



AMS Finance Committee Minutes

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
Nov 8, 2021 at 12:00 PM PST
@ <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91667532872>

Attendance

Members Present:

Rita Jin (Staff), Cole Evans, Mary Gan, Keith Hester, Kamil Kanji, Aryan Mishra, Mitchell Prost

Members Absent:

Francesca Kohn (SaL), Emily Covell (Staff)

Guests Present:

Dawn Hancock, Jason Pang

I. Adoption of the Agenda

BIRT the agenda is approved as presented

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Mitchell.

II. Approval of the Minutes

BIRT the minutes for the October 28th, 2021 and November 1st, 2021 Finance Committee meetings are approved

 [November 1st, 2021 AMS Finance Committee Minutes.pdf](#)

 [October 28th, 2021 AMS Finance Committee Minutes.pdf](#)

Moved by Aryan, Seconded by Kamil.

III. AMS 2022 Scope 3 Carbon Offset

BIRT \$11,077.50 is approved from the SPF for the AMS Scope 3 Carbon Offset project.

 [AMS 2022 Scope 3 Carbon Offset.pdf](#)

Jason:

We will be reviewing 2 SPF applications. The first is the Scope 3 Carbon Offset. The goal last year was for the AMS to reach net 0 by 2025. If we are able to approve this project, we can reach net 0 today!

Dawn:

I work for Offsetters. We help companies understand emissions, set targets, and work toward those goals. We are hoping to get AMS footprint down in the coming years. Right now, they are high enough to need the purchase of these offsets. The project is based here in BC on indigenous lands. They demanded government status and they own the

rights to the project. Some of that is improving water programs (Blue Carbon Project), youth centres, senior centres, etc. It is a great area and a beautiful part of the world. They are also protecting biodiversity such as spirit bears.

Keith:

That sounds wonderful. Is the \$11,077.50 for every year?

Dawn:

We would do this every year and you would offset the emissions every year. Working with this, the emissions should decrease so the cost will also be lower in the coming years.

Mary:

What are some examples of offsetting carbon footprint?

Dawn:

Like other carbon footprint projects? It would only go towards one project.

Cole:

Yes, carbon zero is a great way to lower our carbon emissions. Super support of spending money on this. I don't think this is proper use of the SPF given the current code. I would vote to approve it but I think I should discuss updates to the SPF code for future purposes.

Jason:

I talked to Elaine and we reviewed the code. There's nothing against it and it meets all the project criteria.

Cole:

Yeah, there's nothing wrong with the project but the issue is that this is an AMS project. Originally, SPF was targeted for students' projects. From a society's perspective, it should be used for maintenance of past projects. It isn't something you and Elaine have to worry about - it is more of a Finance Committee issue.

Mary:

Would this go to Council if we would like to adjust the code so that AMS can tap into it?

Cole:

Yes.

BIRT \$11,077.50 is approved from the SPF for the AMS Scope 3 Carbon Offset project.

Moved by Kamil, Seconded by Mary.

IV. AMS Waste Hub (Presenters: Lauren Benson)

BIRT \$1065 from the Sustainability Projects Fund is approved from the AMS Waste Hub project

 [AMS Waste Hub.pdf](#)

Jason:

This is for the AMS Waste Hub for students to recycle hard to recycle items like styrofoam, stationary, soft plastic, etc. It would be a great opportunity for the students to be involved actively and is a part of the ASAP (sustainability plan).

Keith:

These bins are going to be located inside the sustainability centre?

Jason:

Yes, if it is outside, people can throw non-recyclable items in it which causes the whole bin to not be recycled. If it is inside, they can access it at specific hours.

Keith:

Who's going to empty these bins?

Jason:

If it is soft plastics and styrofoam, UBC waste management system.

Recycling: electricycle BC (accept batteries, managed by Jason and Anisha).

Stationary: Staples (managed by Jason and Anisha).

Mary:

Are the bins reusable?

Jason:

Yes, if you scroll down to the bottom, you can see pictures of the bins. The costs of the bins are also discounted because we are an university.

Mary:

For the sustainability centre, how long would you keep it open for?

Jason:

That may vary depending on the shift availability. We hope that once clubs have signed up, it will be open 9AM-5PM everyday.

Mary:

Do you have the capacity to manage office hours for this?

Jason:

We usually have office hours at the administration office so it will just be a change in location.

Mary:

The project seems to not be too hard to get up and running, wondering why it took so long.

Jason:

It only took so long because of COVID and I wasn't in the office much. This year, I am back in the office more so I continued this project.

Mary:

How long will the project last for?

Jason:

This will likely be a long term thing until the university incorporates soft plastic and styrofoam. Stationary and battery will last a long time. This is only a pilot. Razors, lightbulbs, air refresheners, etc. are other items that we can look into to add/decrease bins as necessary.

BIRT \$1065 from the Sustainability Projects Fund is approved for the AMS Waste Hub project.

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Kamil.

V. CBF and CAF Code Amendments

BIRT that the code changes to the Constituency Aid Fund and Clubs Benefit Fund are approved as presented.

 [Code Changes 2021 Expense Management.docx](#)

Mary:

With our new expense management system, we want to amend the code to allow constituencies/clubs to not pay the \$70 user fees and rather to take the money out of

the Constituency Aid Fund (~\$31.7k) or Clubs Benefit Fund (~\$600k). Furthermore, there's not too much movement in the constituency aid fund because the constituencies are already so well-funded.

Kamil:

Does every club/constituency have to pay the \$70?

Keith:

Yes, every club/constituency that uses the service will be charged this.

Cole:

So, this is just for clubs that uses credit cards?

Mary:

For clubs that process reimbursements. Technically, all clubs should have one transaction each year so all of them would pay this fee.

Cole:

Where does the Constituency Aid Fund come from?

Keith:

It is code-funded.

Cole:

My thought is that constituencies don't need aid for this. They should have \$70 to pay for them since they collect student fees. I also don't like this fund. I think we should potentially get rid of this fund if we are just contributing general operation revenue into it anyways. I think we should not be contributing to that fund.

Keith:

Do you mean charge the constituencies directly for these user fees?

Cole:

I mean, for the simply voting fees as well to, how much would that charge?

Keith:

We decided not to charge them remember?

Cole:

I think we need to talk about eventually charging them. Possibly debiting a user fee compensating for the expense user fees and the simply voting fees at the beginning of the year. I like the clubs thing but constituency probably do not need our help.

Mary:

For the constituency aid fund, when you talk about folding the fund, where would the fund go?

Cole:

I just think constituencies are already so well-funded so they are able to pay for this.

Mary:

I think having free services is a big incentive for organizations to become an AMS organization.

Cole:

I agree that for clubs, we should pay for the fees to incentivize clubs to become AMS clubs. However, constituencies shouldn't need the financial support.

Mary:

I think we can drain the constituency aid fund by paying for the constituency expense management system. When the fund is drained, then constituencies can be charged for the fees.

Cole:

I would want to see the fund revisited to help constituencies who need the money rather than paying for all the constituencies.

BIRT that the code changes to the Constituency Aid Fund and Clubs Benefit Fund are approved as presented.

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Kamil.

VI. AMS Fees Referendum (DISCUSSION)

Mary:

A lot of resource groups haven't been using a lot of money. So, we are hoping to stop the fee collection for resource groups and then restarting fee collection when it falls under a balance.

Cole:

The earlier we discuss fee collection issues with clubs/constituencies, the better. Instead of saying in January that we will be charging them these various fees, it is better to let them know now ahead of time.