shoaib (AMS AVP External), Ben Du (student), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm

B) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Speaker:
- We’re on the unceded and ancestral land of the Musqueam and Squamish Nations.
- We need to recognize whose lands we are on and reflect on the role UBC plays in colonization.

C) Adoption of the agenda:

1. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED GEORGIA YEE:

“That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

... No objections

D) Membership: Introductions, new members, declaration of vacancies:

Welcome to our new Members: Alexa Tanner (GSS)

Vacancies on Council: Journalism, Population & Public Health, Audiology

Goodbyes:

E) Speaker’s Business (5 minutes):

The Speaker:
- Let me know how I can make these meetings more accessible for you.

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

G) Consent Agenda Items

2. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED SYLVESTER MENSAH JR.:

“That the following consent items be accepted as presented (simple majority):

Executive Committee minutes dated October 7, 2020
Governance Committee minutes dated September 14, 2020 [SCD226-21]
Governance Committee minutes dated September 28, 2020 [SCD227-21]
Governance Committee minutes dated October 2, 2020 [SCD228-21]
Operations Committee minutes dated August 21, 2020 [SCD229-21]
Steering Committee minutes dated August 26, 2020 [SCD230-21]
Student Life Committee minutes dated October 8, 2020 [SCD231-21]
AMS Council minutes dated August 5, 2020 [SCD232-21]

... No objections

3. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED COLE EVANS (2/3rds vote)

“That the following consent item be accepted as presented (2/3rds majority):

That on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the $153,390.56 for the Eastside Furniture Replacement Project, which Council on August 26, 2020 directed to be allocated from the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund, be allocated instead from the SUB Management Fund."

... Carried


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

Sustainability Priorities Update – Claire Ewing [SCD233-21]

- New website up, with the AMS Sustainability Action Plan on it.
- Facilities operations:
  - Revolving and Runoff Gardens under repair.
  - U-Square Mobile. SEEDS project for Term 2.
  - Supply chain audits for Term 2.
    - Audit of Nest carbon emissions and food supply chain.
  - Waste Hub to recycle hard-to-recycle material.
  - Accelerated our Net Zero Plans for 2025 to meet the Paris Climate Agreement goals.
  - Getting an external consultant.
- Business Operations:
  - Reimplementing Mugshare.
    - Discontinued after design flaw and then COVID.
    - But looking into it and hoping to broaden it to a container share program.
  - Waste display cases.
• Advocacy & Leadership:
  o Monthly symposiums, began in October.

• Student Services:
  o Thingery: a lending library of not often used items.
  o Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC):
    ▪ Looking into what the programming will be and what the space will look like.
    ▪ Waste scale.
    ▪ Dashboard.

• Campus coordination:
  o Partnering with Interfaculty Case Competition January 11-15.

• Indigenous coordination:
  o Working with the Indigenous Committee and other Indigenous groups and the UBC Food Security Initiative.

Questions
Laura Beaudry:
• Will the new Mugshare mugs be the same as the old ones?

Claire Ewing:
• No, Mugshare has two potential new designs:
  o One heavier duty one and also a lighter weight one.
• Waiting to hear their decision.

I) Consultation Period

Discipline Committee [SCD234-21], [SCD235-21]
Sebastian Cooper:
• Governance Committee has been working on this.
• Asked to by Council.
• Currently, the only option Council has is to censure, which seems harsh.
• We’ve looked at other measures and mechanisms.
• Our suggestion is to create a Standing Committee, the Discipline Committee, chaired by the Ombudsperson.
• The other members would be the non-Executive chairs of the other Standing Committees.
• There’s a whole gamut of actions this committee could recommend.
• Council could ask the Discipline Committee to look into a case and hear from parties.

Max Holmes:
• This is great.
• But one question: why the Ombudsperson to chair rather than the Speaker of Council?
• And can Senate and BoG reps chair Standing Committees? But if so, should they be on the Discipline Committee?
Sebastian Cooper:
- Looked at other student unions across the country and got the idea of the Ombudsperson chairing from that.
- And given what the Ombudsperson deals with, it seemed a good idea.
- But if Council thinks the Speaker would be a better idea, we can explore that.

Sheldon Goldfarb:
- There is nothing to keep a BoG or Senate rep from becoming a chair of a Standing Committee.

Katherine Feng:
- How does this differ from existing means to discipline a Council member?

Sebastian Cooper:
- At the moment there’s censure – that’s it.
- The idea is to have a mechanism (a dedicated committee) to evaluate the issue.

Cole Evans:
- Awesome work.
- A few things:
  - I agree that the Speaker might be a better chair because they will understand context, procedures, Code.
  - Maybe call it something other than Discipline. Remediation?
  - The membership might be unfair. In the past Council has been divided. What if all the chairs were on one side?
    - Maybe make it like the Election Appeals Committee: each side names someone to the committee.

Sebastian Cooper:
- You might always end up with people on one side, but having the chairs do this means you have people with experience and a knowledge of Council.
- I note as well that the recommendations of the committee would still have to be approved by Council.

Cole Evans:
- Most of the time Council would go along with the recommendation.
- I’m trying to make sure the person on the receiving end feels like they are getting a fair decision.

Sebastian Cooper:
- There’s an advantage to having decided on the committee members ahead of time.
- Otherwise people rush to be on the committee because they have strong views on the issue.
- That’s why we wanted to create a standing committee rather than strike it from time to time as an ad hoc committee.
Jeanie Suparman:
- Discipline has been used to oppress marginalized people.
- Perhaps a different name should be used.

Max Holmes:
- A Standing Committee would meet regularly.
- Should it not be called an Extraordinary Committee?

Sheldon Goldfarb:
- Code doesn’t require Standing Committees to meet regularly, and there was something about the new appointment system that made it seem like this should not be an Extraordinary Committee, but we could look into this again.

J) Appointments

K) President’s Remarks (5 minutes):

Cole Evans
- BC election last week, US election next week.
- AGM:
  - Happy with the number of advance registrations.
  - Expecting to meet quorum.
- On search committees for the VP Students Office:
  - Senior Director of Student Engagement.
  - Chief Student Health Officer.
- Monitoring the COVID-19 situation to make sure people are kept safe:
  - Cases have risen in the province.
  - Working to get free face masks in the Nest.
  - Compliance in the building is relatively good.
  - The Health & Safety Committee is piloting an Ambassador-esque program of reminding people to wear a mask.
- SASC office construction going to be able to resume. There are insurance issues, but we will deal with those later and get back to work now.
- Still a vacancy on the HR Committee.

Questions
Max Holmes:
- Did the AMS publicize how members could add motions for the AGM?
- Did we add anything that came from student body?

Cole Evans:
- The new Societies Act actually prohibits adding motions from the floor, so we didn’t advertise that because they can’t add motions.
- They must be brought in advance.
- All the motions come from the AMS.
- The SFU student society brought motions condemning SFU for raising tuition during COVID, and we did come up with a motion on Proctorio, but it was too late.
Max Holmes:
- There is a way members could have brought motions in advance.

Cole Evans:
- We didn’t advertise that people could bring forward suggestions ahead of time.
- Our ramp-up was done in only six weeks.
- If we make the AGM more important and meaningful on a regular basis, it’s something to keep in mind.

L) Executive Remarks (3 minutes each):

VP Finance – Lucia Liang

- Budget reforecast.
- Q2 report.

VP Academic & University Affairs – Georgia Yee

- Thrive Month coming up in November.
- QPR sessions on suicide prevention.
- Working with the GSS on 24 hour movement guidelines.
- Conversation about UBC budget and tuition consultation.
- Proctorio:
  - Best if students raise concerns with profs and if a prof is not receptive, go to the course coordinator or department head.
  - Looking at mitigating harms, cutting back the invasiveness.
- Discovery meeting with Digital Food Hub.
- Food security.
- Climate Hub: looking for funding sources for them.
- Midterm scheduling:
  - Looking at a midterm exam clash policy, like the final exam clash policy.
  - Researching the impact of Saturday and late night exams.
- Students abroad: do we need a policy?

Questions

Jackson Schumacher:
- If we encourage students to go to professors, are there any mechanisms to support them?
- I’m thinking of a freshman emailing a department head.

Georgia Yee:
- Hoping to put out a communications campaign about resources to support students, to help them write that email, a template.
- Good point to look into lowering barriers for students who may not feel comfortable approaching professors.

Max Holmes:
- Can you elaborate on funding for Proctorio and a timeline for alternatives?
Georgia Yee:
- Proctorio’s contract ends in early February 2021.
- UBC has an advisory group looking at remote invigilation tools.
- Looking at an RFP process.
- The problem with other remote invigilation tools is that they don’t fulfill all the requirements out of the box.
- We want to reduce the invasiveness of the tools.
- We will advocate for a seat in this process.

VP Administration - Sylvester Mensah Jr. [SCD237-21]
- Excited about sustainability progress, but a lot more to be done.
- The second Hatch exhibit is ongoing, ending with a virtual Halloween dance party.
- Clubs: start-up fund underway for new clubs.

Kalith Nanayakkara – VP External Affairs
- Hope you all voted in the provincial election.
- My assistant Erin worked very hard on the Get Out the Vote campaign.
- Now back to advocacy efforts.
- Meeting MLA’s about rental support, the BC access grant, review of operations funding.
- UCRU (federal):
  - Fast track permanent residency program; seeking to expand it to include off-campus work.
  - UCRU bylaws finished and sent to lawyers. Will be one school, one vote.
  - UCRU incorporating this week.
  - Budget next.

Questions
Max Holmes:
- UCRU: one vote per school.
- Will there be a fee?
- How is this different from other national student organizations like CASA or CFS?

Kalith Nanayakkara:
- If you know our history, proportional voting was an issue for us.
- The biggest distinction with UCRU is that it’s only for U-15 schools.
- All the schools are facing similar issues from a common ground.
- None of this is codified yet.
- Trying to see how to make a federal coalition work.

Max Holmes:
- The AMS pushed for a review of operating grants for post-secondary institutions.
- Is the aim to increase funding?
Kalith Nanayakkara:
- Yes, we are setting up meetings to push for increased funding.
- Meeting with the ABCS and the UVic student society.
- We’ll be publishing a report soon about how we’ll do the advocacy.
- Trying to understand both sides.

Student Services Manager - Ian Stone [SCD238-21]
- Filming this weekend for two Services: Tutoring and Peer Support.
- We want more students aware of our services.
- We also do a newsletter and handouts, but need to be more creative.
- RBC Get Seeded in November: Pitch competition for student business ideas.
- Food for Fines: With UBC, for parking tickets etc. Proceeds to the Food Bank.
- All our Services are running smoothly.
- Working on promotion and looking to next term.

Questions
Cole Evans:
- Can we do Food for Fines all year?

Ian Stone:
- I can pitch that to UBC Security.

Jeanie Suparman:
- How do you plan to promote to new students that have not been to campus?

Ian Stone:
- The first two weeks are crucial for promoting things on campus, and to be honest, we missed that this year.
- That’s why the videos.
- Also ads on Reddit, Facebook, Instagram.
- For first years, posters in residences for Safewalk.
- Working with first year housing on ads for Tutoring.
- Trying to go to where the First Years are.
- Looking ahead to next year.

Managing Director – Keith Hester
- Working on fourth version of the budget.
- Working on process for next year’s budget.
- First all-staff meeting last week in a number of years; well attended.
- Health and Dental Committee looking at amendments to Health and Dental plan.
- Looking at a fee restructuring in the next referendum cycle.

Questions
Max Holmes:
- Staff wages during the pandemic:
  - Have we cut wages for unionized members?
Keith Hester:
- We haven’t cut wages for anybody.
- There was a minimum wage increase in June which affected our overall structure.
- Did have to let go of a number of staff because outlets closed in March.

Max Holmes:
- Have we cut hours for any staff?

Keith Hester:
- For Conferences & Catering, we have cut back to three days a week because there is almost no business coming through.

Sebastian Cooper:
- Is the audit coming to Council?

Keith Hester:
- I did present it to the Executive.
- It will get presented at the AGM and then go up on the website.

Cole Evans:
- We were going to bring it to this meeting.
- We can do a presentation next time.

M) Committee Reports (5 minutes each):

Advocacy Committee – Mathew Ho
- First meeting will be this Friday
- Will be talking about reviewing and revising committee goals.
- Academic Experience Survey report.
- Provincial advocacy.

Steering Committee – Cole Evans
- Hope to meet next week or the week after.

Finance Committee – Lucia Liang
- Approving subsidy applications.
- Discussing the reforecast.

Governance Committee – Sebastian Cooper
- Trying to consult chairs about transition process.

Operations Committee – Katherine Feng
- Club constitutions.
- Appointed Vice-Chair: Ben Du.
- Eastside furniture discussion.

**HR Committee – Lawrence Liu**
- Nothing to report.
- Trying to schedule a meeting.

**Student Life Committee – Agam Gill**
- Discussed goals: engaging students, connecting students to services, increasing voter turnout.

**Indigenous Committee – Laura Beaudry**
- Tell your Indigenous friends about the committee.

**Advisory Board – Cole Evans**
- Meeting next week.
- Minutes will come.

**Questions**
Max Holmes:
- Is there a way the minutes can be approved by email, so we can see them quicker?

Cole Evans:
- Good idea. I'll try to find a way.

**SHAPE – Cole Evans**
- No update.

**Fermentation Lab Committee – Lawrence Liu**
- No update.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions – Chris Sundby**
- Finding a time for a meeting.

**N) Report from Presidents Council (2 minutes):**
Cole Evans:
- No report, but scheduling a meeting in November.

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

**Board of Governors – Max Holmes**
- Workday (UBC’s new software platform) going live: stressful time for faculty and staff.
- Next meeting November 19: Audit Committee.
• November 24: other committees.
• Full Board December 3.

**Senate – Eshana Bhangu & Anisha Sandhu**

In the absence of the Senate reps, Max Holmes reported:

- Made use of SAT and ACT scores optional. And going to review whether to use them at all.
- Changes to admission requirements for Bachelor of Media Studies.
- Update on external review of Senate – report delayed.
- Annual report from the University Librarian.

**Questions**

Mathew Ho:

- Are there discussions on admission requirement changes for students from other countries?

Max Holmes:

- There are committees that are looking at this.
- If you have a question, send it to me.

Katherine Feng:

- Do you have an email contact?

Max Holmes:

- We would be happy to put our contact info on the website.

**Historical Update – Sheldon Goldfarb**

- Last time Mathew wanted details about what AMS Council did in 1970 in response to the War Measures Act, so I’ve circulated the minutes.
- I got so caught up in the 50th anniversary of the War Measures Act last time that I forgot to mention that October 15 was our 105th birthday.
- We were created by a general meeting of about 350 people who passed bylaws: just like tomorrow.
- And October 28 is the 98th anniversary of the Great Trek, the march that helped get us the current campus so that we could move from the old campus, the so-called Fairview Shacks, near the VGH.
- And the recent provincial election saw the re-election of two former AMS Councillors to the BC Legislature:
  - Bowinn Ma (EUS President, 2006)
  - Mike Lee (AMS President, 1989)

**P) Minutes of Council and Committees of Council:**

**Q) Executive Committee Motions:**
R) **Constituency and Affiliate Motions:**

S) **Committee Motions:**

T) **Other Business and Notice of Motions:**

4. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

   “That the agenda be amended to add the following motion:

   That Katherine Feng be appointed to the Governance Committee for a period effective immediately and ending at the first meeting in May 2021.”

   ... No objections

5. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED MATHEW HO (2/3rds vote)

   “That Katherine Feng be appointed to the Governance Committee for a period effective immediately and ending at the first meeting in May 2021.”

   ... No objections

U) **Discussion Period:**

V) **Submissions:**

   CUS Fall Election Certification Report [SCD241-21]
   LFSUS Fall Election Certification Report [SCD242-21]
   LSS (Allard) Fall Election Certification Report [SCD243-21]
   VSEUS Fall Election Certification Report [SCD244-21]
   War Measures Act [SCD245-21]
   AMS Carbon Management Proposal by Offsetters (2020) [SCD246-21]
   AMS Sustainability October report [SCD247-21]

W) **Next Meeting:**

   Next Meeting: Thursday November 12, 2020

X) **Adjournment:**

   There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47.

Y) **Social Activity:**
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