

STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

Guests: Pawan Minhas (Ubysey), Andrew Ha (Ubysey), Charlotte Alden (Ubysey), Sam Smart (Ubysey), Jackson Dagger (Ubysey), Natalie Cappe (student), Shivani Mehta (AMS AVP Academic), Saad Shoaib (AMS AVP External), Mary Gan (AMS AVP Finance), Ben Du (student), Mona Zilinskaite (AMS Elections), Stanley Omotor (AMS Elections), Siddharth Khandelwal (AMS Elections), Isabelle Ava-Pointon (AMS Elections), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm with Cole Evans in the chair.

B) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Chair:

- This is to acknowledge that we are on the traditional, unceded, ancestral lands of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm-speaking Musqueam people.
- This territory was here long before UBC and will continue when we're gone.
- This is a time to reflect on whose lands we are on and on the important work that there is still to do.

C) Adoption of the agenda:

1. MOVED EMMA DODYK, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the agenda be adopted as presented."

Lucia Liang:

- Strike the UBC Budget presentation and add a Consultation on funds.

Cole Evans:

- We will also be reconsidering the motion from last time on child care, on a point of order.

Max Holmes:

- Why are we removing the UBC Budget presentation?

Georgia Yee:

- We're reorienting to focus on cost mitigation.
- We will bring something on January 27.

Max Holmes:

- Last year we had a commitment to review the budget consultation process early in the year, not later as it did last year.
- This is happening late again.
- It would be good to talk about process next time.

Georgia Yee:

- I totally agree.
- We should create an internal process or policy to provide more structure and accountability.
- The University consultation was also pushed back this year.

2. MOVED EMMA DODYK, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

“That the agenda be adopted as amended.”

... No objections

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

Welcome to our new Members: Kiera Vandeborne (Planning), Emily Masse (Nursing)

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

Goodbyes: Elsabe Fourie (Planning)

E) Speaker’s Business (5 minutes):

Cole Evans (President):

- I’m Chair tonight.
- Kareem is still technically Speaker, and is running the Ethics & Accountability Committee, but can’t attend on Wednesday evenings.
- I will chair until we get a new Speaker.

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

G) Consent Agenda Items

3. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED LUCIA LIANG:

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

AMS Council minutes dated September 30, 2020	[SCD314-21]
AMS Council minutes dated October 7, 2020	[SCD315-21]
AMS Council minutes dated October 14, 2020	[SCD316-21]
AMS Council minutes dated October 28, 2020	[SCD317-21]
Executive Committee minutes dated December 2, 2020	[SCD318-21]
Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions minutes dated Nov 6, 2020	[SCD319-21]

Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions minutes dated Nov 20, 2020 [SCD320-21]
Student Life Committee minutes dated November 23, 2020 [SCD321-21]
Sustainability Sub-Committee minutes dated November 26, 2020 [SCD322-21]

From the Elections Committee

“That Arjav Shah and Emmanuel Ruba be appointed as Polling Officers for the 2021 elections effective immediately and ending March 15, 2021.”

Ryan Wong:

- I thought we weren't hiring Polling Officers.

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- That was poll clerks.
- Polling Officers are part of the committee and do other duties.

4. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED LUCIA LIANG:

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Sustainability Sub-Committee minutes dated November 26, 2020 [SCD322-21]

From the Elections Committee

“That Arjav Shah and Emmanuel Ruba be appointed as Polling Officers for the 2021 elections effective immediately and ending March 15, 2021.”

... Carried

For (28): Agam Gill, Alison St. Pierre, Annika Szarka, Chris Sundby, Christian Bailey, Daniel Martin, Emily Masse, Emma Dodyk, Jackson Schumacher, James Chen, Jimmy Kim, Joshua Kim, Kalith Nanayakkara, Kiera Vandeborne, Kevin Kang, Kristian Oppenheim, Laura Beaudry, Lawrence Liu, Lucia Liang, Mathew Ho, Nadir Nurali, Rachel Chan, Ruby Barnard, Ryan Wong, Sebastian Cooper, Sherly Prince, Sylvester Mensah Jr., Varada Saha

5. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED LUCIA LIANG:

“That the following consent items be accepted as presented (2/3rds).”

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 April 30th, 2021, or until the President notifies Council the suspension is no longer needed, whichever is sooner."

From the President

"That 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 April 30th, 2021, or until the President notifies Council that the suspension is no longer needed, whichever is sooner."

From the Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions:

"That Council amend its motion of October 7 requiring the Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions to present a report and recommendations to Council by the first meeting in January and postpone the delivery date for the report and recommendations until the first meeting in April."

Mathew Ho asked that the office hours motion be removed for separate discussion, saying there could be virtual hours.

6. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED LUCIA LIANG:

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From the President

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From the Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions:

"That Council amend its motion of October 7 requiring the Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions to present a report and recommendations to Council by the first meeting in January and postpone the delivery date for the report and recommendations until the first meeting in April."

... Carried

For (25): Agam Gill, Alexandra Arbelaez, Alison St. Pierre, Annika Szarka, Carter MacLean, Chris Sundby, Christian Bailey, Daniel Martin, Emily Masse, Emma Dodyk, Jackson Schumacher, James Chen, Jimmy Kim, Joshua Kim, Kristian Oppenheim, Laura Beaudry, Lawrence Liu, Mathew Ho, Nadir Nurali, Rachel Chan, Ruby Barnard, Ryan Wong, Sebastian Cooper, Sylvester Mensah Jr., Varada Saha

Abstained: Kevin Kang, Sherly Prince

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

Elections Timeline – Isabelle Ava-Pointon (Chief Electoral Officer) [SCD323-21]

- I oversee all the elections that the AMS runs.
- Tonight I'm here to talk about the elections timeline.
- I will have virtual office hours:
 - By appointment until February 12 (when nominations close).
 - As of February 20, someone will always be in the office on social media.
- Changes because of the pandemic:
 - The election will be entirely online: no in-person events, no in-person campaigning, no polling booths.
 - Will look different.
 - Still permitting lawn signs.
 - Nominations have opened and for the AMS will close on February 12, and the All-Candidates Meeting and the official announcement of the candidates will take place that afternoon.
 - Senate and BoG nominations will close February 5.
 - Campaigning will begin February 20, a bit earlier than in other years.
 - Voting is March 1-5.
 - March 7: end of withdrawal period.
 - March 10: official results
 - March 12: declaration of expenses due.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- What is the withdrawal period?

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- Winning candidates can withdraw before the official results are declared.

More on the Elections – Isabelle Ava-Pointon

- There will be two forums and the Great Debate.
- Candidate reimbursements have been reduced: there's no food, buttons, or any physical materials to spend money on.
- Tomorrow a nominations information session on Zoom.
- Referendum process will begin only after the VPAUA has verified a petition.

Questions

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- Why are lawn signs allowed?
- My worry is that this is not fair to those outside the Lower Mainland.

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- We did look at this, but in the end decided that it won't be that big a deal because so few people will be on campus.

- We can change this if Council wants.
- We thought there should be some way for candidates to have a presence on campus.

Emma Dodyk:

- Where can we find information on Faculty Senator elections?

Isabelle Ava-Pointon

- We are talking to UBC Registrar's Office about this.
- Sometimes these are run by the Constituencies, but sometimes there's a mismatch between Constituency and Faculty.
- We're in talks to see who should be in charge this year.

Max Holmes:

- Did we think about reducing the number of signatures needed for a nomination?
- It's a high barrier in a remote environment.
- The Board of Governors and Senate require a much lower number.

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- It's probably a lot easier to submit signatures online.
- It is a high barrier, deliberately: there were issues in the past with joke candidates.
- It's not significantly more challenging than in previous years.

Max Holmes:

- The very first thing people will do is go online to ask others to sign their nomination form.
- There will be a lot of online engagement before the Official Campaign Period; it will destroy the limited Campaign Period.

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- That can come up any year.
- The polling officers will be keeping an eye on that.
- We don't have control of the whole Internet.

Mathew Ho:

- What constitutes an acceptable signature?

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- Normally it's a physical signature on a nomination form handed in to Joanne.
- We suspended that part of Code this year, and there's no definition of signature.
- There will be a form on the website, and you will have to provide name, email address, and student number (for verification purposes).
- There will be a box to tick: that will be equivalent to a signature.
- It's the same level of verification as before.

Georgia Yee:

- Reducing the signature requirement is in line with making elections accessible.

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- I don't object in principle.

7. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the signature requirement be reduced from 50 to 30 signatures and the accompanying Code required for that be suspended until May 1, 2021."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Ryan Wong:

- I hesitate.
- I don't think it needs to change.
- I don't see the barrier.

Max Holmes:

- I'm in favour.
- Some people think it's a low barrier to get signatures, but this will lead to violations; people will start answering questions online about running; it's different from in person.
- I don't think this will increase the number of joke candidates. At Senate and BoG we get very few joke candidates despite a lower number of signatures being required.
- Our candidate pool is not diverse enough, and it's getting smaller.
- We need to make elections more accessible.

8. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the signature requirement be reduced from 50 to 30 signatures and the accompanying Code required for that be suspended until May 1, 2021."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

For (25): Agam Gill, Alison St. Pierre, Annika Szarka, Anissa Meghji, Chris Sundby, Christian Bailey, Daniel Martin, Emily Masse, Emma Dodyk, Georgia Yee, Jackson Schumacher, James Chen, Jimmy Kim, Joshua Kim, Kiera Vandeborne, Kevin Kang, Kristian Oppenheim, Laura Beaudry, Lawrence Liu, Mathew Ho, Nadir Nurali, Rachel Chan, Ruby Barnard, Sylvester Mensah Jr., Varada Saha

Against (2): Ryan Wong, Sherly Prince

Abstained: Kalith Nanayakkara

Questions about Election presentation (continued)

Mathew Ho:

- How are nomination signature forms distributed? Qualtrics?

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- Digital signing is available on the AMS website.
- Looked at options and this was the most accessible and the simplest way.

Jeanie Malone:

- What about sending forms to the UBC Registrar (for Senate nominations)?

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- I'm checking with them about this.

Kalith Nanayakkara

- Back to lawn signs: there's an advantage for the candidates who are here.
- I don't think that's equitable.

9. MOVED KALITH NANAYAKKARA, SECONDED JAMES CHEN:

"That campaign lawn signs be banned from the 2021 AMS Elections and the accompanying Code required for that be suspended. This motion will be effective until May 1, 2021."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Mathew Ho:

- Would it be possible to look for an alternative?
- There are more first years here: need to let them know elections are ongoing.
- Could we post everyone's material?

Max Holmes:

- On signatures: that's to make sure the elections are accessible.
- On lawn signs, there's a reason Council does not have direct input on things like this; we have an impartial Elections Committee for that.
- It may not be a great idea for Council to intervene.
- Maybe Isabelle could take this back to her committee.

James Chen:

- I understand having something on campus, but this year has special circumstances.
- We want a low barrier and don't want to hurt those who are not on campus.
- Why don't we just have more interaction online?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- To Max's point on intervening, I just want to get my perspective across.
- I want an equitable election.

- Also, lawn signs are expensive.

Ryan Wong:

- Lawn signs have been one of the more effective ways of campaigning and they also let students know the elections are happening.
- They raise awareness and can increase turnout.
- But if you or your volunteers are not living in Vancouver, you're at a disadvantage.

Mathew Ho:

- Election visibility is important.
- The lack of it will diminish participation.
- People visit the elections website after they become aware the elections are happening.

10. MOVED KALITH NANAYAKKARA, SECONDED JAMES CHEN:

"That campaign lawn signs be banned from the 2021 AMS Elections and the accompanying Code required for that be suspended. This motion will be effective until May 1, 2021."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

For (21): Agam Gill, Alexandra Arbelaez, Annika Szarka, Carter MacLean, Chris Sundby, Christian Bailey, Georgia Yee, Jackson Schumacher, James Chen, Jimmy Kim, Kalith Nanayakkara, Kiera Vandeborne, Laura Beaudry, Lucia Liang, Nadir Nurali, Rachel Chan, Ruby Barnard, Ryan Wong, Sherly Prince, Sylvester Mensah Jr., Varada Saha

Against (7): Alison St. Pierre, Daniel Martin, Emily Masse, Joshua Kim, Kevin Kang, Kristian Oppenheim, Lawrence Liu,

Abstained: Emma Dodyk, Mathew Ho

Questions about Election presentation (continued)

Max Holmes:

- The idea of extending the campaign period into Reading Break: Was this discussed with previous candidates?
- Two weeks of campaigning is extremely stressful; it has an impact on mental health, and how much engagement will you get in Reading Break?
- Why not extend to the weekend after?

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- This was included in the lower the barriers conversation.
- We wanted to make sure everyone has a fair chance.
- So we are extending the time, but candidates don't have to run around campus making classroom announcements; everything is online.

- It's going to be harder to get visibility; incumbents will have an unfair advantage, so we wanted to provide more time to build up visibility.
- We want new candidates to have a fighting chance.

Daniel Martin:

- Affiliate school links didn't work last year; it would be good to test that before the election.

Isabelle Ava-Pointon:

- I'm already in touch with the Affiliates.

I) Consultation Period

Funds Reserve – Lucia Liang

[SCD324-21]

- Operational deficit of \$720,849.
- Delayed hiring, reduced events, want to use fund reserves.
- The three funds with the most money in them are:
 - Sustainability Projects Fund (just under \$393,000)
 - Childcare Bursary Fund (just under \$240,000)
 - Clubs Benefit Fund (just under \$534,000).
- The 2011 fee referendum question established these funds.
- The issue is in what way we can use this money.

Cole Evans:

- The referendum question itself did not specify how each of these funds should be used.
- The only thing that binds us is AMS Code.

Max Holmes:

- Have we asked the lawyers about this?

Cole Evans:

- Good suggestion, but as we see it, our procedures allow us to be flexible.

Max Holmes:

- This is extremely interesting.
- Students thought they knew where the fees were going when they voted.
- If we want to do this, and change where the fee goes, even if it's legally acceptable, it seems disingenuous that we advertised about them a certain way.
- Also, why didn't the current Speaker rule on this?
- The President has an interest in the budget.
- What past precedent did you look at?

Cole Evans:

- I'm chair of the meeting.
- I didn't come to make a case.
- As chair, that would be my interpretation.

Max Holmes:

- Was the Clerk of Council consulted?
- It may not be the best idea to decide this tonight.

Cole Evans:

- The Clerk of Council was involved.
- I agree that tonight is not the night to decide.

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- I looked at the referendum from 2011.
- The ballot included a table listing the fees, but not explaining them.
- There was another document, part of the promotional material for the referendum, that explained them.
- In the past we used the Clubs Benefit Fund for a purpose beyond what was stated in that explanatory document.

Jackson Schumacher:

- I think it is sketchy to divert funds on a technicality.
- What is the Childcare Bursary Fund currently being used for?

Lucia Liang:

- Currently nothing.
- It used to go to UBC to support childcare bursaries.
- The December motion authorized spending on food and supplies for children from this fund, but we have not spent the money: we've brought the motion back again. The money is still sitting in the account.

Jackson Schumacher:

- We should try to spend this on childcare-related issues.
- Students are struggling with childcare.
- It's a huge problem and what our constituents voted for.

Max Holmes:

- If there is a large surplus, perhaps we need to look at how we can expand the criteria for childcare rather than using it to pay off the deficit – and is the deficit that high?
- Council should be seeing what the deficit repayment plan is.
- We need more information.
- Climate Justice is asking for money from UBC; I don't know why the Sustainability Projects Fund cannot be opened to the climate emergency rather than being used to pay off the deficit.
- Use fees for what they are for.

Lucia Liang:

- For Clubs Benefit and Sustainability Projects, we have tried to reduce barriers, and we're going to do more: open up the fund, increase the cap.

- But we get so much money each year; that's why we thought of using it to pay off our deficit.
- But that's why we're consulting.

Cole Evans:

- The idea is not to throw the money into the general pool.

Lucia Liang:

- Yes, Clubs Benefit, for example, would be used to pay for Campus Groups.
- That's a \$51,000 project clearly meant for clubs, even if not for an individual club.
- It wouldn't be unrelated to the stated purpose of the fund.
- Or we could hire a researcher to do net zero carbon emissions research with money from Sustainability Projects.
- Or hire a videographer to promote the clubs.

Max Holmes:

- The AMS has argued with UBC over this exact idea.
- This is just to increase operational revenue.
- If this is what the AMS wants to do, we should get an itemized list showing every area the funds are going to.
- And for Sustainability Projects we should consult the Climate Hub.

Lucia Liang:

- I am more than happy to come back with a list.
- I wanted a conversation before bringing in the budget.

11. MOVED LUCIA LIANG, SECONDED IAN STONE:

"That the AMS Child Care Bursary Fund section of Code be suspended so that the fund can be used for child-care related expenses."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Cole Evans (as chair):

- Last time we passed a motion allocating \$58,500 to the Community Food Hub from the Child Care Bursary Fund.
- That allocation does not fit the purposes of the fund in Code.
- We could suspend Code.
- However, we may want our lawyers to look at this.
- For now I'm ruling the original motion out of order.

Max Holmes:

- Why is this motion on the agenda?

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- We passed the original motion at the past Council meeting.
- After the meeting it was questioned whether the motion was in order.

Max Holmes:

- So at this point the motion is out of order and no money will be spent.

Cole Evans:

- Correct.
- This is a chance for Council to revisit this.

Lucia Liang:

- I would like a Code suspension.
- We have money for this in the Services budget, but if we could take the money from the Child Care fund, it would help the budget.

Max Holmes:

- So this is just about where the funding is coming from.
- I would expect the Executive to make a recommendation about whether to pass this or not.

Cole Evans:

- The motion came from the Finance Committee, not the Executive Committee.

Max Holmes:

- The Executive has a fiduciary duty to make a recommendation.

Jeanie Malone:

- I looked at the referendum text.
- There's a potential to help families suffering from food insecurity.
- The referendum limits the fund to childcare.
- It's not a Code change; it's a referendum issue.

Ian Stone:

- This money was intended not for food, but for diapers etc.
- It would be distributed by the Food Hub and the Food Bank, but it would be for childcare-related items, and in my mind that meets the intention of the fund.
- It will be appreciated by the families.

12. MOVED JEANIE MALONE, SECONDED LAURA BEAUDRY:

"That Council approve \$58,500 from the AMS Childcare Bursary Fund to the Community Food Hub for childcare related expenses."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

This motion is contingent on a consultation with legal counsel.

... Carried

For (25): Agam Gill, Alexandra Arbelaez, Annika Szarka, Carter MacLean, Christian Bailey, Daniel Martin, Emma Dodyk, Jackson Schumacher, James Chen, Jimmy

Kim, Joshua Kim, Kiera Vandeborne, Kevin Kang, Kristian Oppenheim, Laura Beaudry, Lawrence Liu, Lucia Liang, Mathew Ho, Nadir Nurali, Rachel Chan, Ruby Barnard, Ryan Wong, Sherly Prince, Sylvester Mensah Jr., Varada Saha

J) Appointments

K) President's Remarks (5 minutes):

Cole Evans

- Hope you had a good break.
- Been watching US events.
 - Interested in the Georgia Senate runoff. Runoffs were meant to disenfranchise Black voters as part of institutional racism, but in this case a Black candidate won.
- Equity Plan meeting.
- Working with Services developing AMS-centric modules
- Onboarding videos.
- Met today about UBC's new Chief Student Health Officer position.
- Will be talking to UBC about their strategic plan, the new Rec Centre, and Indigenous coordination.
- Working with the Indigenous Committee and the Musqueam about Indigenous art in the Nest.

L) Executive Remarks (3 minutes each):

VP Finance – Lucia Liang

- Working on the budget and administering subsidies.
- Filtering the special cases and dealing with them.
- Flooded with emails.

VP Academic & University Affairs – Georgia Yee

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- UBC's SC-17 committee (for the policy on sexual misconduct): research into disclosure processes.
- Budget submission to UBC:
 - Due to COVID our focus has shifted to cost mitigation while maintaining essential funding.
 - UBC commitment to Climate Energy.
 - Work Learn.
 - Will come to the January 27 meeting.
- Concerns about the Athletics and Recreation fee: need for financial relief.
- Anti-racism programming for onboarding and new UBC students.
- Engaged in UBC's Student Strategic Plan:
 - Want to make sure the plan is actionable.

Questions

Max Holmes:

- The focus on cost mitigation in the budget submission: Can you elaborate on how this changed this year?
- Won't there be new funding opportunities?

Georgia Yee:

- The emphasis on mitigating costs, e.g., travel costs, means we can use those cost allocations for other purposes, e.g., climate emergency projects.
- Or reducing spending on remote invigilation could mean reallocating to things like the Centre of Accessibility.
- The idea is to make sure students can get the same amount of services.
- We're also looking at inefficiencies.

Max Holmes:

- Since tuition and the budget will be more aligned this year, how will the AMS take advantage of that?

Georgia Yee:

- SFU has introduced general budget information sessions so more people can participate in the discussion; we could follow that and leverage our proposals.
- We can ask if the current numbers for tuition increases align with the services UBC will be providing.
- Then we can show what students will be getting through the budget.
- This is an opportunity we will be leveraging.

VP Administration – Sylvester Mensah Jr.

- Working on the Student Leadership Conference:
 - The AMS contributed to the addition of the Student Caucus to replace other programming.
 - Discussion topics include community building during a pandemic, the climate emergency, anti-racism.
 - Free for all this year.
- Working with UBC orientations: providing a hybrid orientation model for September.
- New club applications live on Campus Base.
- Second Clubs Days January 25-29:
 - Looking to improve on avenues to engage with clubs: asynchronous sessions.
 - Virtual booths via Campus Groups.
 - Confident there will be no technical difficulties this time.
- Sustainability:
 - Animating the Life Building's basement hallway through a mural contest.
 - Want to make it a sustainability hallway.
- This Friday the Executive will have a focus group led by UBC's Indigenous Student Manager and the Director of the First Nations House of Learning:

- The idea is to reflect on the role the AMS plays with the Indigenous community.
- Hatch Art Gallery:
 - First exhibition January 18.

VP External Affairs – Kalith Nanayakkara

- Provincial Lobby Week next week (with the Graduate Student Society):
 - Lobbying issues include housing, rental support, post-secondary funding, and support for Indigenous students and grad students.
 - This is the AMS's lobby week. The ABCS will be doing another lobby week in February focusing on sexual violence and mental health.
- U-Pass:
 - Same exemptions as last term.
 - Better communications this term.
 - Larger number of applicant.
 - Fewer complaints.
- Campaign about a former UBC student imprisoned in Saudi Arabia: Loujain Al-Hathloul:
 - Getting media attention.
- Research into equity-based grants.
- UCRU:
 - Bylaws reviewed by lawyers.
 - Will bring to Council before we proceed with anything.

Managing Director – Keith Hester

- Working on the reforecast of this year's budget.
- Working on the 2021/22 budget: challenging.
- New Senior Manager of Student Services, Lorris Leung, starting February 1.
- Lucia and I are working on mental health coverage.
- The Events Department is creating videos on the Exec portfolios.

Student Services Manager – Ian Stone

- Worked with the Food Bank team to keep Food Bank running over the holidays.
- Other Services have been on a bit of a pause, but will get up and running now.
- The new SASC office is open: nice space.
- Working with Kalith on co-op housing.

M) Committee Reports (5 minutes each):

Advocacy Committee – Mathew Ho

- Looking at meeting times for the upcoming term.

Steering Committee – Cole Evans

- No update.

Finance Committee – Lucia Liang

- Will be discussing the budget.

HR Committee – Lawrence Liu

- Looking at Speaker resumés.
- Hopefully can make a recommendation at the next Council meeting.

Student Life Committee – Agam Gill

- Talking with the Constituencies about improving election turnout.
- Looked at a club survey to see how we can better support clubs.
- The Events Manager talked to us about engagement strategies.

Questions

Max Holmes:

- If going to do similar campaigns to other campuses on improving election engagement, you might consider their “Nominate Her” campaigns.
- Will you be seeking to encourage women and people of colour?
- Targeted communication?

Agam Gill:

- Great point.
- Mostly so far we’ve talked about neutral infographics, but this will be good to raise at our next meeting.

Indigenous Committee – Laura Beaudry

- No update.

Ethics and Accountability Committee – Cole Evans

- Meeting tomorrow.

Advisory Board – Cole Evans

- No update.

SHAPE Committee – Cole Evans

- No update.

Fermentation Lab Committee – Lawrence Liu

- The Faculty of Land & Food Systems is proposing a new building for a new Innovation Centre.
- This is where the Fermentation Lab might go.
- Seeking approval from UBC: Exec 1 phase.
- Budget estimated to be \$10 million.

Ad Hoc Committee on Affiliate Institutions – Daniel Martin

- Met in December and looked at the issues Affiliate Institutions have.

- Looking at a Code change to make it a VP's job to connect with Affiliated College students.
- Thanks for approving our extension.

Ad Hoc Committee on Events Structure and Audit – Cole Evans

- No update.

N) Report from Presidents Council (2 minutes):

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

Board of Governors – Jeanie Malone

- Haven't met since last Council meeting.
- Meeting in February.

Questions

Anisha Sandhu

- Lots of talk about the Athletics and Recreation Fee: Has this been taken to the Board?

Max Holmes:

- I made a long post about this on Reddit.
- Half the Athletics budget comes from sponsorship, tickets, etc., not fees, and this has been affected by COVID.
- Part of the budget usually comes from the \$21 AMS fee, which is not being collected this year.
- There are lots of costs for buildings that can't be eliminated. Also salaries: Athletics is one of the largest employers of students.
- Basically, it's too late to eliminate any fee for this year; it would have had to go to a previous Board meeting.
- If the fee had been taken away, it would have created a \$10 million deficit, affecting liquidity and future capital projects..
- A complete waiving is not the best idea.
- Money could be used elsewhere.
- We were frustrated by the lack of alternatives.

Anisha Sandhu:

- Is there anywhere online that describes the UBC Athletics fee?
- What is it for?
- We still have to pay fees for the Bird Coop.

Max Holmes:

- There could be more information on how UBC's fees are spent.
- It's important to know they pay for the facilities, or user fees would be even higher.

- This is a very good point about the University being more transparent about their budget.

Georgia Yee:

- It would be great if UBC had more comprehensive explanations, so we don't have to use Reddit.
- Our MoU requires them to present to Council, but since we're not giving them the \$21 this year, they may not come.
- But we could ask them to come.
- We are encouraging UBC to take proactive action on financial aid.

Senate – Eshana Bhangu

- Next meeting next Wednesday.

Historical Update – Sheldon Goldfarb

- Insurrections and impeachment have been in the news, so I thought I'd see what similar events we had at UBC.
- Perhaps the closest thing to an insurrection was the time in 1968 when American radical Jerry Rubin came to campus and urged people to liberate something.
- So they marched to the old Faculty Club and took it over, liberating the liquor cabinet, skinny dipping in the professors' pool, and staying overnight. They even brought in a band. There was dancing.
- There was not much violence, just some damage to the Faculty Club, and drinking of the liquor. The University sent the AMS a bill. The AMS said, We didn't organize that – but in the end we paid something.
- More violent was the 1997 APEC protest, when police pepper sprayed protesters.
- Then in 2008 there was the bonfire in Trek Park to protest UBC's development plans: that led to arrests, including the arrest of an AMS Vice-President.
- As to impeachment (called recall here), there was the time a President and a VP External came near to being removed for lodging a complaint about tuition fees at the United Nations without telling Council.

Questions

Cole Evans:

- That president was Blake Frederick, wasn't it?
- Removal from office seems a bit extreme for sending a letter.

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- It was a bit of a last straw situation.
- Council was unhappy that they'd gone behind their backs, and it wasn't the first time this had happened.
- Some also thought it was ridiculous to go to the United Nations for a protest against tuition fees, though some students agreed with them.
- The referendum to remove them failed, perhaps because it was only a couple of weeks before their terms ended anyway.
- They were stripped of some of their powers.

James Chen:

- Would the vote to remove them have passed if it hadn't been so close to the end of their terms?

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- Hard to know.

Cole Evans:

- Were there others who were recalled?

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- Well, in 1971 the whole Executive left office.
- They weren't recalled, but they all resigned.
- This was a radical Executive known as the Human Government, and they organized protests and began a Women's Studies program before UBC had one.
- But some were critical of them, saying they were neglecting clubs and Intramurals (the AMS ran Intramurals in those days).
- The Exec said they'd run a referendum to see if students supported their program, a sort of confidence vote, and they said they'd resign if they lost.
- They lost, and they all resigned, the whole Executive.

James Chen:

- Who were the three most controversial personalities in AMS history?

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- There was Kurt Preinsperg, the President who wrote a romance guide ("Rules for Romance"). There was talk of impeaching him for sexism, but nothing came of that, except a UBC Film School student made a mockumentary about him.

Laura Beaudry:

- Was there a law student mishandling funds?

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- There was a VP Finance who was accused of embezzling.
- He resigned and paid back the money.
- The RCMP looked into it, but Council decided not to press charges.

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:

13. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED KALITH NANAYAKKARA:

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 April 30th, 2021, or until the President notifies Council the suspension is no longer needed, whichever is sooner."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Mathew Ho:

- With elections coming up, I feel there should be set times for students to reach the Exec, not just by appointment.
- Adds stability.

James Chen:

- Is there an alternative offered in place of office hours?

Georgia Yee:

- I think if Council is asking for consistent times I would welcome a motion.
- This could increase contact time.
- It's important to be flexible, though, given the time zone challenges.
- Do Councillors want a return to office hours?

Kalith Nanayakkara:

- My schedule is all over the place and I work across different time zones.
- With the pandemic, it's not 9-5.
- It would be hard for me to have set hours.
- Whenever a student reaches out to me, I schedule a meeting right away.
- I think sticking to emails and booking appointments is ideal.

James Chen:

- What is the engagement rate for office hours?

Georgia Yee

- A lot of office hours went unused, but I appreciate those who booked appointments.
- I use calendly.
- Perhaps there are ways to reimagine office hours during COVID.

14. MOVED GEORGIA YEE, SECONDED KALITH NANAYAKKARA:

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... Carried

For: Agam Gill, Alexandra Arbelaez, Alison St. Pierre, Annika Szarka, Daniel Martin, Emma Dodyk, Jackson Schumacher, James Chen, Jimmy Kim, Joshua Kim, Kalith Nanayakkara, Kristian Oppenheim, Laura Beaudry, Lawrence Liu, Nadir Nurali, Rachel Chan, Ruby Barnard, Ryan Wong, Sylvester Mensah Jr., Varada Saha

Abstained: Georgia Yee, Mathew Ho, Sherly Prince

U) Discussion Period

Spring 2021 referendum

Cole Evans:

- Bylaw changes, fee changes.
- Would have to start planning for referendums on these if we want them.
- Unfortunately, the Governance chair is not here.
- Maybe we will wait till next time.

V) Submissions:

Certification Report EUS Fall VP Admin By-Election 2020

[SCD325-21]

Elections Timeline

[SCD326-21]

Student Life Committee December report

[SCD327-21]

W) Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: January 27, 2021

X) Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Y) Social Activity:

Attendance and Voting Records

Name	Constituency	Attending	Consent	Consent 2/3rd	Signature Reduction	Lawn Signs	Child Care Bursary	Office Hours
	Speaker							
Cole Evans	President	X						
Georgia Yee	VP Academic	X			Y	Y		A
Lucia Liang	VP Finance	X	Y			Y	Y	
Sylvester Mensah Jr.	VP Admin	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kalith Nanayakkara	VP External	X	Y		A	Y		Y
Ian Stone	SSM	X						
Agam Gill	St Mark's	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Alexa Tanner	GSS							
Alexandra Arbelaez	Forestry	X		Y		Y	Y	Y
Alison St. Pierre	Education	X	Y	Y	Y	N		Y
Anisha Sandhu	Senate							
Annika Szarka	Kinesiology	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anissa Meghji	Social Work	X			Y			
Carter MacLean	Arts	X		Y		Y	Y	
Chris Sundby	Regent	X	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Christian Bailey	Music	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Daniel Martin	VST	X	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Danny Liu	Science							
Emily Masse	Nursing	X	Y	Y	Y	N		
Emma Dodyk	Engineering	X	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
Eshana Bhangu	Senate							
Jackson Schumacher	GSS	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
James Chen	Commerce	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jeanie Malone	BoG	X						
Jeremy Zuo	Medicine							
Jimmy Kim	Science	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Joshua Kim	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Katherine Feng Ray Hua (Proxy)	Science							
Kiera Vandeborne	Planning	X	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Kevin Kang	Pharmacy	X	Y	A	Y	N	Y	
Kristian Oppenheim	Commerce	X	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Laura Beaudry	Indigenous Seat	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Lawrence Liu	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Maryam Tayyab	GSS							
Mathew Ho	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A
Max Holmes	BoG	X						
Nadir Nurali	Engineering	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nevena Rebic	GSS							
Oluwakemi Oke	Ombudsperson							
Rachel Chan	LFS	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rio Picollo	Library/Archival	X						
Ruby Barnard	Architecture	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ryan Wong	Economics	X	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Sebastian Cooper	Law	X	Y	Y				
Sherly Prince	Arts	X	Y	A	N	Y	Y	A
Varada Saha	Dentistry	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y