1. Call to Order
   The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

2. Agenda
   The agenda was approved (Kimani, Cole).

3. Psychology Expansion
   Lucia:
   • There have been delays, technical difficulties.
   • By March 1?
   Brent:
   • Going to check.

4. Bursary Applications
   Ahmed:
   • 1,960 applications.
   • Same threshold as before, but many more applicants this year.
   • Very few Term 2 students.
   • Up to the committee to decide where the cutoff point should be.
   • Need to start from how much money we have to distribute.
   • Every year we have $50,000.
   • Do we want to use more from the reserve fund?
   • Is COVID year an exception?
• But we have to think of the years ahead.

Lucia:
• $50,000 not enough if we full on advertise the bursary.
• There’s more advertising now.
• People are starting to know.
• More applications than ever.
• A good thing.

Nicolas:
• The time has come to think about full and partial subsidies.
• As this becomes better known, applications are likely to increase.
• I know there are more students in need.

Lucia:
• First term gave out $118,000.
• Could transfer surplus money towards this.
• There’s a $189,000 balance in the fund.

Keith:
• The money’s there to give to students.

Nicolas:
• Have to balance money coming in and going out.

Keith:
• Yes, no CPI increase this year, and psychology benefits are going to affect things.
• Have to make sure not to give away too much.

Nicolas:
• So there’s already $60,000 in deficit for Term 1.

Lucia:
• I wouldn’t call it a deficit.

Nicolas:
• I think we can give $50,000 now; $60,000 at most.
• With the understanding that next year we’ll administer more conservatively.

Lucia:
• Lots of thought about this bursary in the past.
• Advertising.
• So this is not unexpected.
• I think $60,000 max.

Nicolas:
• It’s been a job well done, getting more people applying.
• Now the question is how to distribute the money.
• Some are $13,000 in the red; some are only $2,000 in the red: they shouldn’t get the same amount.

Lucia:
• Threshold of full versus partial.
• Every $5,000 a change in increment.
• That’s how the U-Pass subsidy is administered.
Nicolas:
  • Right now we need to be more conservative than we would like.
  • Not in an ideal situation.
Ahmed:
  • Definitely will be seeing a large number of applications.
  • More people know.
Nicolas:
  • Is there more from the transit subsidy?
Lucia:
  • Yes, we allocated $70,000 but only used $60,000, so we have $10,000 left.
  • Can we use that $10,000?
  • One worry: why is UBC funding an AMS service?
  • But U-Pass is a joint program with UBC.
Nicolas:
  • We should give aid to people who are in the red, not in the black.
Lucia:
  • Different amounts for those living with their parents and those not living with their parents.
Nicolas:
  • If you’re in the red, you’re in the red, regardless of whether you’re living with your parents or away from them.
  • If the need is less, give only 50%.
Keith:
  • Makes sense.
Ahmed:
  • Used to be different cutoffs for with and without parents.
Nicolas:
  • We used to give to people who were in the black; now we’re only going to give to those in the red.

[Nicolas did calculations. The conclusion was that those with a need of up to $3,000 would get a 50% bursary; those with more would get a full bursary; those with no need would get no money.]

MOVED NEVENA, SECONDED KIMANI:

“That the committee agree to allocate $62,000 for the Term 2 Health and Dental Bursary.”

... Carried

5. Permanent Opt-Out
Bahareh:
  • Spoke of this before to the Executive Committees and AMS Council.
  • We proposed moving forward that there be no more permanent opt-outs.
  • Permanent opt-outs made sense when it was difficult to opt out, so we provided a way to opt out one time permanently.
• But now we are encountering quite a few cases of students coming back and having to pay a penalty to re-enroll.
• We recommend we move ahead with only annual opt-outs.
• We will grandfather those who have already opted out permanently.

Aleena:
• Maybe the first year or so, have a soft deadline on opt-outs.
• Many students miss the deadline.

Bahareh:
• Two issues here:
• Opt-out deadlines have been the same for both annual and permanent.
• We’ve been flexible this year, but don’t want to confuse the two issues.
• New students won’t know about permanent opt-outs.
• Those already doing annual opt-outs will know about deadlines.
• The criteria are not changing. The deadline is not changing.
• Just we’re asking all students to do this annually now.
• We’re avoiding all the administrative headaches if a permanent opt-out’s situation changes and then wants to opt back in.

Nicolas:
• No need for a campaign to say the permanent opt-out is no longer available.
• It’s only relevant to those who did opt out permanently in the past.
• If they inquire, tell them they’re grandfathered.

Bahareh:
• It’s the responsibility of students to read emails and meet deadlines.
• Reluctant to allow beyond the deadline when others meet the deadlines.
• And there are underwriting implications.

Nevena:
• Don’t see the need to do any additional advertising.
• Maybe just emphasize that you will have to opt out every year.

Nicolas:
• I agree that it’s students’ responsibility.
• But it’s our responsibility to inform the students.
• Let’s be sympathetic because of the tsunami of information.

Bahareh:
• But some students open emails and take no action.
• We need to be consistent with this policy.

Nicolas:
• How many are permanently opted out?

Bahareh:
• We don’t get constant updates, but from other institutions, it’s mostly annual.

Nicolas:
• A minor concern: If the number of opt-outs increases, will that put a burden on administration?
• If there are 5,000 more opt-outs a year?
Bahareh:
- Not an issue. It’s an automated process.
Nicolas:
- We do need to let the University know so they can give correct information to the students.
Bahareh:
- The University administrators just refer to the website.
- But I’m happy to reach out and tell them there are no more permanent opt-outs.

MOVED NEVENA, SECONDED COLE:
“That the permanent opt-out no longer be in place effective September 1, 2021.”
... Carried

6. Special May Opt-in
Bahareh:
- Some students in one program want early access to the Health and Dental Plan.
- Through a self-enrollment process.
- We wanted to re-evaluate.
- Would we need a referendum?
- Asking about other programs.
- They get four months of coverage at a pro-rated fee.
- What we did last year made sense.
- We want the committee to give permission for every year.
Nicolas:
- It worked fine.
- Don’t want to mess with things that work fine.
Lucia:
- Did any groups email late and miss the deadline?
Bahareh:
- Even if a little late, can be made retroactive.
- The department will contact us.
- We had one instance of that, and we have a procedure in place.
Nicolas:
- If other students start in May, we can just facilitate them to self-enroll.
- But I don’t think there’s any other category.
- If UBC starts a big program in May ...
Lucia:
- One program starts in June: how does that work?
Bahareh:
- They’d be billed in September.
Lucia:
- Nothing June-September.
Bahareh:
- Not unless there’s an overwhelming demand.
- We should just let it lie.
MOVED KIMANI, SECONDED NEVENA:
“That the committee approve the special May intake period for self-enrollment.”

… Carried

7. Psychology Expansion II
Brent:
• Checked with PBC.
• Won’t be till March 8.
Bahareh:
• Call centre agents are prepped.
• Waiting to send out the email.
Lucia:
• When can we tell students? March 8?
Brent:
• At earliest mid to late next week.
• The new claims system will be ready March 8.
• PBC has a backlog.
• There needs to be a penalty; they’re already late.
• Want something in writing from them.
Lucia:
• Will it be pushed back again?
• What has Studentcare communicated?
Bahareh:
• We will post the protocol for submitting retroactive claims on the website.
• Not looking at a lot of students who’ve hit the $500 cap.
• We’ll probably get new claims once students hear it’s been expanded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.