



AMS Finance Committee Minutes

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
Oct 28, 2021 at 4:00 PM PDT
@ <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91667532872>

Attendance

Members Present:

Rita Jin (Staff), Lauren Benson, Eshana Bhangu, Cole Evans, Mary Gan, Keith Hester, Kamil Kanji, Aryan Mishra, Mitchell Prost, Saad Shoab

Members Absent:

Francesca Kohn (SaL)

I. Adoption of the Agenda

BIRT the agenda is adopted as presented

Moved by Mitchell, Seconded by Kamil.

II. Approval of Minutes

BIRT the minutes for the October 25th, 2021 Finance Committee meeting is approved as presented

 [October 25th, 2021 Finance Committee Minutes.pdf](#)

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Kamil.

III. UNA Budget Amendment (IN-CAMERA) (Presenters: Saad Shoab)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMS Finance Committee recommends to AMS Council that the VP External's budget is increased through the 068-7510-00 ("Campaigns and Research") line item by \$4,000.00. Change: \$7,000 to \$11,000. Highlighted in yellow under VP External Budget.

 [AMS Budget 2021-22 Revised.xlsx](#)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee moves in-camera.

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Mitchell, Thirded by Kamil.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee stays in-camera.

Motion fails. Committee leaves in-camera.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMS Finance Committee recommends to AMS Council that the VP External's budget is increased through the 068-7510-00 ("Campaigns and Research") line item by \$7,400.00.

Moved by Kamil, Seconded by Cole. Motion passes.

IV. Archery Club ToR (Presenters: Lauren Benson)

BIRT the UBC Archery Club Terms of Repayment is approved as presented and a \$12,000 short term loan is approved.

 [Terms of Repayment AMS and Archery Club.pdf](#)

Lauren: Here to talk about Archery Club repayment. For some context, Archery Club books space in Nest to do practices and host event. Typically uses Great Hall. 2 years ago, they shot some arrows and they went above the protective net. Damaged the Skywall we have in the Great Hall, which is very expensive and different from the normal walls we have. Holes are tiny but we need to hold a certain standard to our spaces since our spaces are used for weddings, etc. We need to have a terms of repayment, 5 years, \$12,000 needed to fix the damage. For the first year they've agreed paying \$3,500 since they already have \$2,000 right now. ToR goes until 2027. We've discussed increasing their membership fees but most of the repayment money will come from event revenue. They will be allowed to use the space again based on several conditions.

They will need to use nets of a higher grade and more nets. Ben and I will sit in on first couple practices to make sure they have right setup. We didn't go to this decision without a lot of consideration. This is the only indoor space we can hold them for free and without them holding events, they will not earn the revenue that would be used to repay us. If any further damage- account will be frozen, strike system will go into place, and they know that deconstitution will be on the table. Long story short, this will give them a short term loan of \$12,000 so that they can repay us for the damage. This was an issue from 2019 but was inherited down to my team now.

Mary: Why are people shooting at walls?

Kamil: Why are people shooting arrows indoors?

Lauren: Think it's weather-dependent.

Cole: Archery Club not very big, right?

Lauren: Membership wise I think around 30?

Cole: There's not a ton of people then- repaying \$12,000 over 5 years? I'm not sure what their annual operating budget is. I'd rather just have some money from the Clubs Benefit Fund to go towards helping them, and have a stern warning to them. Given the scope of what's happened, I don't think we need to debt them for 6 years.

Lauren: I've spoken to them and they've apparently makes a lot of revenue weekly but they haven't been able to hold events due to COVID. They believe that once events are

held again they could get the money fairly quickly. I'm not opposed to taking it from CBF but also worried about setting a precedent for this.

Cole: Just worried about time. 6 years is a long time. Concerned since it's a smaller club. We should find ways to avoid having long term lingering debts.

Mary: I want to also share that super long MOUs don't last well- we've had a couple clubs with long term debts (especially ones owing UBC). Flagging them down is a hassle. Transition is difficult between club executives from year to year in small clubs. Making sure this TOR goes through years of transition is difficult. We could look into us paying for \$6,000 of it out of CBF and they pay the rest over 2 years' time.

Keith: My concern along with Kamil is that it creates a precedent. Clubs may think that they could do damage and then the AMS will just take care of it. Lauren explained it, Skywall is expensive because it moves up and down. There is only one company in North America that services it. You can't fix the panels, you will have to replace it. Which is why it's so expensive.

Cole: If we let people do high-risk activity indoors, we assumed risk having this damage. If we allow bookings for clubs to do high-risk activity, we can consider not having those bookings hosted in certain rooms and accommodate it in other lower risk rooms. I wouldn't be concerned about setting a precedent because it can be case by case and Finance Committee decides. I don't want Archery Club to be screwed over with a long term debt.

Keith: I agree, high-risk activity should not be done in some of those rooms and is really expensive to maintain.

Lauren: When we do allow them back into the space we won't allow them to use the space in the way they used to. They will have lots of mesh. If we could speed it up by sharing the loan with the CBF. There's also some clubs that have caused floor damage so upcoming MOUs/ToRs may come.

Mary: I would say half and half coverage. Also, how are there so many club-inflicted damages coming up? As well, this issue was from 2019- but is coming up so late now?

Lauren: Yeah, we are having issues with our flooring. They are scratching so easily. Cart wheels are getting replaced.

Kamil: Can the terms of reference for Clubs Benefit Fund be used to pay half?

Mary: I think CBF terms of reference is pretty vague. "To assist clubs in special projects, assist or benefit clubs". You could say that helping pay for club-inflicted damages of walls is assisting clubs.

Keith: Yeah we need a way of tracking MOUs/ToRs.

Mary: Our VP Finance folder has all the MOUs/ToRs in there.

Kamil: What's the balance of CBF?

Cole and Mary: Close to 600k. It's high.

Mitchell: I know there's discussion using money in funds. Might be helpful to set a percentage cap to use the fund for things like this so we don't have uncertainty of how much we can use from this fund.

Lauren: I like that idea.

Mitchell: I like the idea of using money from the fund but not sure about 50%. Maybe something lower than \$6k. How about paying for the first instalment (\$3,500).

Kamil: Yeah that sets a precedent since if someone has a \$60k damage, do we have to pay \$30k?

Cole: Important to know how much money they have. If they have a high budget they can pay more. If low, they can pay less.

Mary: I sent over the TB a while ago to Ben. Their operating is around \$2.6k.

Lauren: They were comfortable with us taking \$2k from their account to start paying it off. If we help them subsidize this we can shorten the ToR.

Mary: Let's decide on a number today.

Lauren: I'd like to get a number as well.

Kamil: I agree with Mitchell then, \$6,000 too high. \$3,500 is good.

Mary: Yup so \$8,500 to pay back if CBF covers \$3,500. And they already have \$2k in their account so they'll have \$6,500 left to pay. Hopefully ToR can be shorter.

Kamil: Big Albert Einstein brain.

Lauren: 3 years?

Mary: Yeah 3 years sounds good with me. Lauren do you want to bring this back to their team and revise the ToR? \$3,500 covered from Clubs Benefit Fund?

Keith: We already paid it from the building operations so we'll just charge the damage repairs costs to the club account through instalments.

Mary: Lauren, bring this back to the team and we can just email vote the ToR since we've already had so much discussion on it.

V. AMS VP Academic Budget Amendment (Presenters: Eshana Bhangu)

BIRT Finance Committee recommends to AMS Council the approval of a \$5,000 increase in the Academic Projects Line under the VP AUA Portfolio for the Student Experience of Instruction (SEI) Campaign Change: \$17,500 to \$22,500. Highlighted in yellow under VP AUA Budget.

 [AMS Budget 2021-22 Revised.xlsx](#)

Eshana: I'll be quick. I'm asking for a budget increase of \$5,000 for Academic Projects. There's Student Experience Instruction- prev. called Student Evaluation of Teaching. Response rates have been abysmal. They've made some changes this year after 15 years to the survey. The responses to that are used for promotion, tenure track for faculty members- but the key thing is that it's a huge platform for students to give academic feedback. So students have that voice. There's been pushback that we shouldn't have these surveys due to low response. This year considering the questions have also been changed, I'm planning a campaign for students to fill out the survey, send us the confirmation, and enter a giveaway for tuition credit. We can work with Enrolment services to have the tuition credited to their SSC. Thinking of 5 students to win, and \$100 for posters or whatnot. Have gotten UBC committed to create promotional video. Money is going right back to students.

Mary: When do you plan to have the campaign?

Eshana: Bulk of surveys will go out November 28th to December 3rd, so it'll be the weeks leading up to that I will be campaign for. Around mid-November onwards. I'm working with UBC to verify that students actually completed the survey without violating privacy issues. We would be having a giveaway and pay for 1 class (\$1,000 since international students' classes are more expensive than domestic, so \$1,000 should cover any student). I want prize to be related to the campaign so I didn't want to just give a gift card.

Mary: Just wondering, do you project to have any other major budget changes soon? There has been a lot of budget changes since the budget was made. A bit of a concern if there's so many budget changes from VP AUA for campaigns. Before, Academic Projects have never been this super high. Obviously great to see so many projects to come in, but worthy to note that previous years' was \$3,000 but this year it's getting boosted up to \$22,500.

Kamil: Really high line item and obviously nice that it's going towards students, but is there a more cost-effective way to do this? Is there any other budget lines we could take funding from?

Eshana: This is the year where changes have been made to the survey after 15 years while there weren't changes made in prev years. I don't want to limit the kind of engagement and impact we could have on students. It's really just to see how we can engage students.

Aryan: Instead of giving \$1,000 to just 5 students, could we increase student engagement by allocating \$500? More engagement? If you do \$500 and more winners that would be better.

Eshana: We came up with that figure to accommodate paying for one class but I'll go back to my team and discuss with them.

Mary: I would also say it's better to have more winners. As well, I'm not a fan of having too many budget changes so in the future if we could reduce budget changes and forecast it earlier during budget creation or January reforecast that would be ideal.

Eshana: Can't touch Academic Experience survey funding since that has to be paid to Insights West.

Mitchell: Just wanted to say regarding Aryan's point. \$500 is such a small amount so it may not be viewed as 'worth' to international students to fill out the survey for that prize amount. I would want international students' feedback since they pay so much for tuition. Maybe \$800? So it shows we're thinking beyond domestic student tuition prices.

Eshana: I do want to retain that flexibility. If it's a domestic student who won, we could just do \$550 tuition credit.

Cole: I support this.

BIRT Finance Committee recommends to AMS Council the approval of a \$5,000 increase in the Academic Projects Line under the VP AUA Portfolio for the Student Experience of Instruction (SEI) Campaign.