



## Minutes of the AMS Executive Committee

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

### Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic and University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaid (VP External), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Manager, Student Services)

Regrets: Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist)

Recording Secretary: Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am.

### Territorial Acknowledgement

### Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Saad    Seconded: Mary

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.”

### Approval of Previous Minutes

~~Moved: Saad    Seconded: Mary~~

~~“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the (date) \_\_\_\_\_ Committee meeting be approved and sent to AMS Council”~~

### 1. AMS Student Engagement Survey (SES) (20 minutes)

Cole: Will have a draft to talk about soon. For today, if anyone has any additional feedback, I want to touch base on the approval ratings questions and the plan for the survey. We are going to run the survey in November for two or three weeks. It will probably launch in the second week of November and go to the end of the month. This will be the new double barrel survey approach we have with the Academic Experience Survey and this survey. The purpose is to keep the questions as consistent as we

can and track year over year. Some questions are more high level for the purpose of tracking. We're hoping for it to be around 15 minutes in length. Something that you might not have seen previously are some questions to poll people about how we did regarding COVID-19 and our advocacy work. We're also looking at health and dental in the survey. Depending on the length, we might add some prospective referendum questions onto the survey to get a sense of how people are feeling. There is a question I've been mulling about for a while with approval ratings. We usually ask "on a scale of 1-10 how would you rate the AMS," and we usually get a 7. It could be valuable for approval ratings of the executives. Additionally, it could be helpful to add questions about council.

Laruen: Could we also ask questions about sustainability?

Cole: What we could do on the AMS leadership section, is we could ask a question asking students how good they think the AMS is doing on a list of issues including equity, sustainability, policy, etc. We'll be able to see year over year how perspectives have changed.

Laruen: That would be good, especially being able to see how it has changed over time.

## **2. Referendum (30 minutes)**

Cole: Some ideas that have come up are a fee restructure, the brewery referenda overturn, bylaw changes. Digital fee opt-out which will allow people to opt out digitally where some groups require in-person opt outs. Health and dental plans changes.

Saad: We also want to add another thing to change the scope of the Capital Projects Fund to allow off-campus projects.

Cole: I don't think you'll need to even take money from that fund for the project. You'll definitely need to introduce a fee.

Saad: It would be good to remove that on-campus housing component just to have the opportunity.

Cole: Even if you need to use money from that fund, money existing before the change will still be accessible only under the terms of the original language. Any other items? We have a lot already.

Cole: Of these questions, are there any that we should get rid of? The fee restructure and the digital fee opt-out can be moved together. There are really five questions here, which is a good number.

Mary: How should I propose a fee restructure? Is there a process we need to go through?

Cole: Best way to motivate is for us internally to look at the fees and come up with what makes sense with the AMS controlled fees. We'll then bring this to finance committee. The more challenging ones are

the ones controlled by student groups like the campus culture and performance fund. The challenge with the fee restructure is that you cannot add these into an omnibus motion. A good idea is to sit down with groups that receive these groups and talk about the fee with them. Same thing for resource groups.

Lauren: With the resource groups, some of their statuses are a little unstable. Some are no longer operating.

Cole: Who is steering the ship over there?

Lauren: No one.

Cole: This is actually probably something that should be discussed at council. We have these special groups that are not operating and hold a lot of money.

Lauren: I have contacts from them and some are responsive.

Cole: Can you contact them and ask them if they are active?

Lauren: I've tried to contact Pride Collective but no one has responded.

Saad: Are they contacting you for reimbursements?

Mary: The only one that I've heard from is the Social Justice Centre.

Cole: Try to meet with the SJC, they could be the ones that run everything.

Mary: Do you mean having the SJC be an umbrella that receives a fee?

Cole: Yes. I think that COVID really hurt their succession. So reach out to the SJC to talk about this.

Lauren: Looks like the Pride Collective has come back early October.

Cole: Mary, we'll need to get going on this.

Lauren: How much would this really save students?

Mary: About \$90k.

Cole: It's not necessarily about saving students money, it's about having a more effective fee structure and effective use of student money.

Mary: Why is there such a large accumulation in the funds?

Saad: To my knowledge, all the money they don't use gets moved to another fund. But only the Treasurer of these groups can do this and there hasn't been one since 2019.

Keith: Yes they get moved back to the fund.

Cole: Something we can do is pause fee collection until a certain point until their operating balance reaches a select number. It would also be interesting to see how much money is spent on these funds.

Cole: I am looking to hire referendum coordinators soon to look at these questions and plan.

### **3. Future of the Thingery (Lauren, 20 minutes)**

Lauren: I went to the finance committee to get funding for the Thingery. We're looking for money from the capital projects fund for the shell. We were talking about the feasibility of the Thingery at finance committee. We've gone to Operations committee, Sustainability committee, council, and more recently the Finance committee. Now we are here to get feedback.

Lorris: What have been the responses?

Lauren: From the survey, people are interested in the space and volunteering. This Thingery will be the first one focused on students. Outreach would be worked on both the Thingery and my team. Overall, the results have been positive. There have been comparisons to the Clubs Resource Centre, but the CRC is more focused on AV, equipment, and the types of materials that can be found in the Thingery are games, appliances, kitchen equipment, etc. The whole idea is to be low-barrier and low-cost.

Lorris: What are the liability policies?

Lauren: 5 million insurance policy and 3rd party liability with The Thingery. Would like the project to go ahead as it is a valuable investment to the AMS and the UBC community.

Saad: Direct student benefits.

Mary: I worry that items will be collected and not used.

Saad: Maintenance of the items by The Thingery.

Lauren: The Thingery has a committee of people who will come in and review the items and see the conditions of the items.

Cole: The Thingery comes in as the tenant and AMS will take care of the operations. Worried about the legal liability i.e. being sued. Grey area and would like to get clarification - what is the operating

agreement and who is responsible for what. Not sure about the structure of The Thingery on campus - not sure if a student working group will work well. Need a coordinator under the VP Admin to be responsible to look after the space or another Sustainable person to look. It also goes back to the Thingery's role in doing it. I am not necessarily opposed to doing it, I think that if it's done well, it could be a good place to get things. We would need an actual plan in place to ensure it's operational and will receive the love and care it needs.

Saad: Does the Thingery know these things?

Lauren: Yes, and they know that we'll need to create agreements etc. The Thingery could reasonably be housed under my Sustainability Projects Coordinator. It's likely that this project won't be complete in my term, and will fall onto future VP Administrations to complete.

Mary: What happens if a future VP Administration doesn't want to do it?

Lauren: It will be a requirement for continuity.

Cole: You need to do the agreement first, especially since it's with an external organization.

Lauren: I'll work on the MOU.

Cole: You'll need more than an MOU, you'll need an operational agreement.

Lauren: Once completed, should I go back here or Finance committee?

Cole: Finance Committee.

#### **4. Managing Director Updates (Keith, 5 minutes)**

Keith: Still hiring for the HR manager, looking for a good candidate. Also finance system replacement and Halloween Events.

Eshana: What are you dressing up for as Halloween?

Keith: I am doing a wonderful impression of myself.

#### **5. Executive + Services Updates (10 minutes)**

Mary: Finance committee has been super busy. Working on flu coverage dialogue. Elaine sent over the U-Pass subsidy list, so working on this. Looking at additions for the legal protections. Reviewing the Dialogue app at the health and dental committee. Booking a space in the Nest for Rexall to come for a flu clinic. Reviewing the global fund.

Saad: Working with SEEDS to fund further equity-based projects. Working on the U-Pass audit to send to translink. Preparing UCRU's lobby documents, will be sending these to UCRU's board for approval.

Working on promoting student candidates for UNA elections. It is very important that students vote for student candidates as they will promote student interests.

Lauren: Working on club applications. Working on sustainability projects. We currently have a survey about soap stand. Working on getting funding for the Thingery. Changed the CRC position title and are working to get that out. Working on purchasing items for the sensory room.

Keith: Where will the vending machine be going?

Lauren: By Honour Roll.

Eshana: Our budget submission is done. My team has been working on the campus safety audit. Open Educational Resources champions night planning is going well, looking at venues. Working on Student Experience of Instruction.

Services: Hired a new Assistant Coordinator for the Food Bank. Recruited more volunteers for the Food Bank. RBC Get Seeded event planning underway, happening on November 17th.

## **6. Council and AGM Preview (5 minutes)**

Cole: Council will go until 10pm, we will have an in-camera discussion that will last about an hour. We also have three presentations. AGM is tomorrow night. Think of five things you want to update, talk for 90 seconds. We have over 1000 registration.

### **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 11:00 AM PST.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM PST.