

STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

Guests: Charlotte Alden (Ubysey), Nathan Bawaan (Ubysey), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Neal Cameron (student), Ben Du (AVP Administration), Lawrence Liu (AVP University Affairs), Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm with Cole Evans in the chair.

B) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Chair:

- The AMS is situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the heñq̓emíñem-speaking Musqueam people.
- Check out whose land you're on.
- It's important we acknowledge the lands we're on and to reflect on the work still to do here at UBC and in Canada about reconciliation.
- We should also note our role as student leaders.

C) Adoption of the agenda:

1. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED EMILY MASSE:

“That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

2. MOVED MARY GAN:

“That the agenda be amended by adding a topic for the in camera session at the end called HR Update to Council.”

... No objections

Cole Evans:

- Also removing the AMS Council Annual Plan.

... No objections

3. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED EMILY MASSE:

“That the agenda be adopted as amended.”

... No objections

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

Welcome to our new Members:

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

Goodbyes:

E) Speaker's Business (5 minutes):

The Chair:

- If you couldn't make the orientations, the videos are available on OnBoard.
- Please check out these resources.
- Ask questions if you don't understand something.
- Want to take a break later so Councillors can fill out Councillor/committee appointments.
- We use a modified, simplified version of Robert's Rules.
- Don't worry if you don't know the jargon.

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

G) Consent Agenda Items

4. MOVED LAUREN BENSON, SECONDED SAAD SHOAIB:

"That the following consent agenda item be accepted as presented (simple majority)."

AMS Council minutes dated February 24, 2021

[SCD001-22]

... Carried

For (21): Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Romina Hajizadeh, Aryan Mishra, Mathew Ho, Grace Lee, Jasneet Bal, Erin Song, Emily Reid, Joey Yang, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Gabrielle Matheson, Emily Gubski, Teddy O'Donnell, Emily Masse, Grace Li, Kiera Vandeborne, Chris Sundby, Avery Chan, Katherine Feng

5. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED ESHANA BANGHU:

"That the following consent agenda item be accepted as presented (2/3rds)."

That AMS Council amend Section VI, Article 4:

[SCD002-22]

President of the AMS Code of Procedure to add the following:

(j) work with the Managing Director to organize meetings between the Executive Committee and selected members of the Society's management at least once a month, and keep or cause to be kept minutes and other relevant documents relating to such meetings.

... Carried

For (23): Lauren Benson, Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Yang Yu, Romina Hajizadeh, Aryan Mishra, Mathew Ho, Jasneet Bal, Erin Song, Emily Reid, Joey Yang, Nevena Rebic, Gabrielle Matheson, Emily Gubski, Teddy O'Donnell, Emily Masse, Grace Li, Kiera Vandeborne, Chris Sundby, Avery Chan, Katherine Feng, Katsy Concepcion, Rebecca Liu

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

AUS Arts Student Centre Agreements – Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office)

[SCD003-22]

- The Arts Student Centre is in construction.
- Will be completed by the end of summer.
- Official opening in September.
- There are various agreements:
 - Use agreement (use of building, upkeep, maintenance).
 - Contribution agreement (funding).
- The agreements were crafted over a period of a few years.
- They were brought to Council pre-pandemic.
- The use agreement was accepted after discussion.
- The funding agreement was delayed because of a snag related to the conditions of our loan from RBC, which prevented the AMS from taking on additional debt.
- Originally, this funding agreement said the AMS was guaranteeing funding, but that would have violated the agreement with RBC.
- Keith negotiated with UBC to arrange a change.
- The old guarantee was rescinded; now the Dean's office will cover any debt.
- These are boilerplate documents, the same as agreements we have for the SUS building and others.

6. MOVED LAUREN BENSON, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That Council approve the AUS Building Use Agreement and the AUS Funding Contribution Agreement as presented.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

For (22): Lauren Benson, Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Yang Yu, Romina Hajizadeh, Aryan Mishra, Mathew Ho, Jasneet Bal, Emily Reid, Joey Yang, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Gabrielle Matheson, Emily Gubski, Teddy O'Donnell, Emily Masse, Grace Li, Kiera Vandeborne, Chris Sundby, Avery Chan, Katherine Feng, Katsy Concepcion

Abstained: Erin Song

UCRU Agreement – Saad Shoaib (VP External)

[SCD005-22] [SCD006-22]

- UCRU stands for Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities.
- It represents students at the U-15, the fifteen top research-intensive universities in the country.
- Currently, UCRU has ten members, the student unions at 10 of the 15 U-15 schools.
- Its mission is to advocate for affordability and accessibility, student issues.
- UCRU began as a loose, informal coalition of student unions representing 240,000 students.
- It arranged federal lobby weeks.
- It is a promising tool to advocate to the federal government.
- Over the past year UCRU fulfilled its goal of incorporating.
- It has lobbied for student aid, Indigenous aid, and support for undergraduate research.
- In last lobby week met 60 MP's.
- Recent wins include:
 - CESB (the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit): UCRU led the charge to establish this.
 - Removal of interest on federal student loans until 2023.
 - Investment into youth employment programs.
 - Investment in Canada Student Grants.
- The AMS has played a strong role in UCRU:
 - VP External Cristina Initchi was chair two years ago.
 - Last year VP External Kalith Nanayakkara led the creation of governance structures.
 - This year I'm running to be the UCRU vice-chair.
 - We're advocating for the permanent removal of loan interest.
- The AMS led the bylaw creation process. I was involved in a lot of the drafting.
- Council has approved the bylaws in principle.
- The final thing needed is to pass the MoU/Membership Agreement.
- The bylaws allow for easy withdrawal, which is important because in the past we have left other organizations, so we want this to be easy.
- The bylaws also provide for one school, one vote, and specifies that membership is only for student unions at U-15 universities, the large, complex universities.
- There is no formal membership fee yet; discussions are ongoing.
- The MoU, which is standard for all members, confirms our acknowledgement of UCRU's bylaws.
- Once approved, the MoU will make us a Class A member.
- Been looking forward to this for a number of years.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- What committee will you focus on at UCRU?

Saad Shoaib:

- I would be vice-chair of the entire organization.
- Kalith was chair of the governance committee.

Jackson Schumacher:

- Can you elaborate on the class system?
- And what work have you done with the GSS to ensure equal representation of grad students?

Saad Shoaib:

- Class A members are full members.
- Class B members are ones who haven't ratified all the agreements.
- Re the GSS: we're working with the GSS to ensure that if there is a fee, grad students won't pay it because UCRU is for undergraduates.
- We value the GSS relationship and will be signing an MoU with the GSS.
- We are looking to work with the GSS on provincial and federal lobby weeks.

7. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

"That Council on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the Member Association Agreement with UCRU, making the AMS a Class A member of UCRU."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Saad Shoaib:

- We have been working on this formalization for a long time.
- We look forward to the impact UCRU can have with the federal government.

Gabrielle Matheson:

- The agreement refers to the bylaws and our responsibilities under them.
- Can you briefly go over those?

Saad Shoaib:

- We are to contribute to advocacy efforts and UCRU growth.
- We would help cover expenses.
- A lot of things will be advocacy-centred this year, as opposed to last year, when we were governance-centred.

8. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

"That Council on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the Member Association Agreement with UCRU, making the AMS a Class A member of UCRU."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

For (26): Eshana Bhangu, Lauren Benson, Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Yang Yu, Romina Hajizadeh, Kamil Kanji, Mathew Ho, Grace Lee, Jasneet Bal, Erin Song, Emily Reid, Joey Yang, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Gabrielle Matheson,

Emily Gubski, Teddy O'Donnell, Emily Masse, Grace Li, Kiera Vandeborne, Chris Sundry, Avery Chan, Katherine Feng, Katsy Concepcion, Daniel Martin

I) Consultation Period

J) Appointments

9. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED KAMIL KANJI, THIRDED EMILY MASSE:

"That the meeting enter an in camera session."

The meeting entered an in camera session at 7:15 pm.

The meeting left the in camera session at 7:32 pm.

10. MOVED KAMIL KANJI, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the agenda be amended to add appointment clauses for the Speaker and the Ombudsperson to the motion on appointments."

... No objections

11. MOVED ESHANA BHANGU, SECONDED LAUREN BENSON:

From the President

"Be it resolved that Council suspend, for the current round of hiring, the sections of Code requiring a recommendation from the Human Resources Committee to appoint the Chief Electoral Officer, the Speaker of Council, and the Ombudsperson."

Note: The suspended sections will be Section II, Article 8(1), Section II, Article 10(1), Section V, Article 9(3)(d), and Section IX A, Article 1A(2).

Be it further resolved that Council appoint Oluwakemi Oke to the position of AMS Ombudsperson for a period effective May 12, 2021 and lasting until April 30, 2022.

Be it further resolved that Council appoint Christopher (Neal) Cameron to the position of Speaker of Council for a period effective May 12, 2021 and lasting until April 30, 2022."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Cole Evans:

- The HR Committee was unable to bring forward recommendations last year, and there is no HR Committee now.
- Council has reviewed recommendations from last year's HR Chair and is going to make a decision.
- This will require us to vote to suspend the part of Code requiring a recommendation from the committee.

12. MOVED ESHANA BHANGU, SECONDED LAUREN BENSON:

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Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

For (24): Lauren Benson, Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Yang Yu, Romina Hajizadeh, Aryan Mishra, Kamil Kanji, Mathew Ho, Grace Lee, Jasneet Bal, Erin Song, Emily Reid, Joey Yang, Nevena Rebic, Jackson Schumacher, Gabrielle Matheson, Emily Gubski, Teddy O'Donnell, Emily Masse, Kiera Vandeborne, Avery Chan, Katsy Concepcion, Rebecca Liu, Daniel Martin

Council took a 20-minute break at 7:35 pm to allow Councillors to fill out nominations for committee appointments.

K) President's Remarks (5 minutes):

Cole Evans

- Busy with orientations and transitioning.
- Looking forward to a strategic plan.
- Policy I-17 and I-18 (sexual violence and respectful community) are up for review, two very important policies.
- Return to in person is coming, will be exciting.
 - At a Town Hall hearing Dr. Bonnie Henry this week.
 - Also attended by presidents of various postsecondary institutions.
 - The Public Health Office is more optimistic than the others.
- Talking to UBC about a joint campaign on vaccinations: the emphasis will be on vaccines rather than restrictions.

L) Executive Remarks (3 minutes each):

VP Finance – Mary Gan

- Transitioning and hiring.
- Fees, subsidies, opt-outs.

- Brainstorming on promoting funds, subsidies, opt-out deadlines.
- Working on creating a Canvas learning hub for club treasurers.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- Are you supporting constituency treasurers?

Mary Gan:

- Constituencies have large budgets.
- Hope to have workshops on large-scale budgeting and money management.

Emily Reid:

- Is there a date for treasurer training?
- Is the AMS still going to do e-transfer reimbursements?

Mary Gan:

- Hoping to roll out the course on treasurer orientations this week or early next week.
- Video workshops are in the works.
- Looking at a new platform for e-transfers.
- Everything will continue online.

Daniel Martin:

- What about e-transfers for U-Pass subsidies?

Mary Gan:

- They should be by e-transfer as well.

VP Academic & University Affairs – Eshana Bhangu

- Transitioning and learning.
- Meeting UBC administrators about international students and about vaccination centres and rapid testing centres on campus.
- Started working on experiential education and on teaching and learning beyond COVID.
- Looking at what positive things we can retain: online lectures etc.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- How will you make sure that students don't get overburdened with financial items (e.g., quarantine costs)?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Had a conversation with UBC housing and they will offer a subsidy for those who have to quarantine and pay a fee.
- There will be a simple question: Do you need financial assistance? Yes or No?

- We asked about having space for the influx of international students, and they said there will be adequate space.

Mathew Ho:

- Can you use the numbers for data-driven advocacy?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Data from the Yes-No question is something we will use.

Mathew Ho:

- Anything further, like the unionization of Residence Advisors (RA's)?

Eshana Bhangu:

- I was a big fan of that.
- I talked to the VP Students about employment opportunities for students.
- Also questions like, Are the RA's the ones to enforce COVID regulations and deal with mental crises? Extra labour.
- We will continue to support the RA's.

VP Administration – Lauren Benson

- I'm excited to be working on behalf of students.
- There's a need for communication, transparency, amplification of student voices.
- Working on sustainability, the Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC), the transition to in person campus life.
- How do we adequately communicate with students?
- Club executive orientations on Canvas.
- First clubs newsletter coming.
- Club renewals.
- Club audit.
- Construction of the ISC is underway: murals, dashboard.
- Talking with the University about the Jumpstart orientation.
- Exploring how incoming students can engage.
- Working with Events.

Questions

Emily Gubski:

- Do you have initiatives to bring first years into the AMS?

Lauren Benson:

- Exploring options.
- Finding ways to teach about opportunities in the AMS: volunteers, paid positions.
- Will promote this in collegia, info sessions, posterings.
- Getting our face out there.

VP External Affairs – Saad Shoaib

- I was the AVP External last year.

- Will be working with student group stakeholders (ABCS, BCFS, UCRU, GSS).
- Essential that these relationships thrive.
- Lots of acronyms.
- Launched SkyTrain to UBC campaign. Public engagement process to show the Mayors Council it's important.

Senior Student Services Manager – Mitchell Prost

- Services orientations.
- SASC fundraising month.
- Food Bank transitioning: huge increases in usage.
- Working with UBC groups on food security.
- Appointment tutoring restarted.
- Working on Services marketing plan.

Managing Director – Keith Hester

- Orientations for incoming Executive and Council.
- Year End was April 30.
- Auditors coming soon.
- Upgrading email system from Exchange to cloud based 365.
- Roof damage from the windstorm was repaired last week.
- Federal and provincial budgets may be of benefit: investigating.
- Next All Staff Meeting on May 26.

M) Committee Reports (5 minutes each):

Elections Committee

[SCD007-22]

Katherine Feng:

- I believe all standing committee chairs submitted transition reports.

Cole Evans:

- Good, compared to last year.
- Money is a good incentive.

N) Report from Presidents Council (2 minutes):

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

Board of Governors – Georgia Yee

- Next meeting in June.

Senate –Keanna Yu

- First Senate meeting was in April.
- All senators were assigned to their committees.
- Rule changes about roll call votes. Votes were private until now.

Cole Evans:

- Happy to help the Senate with the AMS OnBoard system of voting.

Historical Update – Sheldon Goldfarb

Following up on Phallic Bastions:

- When I was speaking about the worst years for the AMS (the year of the Spanish Flu, the Depression years, 1983 when the government cut student aid), Mathew noticed a Ubysey headline on one of my slides about “phallic bastions.”
- It turns out this was a letter to the Ubysey about the lack of female authors being taught in first-year English. So it was about gender, not sex.
- That was in 1983, and I’m guessing the situation has changed now: perhaps the Ubysey wants to do a follow-up.

Goddess of Democracy:

- There has been some discussion lately about the placement of our statue of the Goddess of Democracy.
- Our statue was a replica of the one that Chinese student protesters put up in 1989 in Tiananmen Square.
- Ours went up in 1991 and became a focal point for demonstrations (APEC, Hong Kong Umbrella project, etc.).
- It originally sat south of the Old SUB, but when the Nest was put up in that location it had to move to where it is now, on the pathway towards Brock Hall.
- Now there’s talk of moving it again.

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:

U) Discussion Period

HR Update

13. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED KATHERINE FENG, THIRDED JACKSON SCHUMACHER:

“That the meeting enter an in camera session.”

The meeting entered an in camera session at 8:40 pm.

The meeting came out of the in camera session at 8:48 pm.

V) Submissions:

W) Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: June 2, 2021

X) Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Y) Social Activity:

Votes and Attendance

		Present	Consent	Consent 2/3rds	AUS Agreements	UCRU Agreement	App'ts
Neal Cameron	Speaker	X					
Cole Evans	President	X					
Eshana Bhangu	VP Academic	X				Y	
Lauren Benson	VP Admin	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Saad Shoaib	VP External	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mary Gan	VP Finance	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mitchell Prost	SSM	X					
Yang Yu	Architecture	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Romina Hajizadeh	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Aryan Mishra	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y		Y
Kamil Kanji	Arts	X				Y	Y
Mathew Ho	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sanjana Bedi	Arts						
	Audiology						
Georgia Yee	BoG	X					
Max Holmes	BoG						
Grace Lee	Commerce	X	Y			Y	Y
Jason Liao	Commerce						
Jasneet Bal	Dentistry	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Erin Song	Economics	X	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
	Education						
Emily Reid	Engineering	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Engineering						
Joey Yang	Forestry	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ashni Gill	GSS						
Jackson Schumacher	GSS	X	Y		Y	Y	Y
Nevena Rebic	GSS	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	
	GSS						
	Indigenous Seat						
	Journalism						
Ivran Rai	Kinesiology						
Gabrielle Matheson	Law	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anisha Sandhu	LFS	X					
Emily Gubski	Medicine	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Teddy O'Donnell	Music	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Emily Masse	Nursing	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grace Li	Pharmacy	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Kiera Vandeborne	Planning	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Population & Public Health						
Chris Sundby	Regent	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Avery Chan	Science	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Katherine Feng	Science	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Katsy Concepcion	Science	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Rebecca Liu	Science	X		Y			Y
Kanika Khosla	Senate	X					
Keanna Yu	Senate	X					
Anissa Meghji	Social Work	X					
Angelika Tee	St Mark's	X					
Daniel Martin	VST	X				Y	Y
Oluwakemi Oke	Ombudsperson						