Attendance
Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, 12:10-1 pm), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)
Guest: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office)
Regrets: Lauren Benson (VP Administration)
Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 11:42 am in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda
• The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes
• The minutes of October 20 and 27 were approved (Mary, Saad).

Referendum Planning
• Cole:
  o Lots of things on our radar:
    ▪ Fee restructuring.
    ▪ Brewery.
    ▪ Bylaw changes:
      • To comply with Societies Act changes.
      • Maybe we should even change Bylaws to allow Council to make changes like this (complying with the Societies Act).
    ▪ Digital fee opt-out:
      • So people don’t have to show up in person to opt out.
      • For most AMS fees, this can already be done; for some non-AMS fees it cannot.
  ▪ Health & Dental Plan changes.
  ▪ Housing:
• The planned housing development.

• Saad:
  o With the changes to the Societies Act, does the Regent MoU become unnecessary?

• Cole:
  o Not necessarily.
  o The new provisions merely allow the government to pass a regulation requiring postsecondary institutions to transfer student information to their student societies. It doesn’t automatically happen.

• Sheldon:
  o Also, even if the government passes the regulation, there may be conditions on transferring student information that could be included in an MoU.

• Cole:
  o Other bylaw changes:
    ▪ Updating Executive duties.
    ▪ Some seats on Council are for graduate students only, and they are already represented by the GSS:
      • The first two also don’t have student associations.
      • And then there’s Architecture, which is three associations in one.
      • Last time I proposed giving Council the power to change its composition, so it could remove Audiology, say, if done unanimously.
    ▪ But the prospect of removing a seat was not popular.

• Sheldon:
  o An Indigenous Constituency?

• Cole:
  o We were thinking the Indigenous Committee may not be the best structure.
  o One idea was to create a self-governing Indigenous student society similar to our Constituencies.
  o But we’ve been busy with Indigenous Culture Month.
  o A lot of work and consultation would be needed on this.

• Mitchell:
  o A seat for the Residence Hall Association on Council?

• Cole:
  o No. They’re overseen by UBC and are not independent.
  o Mostly the 2020 AGM made the bylaw changes that had been backlogged from failed referendums.
  o Maybe we can go to Governance to ask if there’s anything they’d like to go to referendum.
Council Social and Merch Planning

- **Cole:**
  - We should do a social activity.
  - We have a good Council this year.
- **Mary:**
  - We could go to an amusement park.
- **Cole:**
  - We give out hoodies every year.
  - I am also ordering pins incorporating the new logo.
- **Mary:**
  - Windbreakers – but they can be cheap.
- **Cole:**
  - We could bring back Council blazers and ties.

Get Thrifty

- **Cole:**
  - Lots of progress on the expansion.
  - When we discussed the Norm/Auditorium project at Council, Council said the Get Thrifty situation had to be resolved, so we’ve been working on a solution.
  - This has delayed us on the Auditorium, but we’ve accelerated the Get Thrifty expansion so it can be done by next summer, separate from the big Auditorium project.

[Eshana arrives.]

- **Cole:**
  - The budget for the Get Thrifty expansion will be about $340,000.
  - We’re aiming for cost-sharing between the Get Thrifty fund and the AMS Capital Projects Fund.
  - Still in discussions, but possibly a 70-30 split.
  - The 70 will come from the Get Thrifty fund; it doesn’t have it, so we’ll front it and get repaid out of their fund.
- **Mary:**
  - Their revenue and the money they get from the Get Thrifty fee will not be enough for them to pay back what they owe.
- **Cole:**
  - How they pay it off will be a question for them.
- **Michael Kingsmill:**
  - There is a cavernous area in the Life Building behind Get Thrifty.
We were aiming to repurpose it into an expansion of the lobby for the new theatre.

The plan now will be to use space underneath the expanded lobby for the Get Thrifty expansion.

It will be a no frills project, including a seismic upgrade.

We are still expanding the theatre lobby, but we will also expand Get Thrifty.

Get Thrifty’s expansion space will be under the new lobby.

Part of it will have a ceiling less than seven feet high, which is less than required by code, but it will only be used for storage.

- Mary:
  - Are we sure Get Thrifty will be here six years from now.

- Cole:
  - Get Thrifty is in a good position to succeed.
  - If something goes bad, we’ll still have a renovated space.
  - But I have full confidence in their success.

**Student Engagement Survey**

- Cole:
  - Revised draft.
  - Close to finalizing.
  - Lots of feedback.
  - Tried to incorporate what people recommended.
  - Eric (Communications) suggested adding context.
  - Still kept it short enough to be completed in 15 minutes.

- Eshana:
  - Incentivized?

- Cole:
  - Way more prizes than we usually do for these surveys: $4500.

- Eshana:
  - I gave $2000 for the Return to Campus Survey.

- Cole:
  - There are lots of good questions that can be tracked year to year.
  - This is just the first year of it, so it can be revised.
  - Some of it comes from the old Nest Survey (2019), so we can use that data for comparisons.
  - November 16 launch date: it will be open for the last two and half weeks of classes.

**Election Planning**

- Cole:
  - Thinking of what we want to do to create buzz around the elections.
Supporting the Elections Team.
- We can do information sessions about our jobs, give advice on how to campaign, so students can learn in a less intimidating way.
- In the past they would have to approach the Executives, which has the potential to lead to gatekeeping.

- Saad:
  - We have an amazing Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).
  - We should do everything to support them.
  - Isn’t it more the Elections Team that is doing this?

- Cole:
  - We can work with AMS Elections; there’s also responsibility on the Executives.
  - The Elections Team is not going to talk about Executive job duties or campaigning methods.

- Eshana:
  - It’s awkward to teach people how to campaign, but we should reduce barriers.

- Cole:
  - There are people who are interested in running, but they don’t know where to start.
  - They need a path to success, advice.
  - There is no expectation that people (in the current Executive) who are planning to run themselves will have to encourage people to run for their position.
  - Last year I wasn’t comfortable asking people to run for President when I was running for President.
  - But as an Executive Committee we can come up with ideas.
  - As one not running in the elections, I’m more than happy to run workshops. Could bring in Max, Julia, etc. (past Executives who are still active).
  - This would be something from the Executive Committee, not individual Executives.

- Eshana:
  - Maybe produce a guide.

- Cole:
  - We can distribute a two-pager to Constituency executives, clubs, other groups, to encourage people who might be thinking of running.

**Surrey Expansion**

- Keith:
  - There is news about UBC building in Surrey.
  - Will this be a satellite campus?

- Eshana:
  - More details will come out later today.

- Keith:
Would it have its own student union?
- People thought not.
- Cole:
  - The question is, long term what will our presence look like in Surrey.
  - Not that we’d put up a building, but maybe some office space, an outpost, running Peer Support out of there.
- Eshana:
  - UBC is not sure what it will be: academic, residential?

[Eshana leaves.]

Managing Director’s Update
- Keith:
  - New benefit: Massage Therapy for staff.
    - Some bookings.
    - Great service.
  - Staff hirings because of resignations:
    - Burnout resulting from lack of staff.
    - A problem hiring for a number of our outlets:
      - Pie R, Porch, Gallery.
    - It’s not just us; in the Vancouver market a lot of people in the hospitality industry don’t want to return to it.
  - Truth and Reconciliation hiring.
- Saad:
  - Good to do an appreciation of Yash, who’s leaving as manager of the Gallery.
  - For recruitment, can speak to Vancouver Culinary College.
- Keith:
  - We have been.
- Cole:
  - How do things stand re the HR Manager?
- Keith:
  - Still interviewing.
  - Haven’t found a successful candidate.
- Cole:
  - Should we hire a recruiting company?
- Keith:
  - It would cost $20,000.
  - But we can do it.
- Cole:
  - It’s worth it if it means we can get an HR Manager sooner.
- Keith:
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- Yes, a good use of money.
- Cole:
  - And more likely to get a good candidate.

Executive and Services Updates

- **Mitchell’s update:**
  - Minor accident with a Safewalk shuttle.
  - Peer Support:
    - Training program on fentanyl strips.
- Saad:
  - Working with SASC and Services to become a designated Naloxone distribution site.
- Cole:
  - Council on Monday won’t be long.
  - Get Thrifty presentation.
- Mary:
  - Budget amendment.
- Cole:
  - Maybe we need a Bylaw change so that not every budget amendment has to go to Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.