

The Finance Committee met five times this month and, in addition to approving agendas and minutes, the Committee covered the following items:

Signage outside the AMS Nest

Funding for the Nest exterior signs were discussed at the Finance Committee. The project was initiated and approved in 2015 but, due to budget issues, was delayed till 2019. The banners are to be purchased from The Flag Shop. Project costs will include the inflation of the poles, the banners themselves, and all associated costs. New pricing quotas taken this year indicate that the total expense will be \$12,414.66 including taxes and other associated costs (\$8616.16 for the banners and \$3798.50 for the exterior door sign). The Finance Committee discussed the possibility to change up the banners to market the available AMS services (e.g. Safewalk), advocacy, and club resources. Based on the discussion, the Finance Committee approved the expenditure of \$12,414.66 to be taken from the Capital Projects Fund for Nest exterior signs – note that this project was previously approved by the Operations Committee in May 2019.

SPF Applications

Two Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) Applications were brought to the Finance Committee in July. One application was for \$6800 funding for an annual sustainability dinner. Due to the lack of impact on the wider student body and the high budgeted expense of the event (\$450 per attendee), this application was rejected. The second application was \$5,000 for the incorporation of cotton bags on campus in efforts to encourage UBC students to reuse one cotton bag instead of multiple single-use plastic bags. The Finance Committee offered feedback regarding this project such as increasing the amount of cotton bags produced, increasing the collaboration between the project initiators and the AMS Communications team, and concerns with how to prevent students from throwing away the free cotton bags (which may cause a greater environmental problem). After making revisions with the feedback, the project was brought back to Finance Committee on July 27th for approval. The cotton bag designs were completed by the AMS design department, potential collaboration with the AMS First Week team for a cotton bag canvas painting event was discussed, and the scale of the project was increased alongside the request for SPF funding (from \$5,000 to 10,000). The \$10,000 funding from SPF for the cotton bags project was approved given that the cotton bags are only distributed by AMS businesses and AMS organizations, and that for those bags distributed by the businesses a small charge (below the cost of the bags) is added to each bag the proceeds of which would go back to the Sustainability Projects Fund.

AMS Budget Review

The AMS Executives, as well as the Student Services Manager & Senior Student Services Manager, were invited to Finance Committee to provide their rationale on proposed budget changes and receive feedback.

The Committee reviewed the feedback provided by the Advisory Board, whose recommendations included increasing focus on business performance, monitoring student government spending, and adjusting the budget to correspond with Executive goals. The Committee suggests the Executives and



MD set goals for business recovery. The Committee discussed standardizing staff appreciation across the board, partnership building costs, under-spending/over-spending, and clarifying budget line titles. The Committee discussed including advertising and promotion budget lines for every portfolio in the budget. The Committee also discussed Council spending, particularly in the Executive Committee for Executive Team-Building. The VPAUA budget, in Academic Projects, was increased due to additional campaigns projected to occur over the year.

In Student Services, differences in advertising and promotion across different departments, as well as the purpose of professional support budget lines, were discussed.

AC Project

Michael Kingsmill came to present on the AC Conversion project, which was previously brought to Council for consultation. Due to continuous temperature heat spikes that may become more common alongside overheating complaints from both Conferences & Catering and Nest users, we are looking to upgrade the air conditioning system. Principle areas of coverage are the second & third floor administration areas, as well as Service Centre. The Committee had some concerns about the Nest losing their LEEDS standing- however, it was reassured that we would safeguard our LEEDS platform status.

Items brought to Council

- BIRT the 2021-22 AMS Final Budget is approved as presented
- BIRT Finance Committee approve the funding request of \$47,867.69 for the Nest Air Conditioning conversion project from the Capital Projects Fund.