STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

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Guests: Nathan Bawaan (Ubyssey), Nicolas Romualdi (GSS), James Cabangon (AVP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm with Cole Evans in the chair. This was the first meeting in person since March 2020.

B) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Chair:

- The AMS is situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓-speaking Musqueam people.
- It is important that those of us in power work to advance the principles of reconciliation.

C) Adoption of the agenda:

1. MOVED KATHERINE FENG, SECONDED KAMIL KANJI:

   “That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

   Cole Evans:
   - I made some changes to the brewery referendum motion. There is new wording.

   At the request of Max Holmes, the new wording was read out.

   Eshana Bhangu:
   - I would like to add a discussion on Textbook Broke.

2. MOVED KATHERINE FENG, SECONDED KAMIL KANJI:

   “That the agenda be adopted as amended.”

   ... No objections

D) Membership: Introductions, new members, declaration of vacancies:

Welcome to our New Members: Cole Quist (Architecture), Sophie Penniman (Library-Archival), Noah Collins (Regent), Shadia Qubti (VST), Sajedeh Zaki (Social Work)

Vacancies on Council: Journalism, Population & Public Health, Audiology, Education, Engineering, GSS x 2
Goodbyes: Anissa Meghji (Social Work)

E) Speaker’s Business (5 minutes):

The Chair:
- This is our first meeting in person.
- Key difference: to get my attention, raise your placard.
- You have a microphone to speak into.
- You should have your masks on at all times except when eating, drinking, or speaking.

Max Holmes:
- Why when speaking?

The Chair:
- For accessibility reasons.
- If people want to keep masks on to speak, that’s fine.

F) Statements from Students at Large (3 minutes each):

G) Consent Agenda Items

3. MOVED MARY GAN, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That the following consent agenda items be accepted as presented (simple majority).”

Executive Committee minutes dated August 25, 2021 [SCD149-22]
Operations Committee minutes dated August 30, 2021 [SCD150-22]
Human Resources Committee minutes dated August 20, 2021 [SCD151-22]
Governance Committee minutes dated August 18, 2021 [SCD152-22]
Finance Committee minutes dated August 17, 2021 [SCD153-22]
Finance Committee minutes dated August 27, 2021 [SCD154-22]

From the Executive Committee
That Council set the date of the 2021 Annual General Meeting as October 28, 2021 at 6 pm.

... Carried

For (24): Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Cole Quist, Aryan Mishra, Kamil Kanji, Romina Hajizadeh, Sanjana Bedi, Grace Lee, Jason Liao, Jasneet Bal, Joey Yang, Julia Burnham, Ivran Rai, Gabrielle Matheson, Sophie Penniman, Emily Gubski, Emily Masse, Grace Li, Kiera Vandebove, Noah Collins, Avery Chan, Katherine Feng, Katsy Concepcion, Shadia Qubti
4. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That the following consent agenda items be accepted as presented (2/3rds).”

**From the HR Committee**

That Council restore the original working hours/terms of the Chief Electoral Officer’s employment contract, from 5 hours per week to 15 hours per week from the dates of September 1 to October 12.

**From the Finance Committee**

That a $5,000 increase be approved for the Academic Projects budget line under the VP Academic and University Affairs portfolio.

Katherine Feng:
- Why the budget increase?

Eshana Bhangu:
- To enhance engagement in the Textbook Broke campaign.
- To reimburse some textbook costs.
- Also printing posters.

5. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

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**From the Finance Committee**

That a $5,000 increase be approved for the Academic Projects budget line under the VP Academic and University Affairs portfolio.

... Carried

For (26): Eshana Bhangu, Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Cole Quist, Aryan Mishra, Kamil Kanji, Mathew Ho, Romina Hajizadeh, Sanjana Bedi, Grace Lee, Jason Liao, Jasneet Bal, Joey Yang, Julia Burnham, Ivran Rai, Gabrielle Matheson, Sophie Penniman, Emily Gubski, Emily Masse, Kiera Vandeborne, Noah Collins, Avery Chan, Katherine Feng, Katsy Concepcion, Sajede Zaki, Shadia Qubti

H) Presentations to Council and Accompanying Motions (10 minutes for presentation, 5 minute? period):

**Strategic Plan Development – Cole Evans, Nicolas Romualdi**

Cole Evans:
- We’ve talked a little in the past about this.
- It’s been worked on for two decades really, but never really executed.
It's important as a tool to guide us.
I've worked with the Executive on how to do this.
We think we have a way, and a person to do it.

Nicolas Romualdi:
- A strategic plan is a management tool that supports the organization and helps it achieve its purpose.
- It's like chess:
  - You have a strategy, a long-term vision.
  - You also make short-term moves, conduct your day-to-day operations.
- For the AMS the vision is the mission of the organization; strategic planning should not get involved in everyday minutiae.
- I understand the AMS would like a strategic plan before the end of this Council cycle.
- This has been tried before in recent years, but not ratified.
- Need to do things differently this time.
- There's been a failure to understand how unique the AMS is.
- It's the largest student society in Canada (maybe the world), and runs lots of different operations:
  - advocacy
  - business
  - services
  - a multimillion dollar building
  - managing a complex network of stakeholders
- First thing to do is to review the objective and the scope, before jumping to the next steps.
- There can be a feeling of urgency to proceed, but it's good to wait and examine our mission etc.
- We may need more than one approach, different for services, advocacy, business.
- It's important to have a unified vision for the Society, but still be flexible in how to translate the vision for different parts.
- Will gather data, draft, review ...
- It will be an iterative process, a feedback loop.
- Then approve.
- The key to success is understanding the unique context.
  - Have to be careful about benchmarks, because others are not like us.
- Need to have an engaged, open, and constructive process at every stage.

Cole Evans:
- We saw three possible approaches:
  1. Do it internally.
  2. Hire an external consultant or company (something done frequently elsewhere, e.g., at UBCO).
  3. An in-between approach of hiring additional capacity, a student employee, especially grad-level students.
- Option 1:
  - We don't have the capacity.
  - It would take longer, and if we don't complete, it might get lost in transition.
o That’s happened in the past.

- Option 2:
  - External companies don’t necessarily understand student unions, the turnover, the different stakeholders, the different aspects of the AMS.
  - Also expensive.

- Option 3:
  - Looked at this.
  - What if we found a student with experience in strategic planning?
  - That led us to Nicolas, who was at the GSS and did strategic planning there.
  - The fit was natural.

- Next step:
  - The Finance Committee for budget approval.
  - Then approval at Council.
  - Takes money to do a plan.
  - Altogether perhaps 30 weeks.
  - A March completion date.

- This is high level today; we didn’t discuss how consultation will work.

Questions
Shadia Qubti:
- Are you trying to do each of the branches of the AMS separately?

Nicolas Romualdi:
- Yes and no.
- It depends on which areas.
- For Services, a one-year plan may be a good fit.
- But for advocacy a plan like that would not be a good idea.

Kamil Kanji:
- We should have had a strategic plan a long time ago.
- Do we know why the last plan failed?
- And will there be Council oversight? A committee?

Cole Evans:
- We haven’t conducted a real post-mortem on the old plans.
- But I know a lot of work took place.
- We tried to do it internally, through the President’s office, and we lacked capacity.
- Then there was turnover, and it got dropped.
- Revived every few years.
- About Council involvement: we haven’t finalized that yet.
- Is Council interested in an ad hoc committee on that?
- We want to update Council regularly.

Mathew Ho:
- This strategic plan topic feels like déjà vu.
- One recurrent issue is: will a plan hinder future Councils or Executives?
- It could inhibit what future students might want.
Cole Evans:
- This is a question that frequently comes up.
- A plan is a tool more than a direction.
- It wouldn't be a specific goal to create a new service.
- It's more the vision, and for senior management.
- It can help with setting goals.
- A strategic plan makes it easier to present a collective unified approach.

6. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED SANJANA BEDI:

“That the question period be extended by 10 minutes.”

… No objections

Max Holmes:
- I’ve seen a couple of different attempts fail, not so much because we did them in house as because we started them too late in the year.
- Or later Execs don’t want to follow them.
- Is this the one big project Council wants to dedicate itself to?
- It’s an investment of dollars, hours, engagement.
- Is this the one thing you want to get done?
- Also, how did we come up with the March deadline?
  - That would be the fastest we’ve seen.
- And how will it continue after you leave?
- Is the Society going to continue this afterwards?
- But Nicolas would be a great consultant.

Nicolas Romualdi:
- No strategic plan is going to correct bad or erratic leadership, but it can help future iterations of Council.

Cole Evans:
- As to how it will live on, that’s something to look into, part of the process.
- There’s a strong base of senior leadership that will continue.
- It will be up to them as much or more than the Board.
- I’ve heard Keith say year after year that this is necessary.

Noah Collins:
- I appreciate using the plan as a tool.
- How do we keep it agile?
- Does the plan enable future Councils to streamline their work or is it just bureaucratic red tape?
- It could make it more difficult to move things through.

Nicolas Romualdi:
- What it comes down to is not the plan but the process.
- It should not be prescriptive.
• It should not prevent a manager from doing something.
• It should help staff make decisions.

Julia Burnham:
• Nicolas would be great for this.
• If this can cement the historical goal of the AMS as a union rather than a lifestyle brand, that's good.
• I'm worried about pick-up.
• We can't just silo this to an ad hoc committee.
• It's a massive project.
• Needs a serious conversation.
• Can we get this done?
• Is this going to be our priority?
• Can we get this done in time?

7. MOVED ESHANA BHANGU, SECONDED MATHEW HO:
   “That time for the question period be extended by 10 minutes.”
   ... Withdrawn

   There was talk of adding a Discussion Period topic on this at the end of the meeting.

8. MOVED EMILY GUBSKI, SECONDED ROMINA HAJIZADEH:
   “That the agenda be amended to add a discussion on this now.”
   ... No objections

U) Discussion Period

   Strategic Plan
   Emily Gubski:
   • This needs a lot of thought.
   • It doesn’t have to be binding.
   • This is a great opportunity to work on what our mission is, to let future Executives understand.
   • It doesn’t need to be massive; it doesn’t have to be the only project we work on.
   • I think it’s a great idea to have something strategic plan-like.
   • A lot can be done with this.
   • It can be flexible.

   Nicolas Romualdi:
   • Let’s make a plan that is useful.
   • It doesn’t have to be perfect.
   • It will be a stepping stone.
   • The second time round will be way easier.
Eshana Bhangu:
- UBC has a strategic plan.
- It would be useful to be able to point to something like that when in discussions.
- Theirs has a section on transformative education and innovation.
- It’s helpful to be able to relate to core values.
- An AMS strategic plan would really be values and principles.

Romina Hajizadeh:
- A strategic plan would help morale and engagement.

Katherine Feng:
- How would this help the staff?

Nicolas Romualdi:
- You should be expecting consultation and frequent presentations.
- How this helps:
  - With external advocacy.
  - There are self-isolation costs.
  - No way anyone could have foreseen what happened this past year (with COVID), but what could be foreseen is the need for a federal and provincial lobbying presence.
  - A strategic plan would support leadership whatever issue comes up.

Keith Hester:
- Every year I go through goal-setting with managers and staff.
- Would like their goals to be in line with the Society’s goals.
- That would be facilitated by having a strategic plan.
- It’s useful to know what the Society is focused on.

Gabrielle Matheson:
- I’m in favour of this.
- The opposition is on the question of buy-in, the work, the will.
- And we seem agreed that we have the right person.
- This would help Councillors coming in.
- It would be a framework to refer to.
- I don’t know what else would trump this.

Jason Liao:
- I support the idea of a strategic plan.
- Councillors have to deal with the ambiguity of their role, so it might be helpful to have some sort of strategic plan to tie oneself to.

Cole Quist:
- This is my first meeting; I’m a new Councillor.
- I’m surprised there isn’t a strategic plan already.
Sanjana Bedi:
- As a new Council member, I think this is a good idea.

Georgia Yee:
- Welcome to all the new Councillors.
- There’s a need to bridge knowledge gaps for Councillors, student government staff, etc.
- People run to be an AMS representative, but may not know what’s in the scope of what can be done.
- This would be a very important document to pass on to the next generation of Councillors.
- How often are we going to update the plan?
  - Every four or five years?
- We need to pay attention to accountability and continuity.

Max Holmes:
- It definitely seems the vast majority of Council are in favour of a strategic plan, but we need to get on the same page.
- There are lots of different ideas about what Councillors want from it.
- We haven’t analyzed the past attempts.
- Are we looking for a vision? For targets with accountability to align goals with?
- As one who’s seen the problems in the past, I think you’re on the path to make the same mistakes.
- You need to figure out what you want the plan to do.
- Senior management is asking for a plan, and it’s useful to have a vision, but perhaps the business side needs its own plan.
- Trying to amalgamate everything into one plan, which is how the University does it, isn’t as helpful as you might think.

Shadia Qubti:
- We have a mission statement and a constitution listing 11 objectives.
- Is this going to be about implementing a vision statement?
- A strategic plan needs to be time-framed and measurable, or it loses its value.
- A document to articulate a vision is good, but is this the right time for that? During COVID?
- Does this serve current student needs?

Nicolas Romualdi:
- I see the plan as a road map; that’s part of it.
- But separate from that, there are different visions of the plan.
- The first step would be to establish what this plan will actually do.
- What kind of plan do we want?

Cole Evans:
- To answer the question about doing this now, since we won’t be doing it internally we won’t have regular staff doing this, so we won’t come into conflict with the other work we need to do.
Kamil Kanji:
- It’s irresponsible not to have a plan.
- We do need to have a conversation about what we want this to look like.
- Maybe Nicolas should have some discussions and bring something forward.
- From the financial end, I have a lot of concern about expenditures.

Mathew Ho:
- What happens after this year? That’s my concern.
- It reminds me of the External Policy Manual: everyone wanted to update it, but it’s been gathering dust for years in the absence of a Policy Advisor.
- What happens if there’s no Nicolas after this year?

Cole Evans:
- That’s a big conversation: where does this live?
  - Who is the envoy of the Strategic Plan?
  - The Executive Committee?
  - Will there be regular updates to Council?
  - Will goals be based on that?
  - Or should there be a committee?
  - The Managing Director?
- The Academic Experience Survey happens every year: how do we ensure that?
- But it’s okay if we can’t answer right now: it would be putting the cart before the horse if we had an answer.

Romina Hajizadeh:
- A bigger concern than all this is that students don’t know what the AMS is.

Gabrielle Matheson:
- Not being unified at this stage should not be a barrier.

Emily Gubski:
- A lot of us are pro some form of strategic plan.
- Lots of things have to be ironed out.
- We could vote on the motion to have some sort of plan.

Max Holmes:
- Great conversation. Amazing.
- This is the sort of discussion we will need to have going forward.
- And we should have similar discussions on Executive goals.

Cole Evans:
- The magic of in person Council.

Eshana Bhangu:
- I strongly support exploring the mistakes made in the past.
Keanna Yu:
- Who would we select as the best group of people to identify past mistakes and correct them?

Cole Evans:
- We have an Archivist.
- For next Council we should look do a post-mortem on what happened in the past.

Nicolas Romualdi:
- It’s not just what went wrong, but also the positives.

Emily Reid:
- It’s important to look at past failures.

**Microbrewery Project/Fermentation Lab**

Cole Evans:
- The motion accompanying this is to not pursue the referendum of 2014 to collect a student fee for a microbrewery.
- The history of this goes back to 2010 or late 2009, when there was a conversation about including a brewery in the new SUB (i.e., the Nest).
- That was scrapped, and later the focus turned towards a site on UBC Farm.
- That was in 2012-13, but then the plan of using money from our Capital Projects Fund was ruled out of order because that fund could only be used for projects in the SUB.
- A committee was then established that was meant to lead to a referendum to create a fee specifically for the brewery.
- However, when the committee brought the proposal to Council in January 2014, Council voted against the idea.
- The committee chair then went rogue and got it put on the ballot anyway, by gathering the 1,000 signatures needed for a referendum initiated by students at large.
- The referendum passed, and a new committee was formed.
- There was some progress in 2015, but it was slow.
- In 2017 a new committee was formed. Its chair, Jakob Gattinger, did a lot of work.
- In 2018-19 there was a name change to Fermentation Lab:
  - UBC didn’t like “brewery” in the name.
  - The idea was to be less of a commercial enterprise and to give the project a more academic focus.
- The farm site was looked at for five years.
- There were concerns about land use, and there were ongoing conversations with the Musqueam.
- A decision was made to move the site to East Mall, near the parkade.
- Lately we’ve done a projection showing this is not great for the AMS or students who will have to pay the fee.
- Under the new proposal the AMS will get 800 square feet at the back.
• The 2014 referendum set the student fee at $2.50 for the first two years rising to $5 and then $7 plus CPI.
• The project contribution by the AMS would be $1 million to $1.5 million.
• The fee has not yet gone into effect; it does not do so until a financial agreement is signed.
• This year we looked into the finances.
• We could get 25% profit, but we’re a non-profit, so we would have to set up a subsidiary or work with a partner.
• The result would make only $8,000 to $32,000 a year for us.
• You can see what we’re thinking: We’re collecting a million dollars in fees and getting back only $8,000 or $32,000.
• Not a big payoff, especially since the original vision is gone. It’s just manufacturing now.
• That’s why we’re thinking it’s not best to pursue this project.
• Sent a letter to the Land & Food faculty explaining why we’re not going forward.
• It’s disappointing; we never like to pull out of a project.
• Our legal counsel says we’re never technically bound by a referendum question.
  o If there’s a conflict with the best interests of the organization, we’re not bound.
• There’s a lot of risk in pursuing this.
• Ultimately the fiduciary duty rests with our board of directors, the voting members of Council.
• My belief is that this is not in our interest.
• If we pass the motion tonight, our involvement will be done.

Questions
Max Holmes:
• On the point that the AMS is a non-profit and thus can’t take profits:
  o How does that work with our businesses bringing in revenue and making a contribution to us?
  o How is that different??
  o And why take such a profit-based view?
  o We don’t do that with the Nest, the Engineers’ building, the new Arts building.
  o Why is this a profit project?
• On the actual motion, why is that necessary if the referendum doesn’t bind us?
• What, if any, public consultation was done on this?
  o This was passed in a referendum.
  o Was there any engagement with our members?

Keith Hester:
• Our businesses exist to support our student services, and any surplus goes to the Endowment Fund.
• This is an outside brewery.
• The only way it can work is as an investment that would risk us losing our non-profit status.
Max Holmes:
- I don’t see why it can’t operate like our businesses.
- Why not structure this the same way?

Keith Hester:
- This would not be owned by the Society.
- The University will own it.

Max Holmes:
- Then why did we do a profit analysis?

Cole Evans:
- There was a profit focus from the start.
  - It was always about the business case for it.
- As for consultation, no, we did not do widespread consultation.
- I would not feel comfortable asking the students to tell us this is a complete waste of money.
- I’d rather take a leadership role.
- In its current form this project does not provide a benefit that justifies the student fee, especially since the vision has changed so much.
- We’ll be saving students money.

Noah Collins:
- Has this happened before? Deciding a referendum is not in the best interests of the students?
- Does this set a precedent?
- I’m worried.
- Why even have a referendum if at the whim of Council it can be disregarded?

Cole Evans:
- Maybe it sets a precedent.
- If a referendum passed to abolish all student fees, as the board of directors I think we’d say no.

9. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED MARY GAN: [SCD158-22], [SCD159-22]

From the President
“Whereas a referendum was conducted and passed in January 2014 supporting establishing a student fee to finance the construction of a Microbrewery on campus (hereafter referred to as The Project) conditional upon the Society entering into a financing agreement for the Project with UBC.

Whereas AMS Council has undertaken further consideration and investigation of the feasibility of the Project in response to the passed referendum.

Whereas AMS Council has determined that the Project, in all forms, carries significant financial, structural, and reputational risk to the Society.
Whereas it is the opinion of AMS Council that the Project, in all forms, is no longer able to be executed in the best interests of the Society and its membership.

Whereas the Society does not intend to sign a financing agreement to facilitate the construction of the Project.

Whereas not pursuing the Project will save the Society’s membership at least $1 million in student fees over a period of five (5) years.

Whereas as per Bylaw 5(1) all powers concerning the management, administration, control of property, revenue, and business affairs of the Society are vested in the Council subject to the Bylaws.

Whereas pursuant to Bylaw 4(4) the Society has fulfilled its referendum obligations by acting upon the passed referendum question.

Be it resolved that the AMS Student Council direct the Society not to levy a new student fee to finance the construction of the Project and to pursue no further action on the issue.

Be it further resolved that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Fermentation Lab be dissolved.

Emily Reid:
- A lot of time has passed since the 2014 referendum.
- It would be irresponsible to implement it now.
- The most responsible thing to do is to have another referendum.

Emily Gubski:
- There was discussion about this last Council as well.
- The project has morphed.
- I was originally on the side of listening to the referendum, but I’ve changed my mind.
- There’s not going to be a brew pub; this is just to build a lab for UBC.

Julia Burnham:
- I have concerns about the precedent of Council voting to overturn a referendum.
- Council already voted down this project in 2013 before the referendum.
- We have to do this by the book.
- I would like us not to decide this at Council.
- We have strong arguments we can make in a new referendum.
- We should go to another referendum.

Saad Shoaib:
- We should consult, but it will be tough to explain all this.
- I don’t think this project is what students want.
- Is this a smart way to spend students’ money?
- I’d vote in favour of this motion.
Max Holmes:
- Are we going to apply this principle to other referendums?
- Are we going to vote on the recreation building fee that passed in a referendum a few years back?
- A precedent is being set.
- In 2014 Council said no and students overruled Council.
- Nobody’s seen discussion on this; there’s been no engagement; this is not transparent.
- There’s no cost to us bringing a referendum.
- If we want to get rid of the 2014 referendum result, go to referendum in the election cycle, or even pass a motion at the AGM.
- My concern is that Council is giving itself the power to overturn referendums.
- I would never put myself in the position of saying we’re not going to follow a fee referendum even if I didn’t like the fee.

Cole Evans:
- This motion does not reject or overturn the referendum.
- This motion is saying not to pursue this project.
- Theoretically, we could have Council three years from now overturn this motion.
- The original question said there’s no fee till we sign a financing agreement, so if the AMS says we’re not going to sign, there’s no fee.
- You could go to referendum to overturn it altogether.
- My view is that it’s important to show leadership.

Romina Hajizadeh:
- I do think the most important thing is to be transparent.
- I’m not sure most students want to pay for a brewery.

Mathew Ho:
- Even if the intention of the motion is just to indefinitely suspend this project, and even if this motion could be reversed, the optics are problematic.
- It sets a bad precedent.
- Could we add something to say we will discuss this further, have some student engagement, perhaps at the AGM?

Cole Evans:
- I personally would not be comfortable leaving the door open to the brewery project.

Grace Lee:
- Perhaps this is something of a technicality, but isn't dissolving the committee the same as going against the referendum.
- The Sauder fee is similar; it came from a referendum before my time, but we can't stop it halfway.
- It's a grey area making a call like this without consulting students.
- On fee consultation, students get upset when not listened to.
- We need to trust the students.
• If you present all the facts to them, shouldn’t they be able to reach the same conclusion?
• Council is trying to act in the students’ best interests.
• Do some consultation; give the students a voice.

Georgia Yee:
• The arguments are clear for not proceeding with the project.
• Students will understand them.
• Perhaps there can be an alternative motion to take this to the AGM.
• The lack of public engagement on this poses a risk.
• All previous discussions on this have been in camera.
• This looks like we’re disregarding the right of students to bring a referendum.

Avery Chan:
• You sent a letter to LFS (the Faculty of Land & Food Systems) on this: what was their response?
• Are they enthusiastic for this project?

Cole Evans:
• They have a big interest in this project.
• It’s 80% theirs now.
• They’re disappointed that we’re not going to be involved.
• They did understand our concerns.

Ivran Rai:
• If we pass this motion, future Councils could pick the project up again?
• But if we dissolve the committee, what are the chances that Council in the future will remember?

Cole Evans:
• Just because we kill this committee doesn’t mean the question can’t be brought back.
• Even if this committee continues, there will be nothing for it to do.
• Or it could try to start the project up again in a different way.
• But we’ve already pulled out of the most realistic way to do it by withdrawing from the agreement with LFS.
• The only other way would be for us to do it ourselves.

Kamil Kanji:
• If we go to referendum, how would the question be worded?

Cole Evans:
• Something like: Do you support the overturning of the 2014 referendum?
• That would eliminate the ability of the AMS to raise a levy.
• The point is we don’t have to do that to stop pursuing the referendum.
• There are other referendums we don’t follow, old referendums.
• It’s a grey area.
• The ability to levy a fee would still exist, but it wouldn’t be happening.

Eshana Bhangu:
• The issue is the spirit and the essence of what is being proposed.
• Even if the motion is not technically overturning the referendum, it seems as if it is.
• Referendum questions are not super hard to do, and we encourage our members to raise issues.

Julia Burnham:
• We haven’t even had a public conversation on this.
• It’s semantics to say we’re not actually overturning the referendum.
• But I wouldn’t recommend going to the AGM.
• This should go to referendum.
• We’ll need a referendum coordinator to work on this.
• We could endorse a No position; we take positions all the time in referendums.
• I would like us not to do this through a Council motion.

Shadia Qubti:
• How many referenda are in this position?

Sheldon Goldfarb:
• We have carried through on most of our referendum questions.
• One time we overturned a referendum question by means of another referendum question.
• We have been told by our lawyers that Council has a fiduciary responsibility to the AMS enabling it to not follow a referendum if it would not be in the interests of the AMS, but Council has never voted to do that before.

Cole Evans:
• The bylaws say we must “act” on a successful referendum question.
• But we do have a fiduciary duty to the organization.
• If a question creates the risk of damage to the AMS, it is our responsibility to not act on it.

Max Holmes:
• The legal opinion on this should be made public.
• Referendum questions are stronger than a Council motion.
• What are the interests of the Society? What is a risk?
• I don’t think this project rises to the level of risk.
• The Get Thrifty referendum a while ago is one I didn’t support, but it passed.
  o If Council had said the Get Thrifty project shouldn’t go ahead, that would have been wrong.

10. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED KATHERINE FENG:

  “That this motion be referred back to the Executive and Finance Committees.”
Shadia Qubti:
- What will these committees do?
- Will they re-evaluate the risks?

Max Holmes:
- These committees will take up what we said and report back.
- No deadline.

11. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED KATHERINE FENG:

“That this motion be referred back to the Executive and Finance Committees.”

… No objections

12. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED MARY GAN:

From the President
“Whereas a referendum was conducted and passed in January 2014 supporting establishing a student fee to finance the construction of a Microbrewery on campus (hereafter referred to as The Project) conditional upon the Society entering into a financing agreement for the Project with UBC.

Whereas AMS Council has undertaken further consideration and investigation of the feasibility of the Project in response to the passed referendum.

Whereas AMS Council has determined that the Project, in all forms, carries significant financial, structural, and reputational risk to the Society.

Whereas it is the opinion of AMS Council that the Project, in all forms, is no longer able to be executed in the best interests of the Society and its membership.

Whereas the Society does not intend to sign a financing agreement to facilitate the construction of the Project.

Whereas not pursuing the Project will save the Society’s membership at least $1 million in student fees over a period of five (5) years.

Whereas as per Bylaw 5(1) all powers concerning the management, administration, control of property, revenue, and business affairs of the Society are vested in the Council subject to the Bylaws.

Whereas pursuant to Bylaw 4(4) the Society has fulfilled its referendum obligations by acting upon the passed referendum question.

Be it resolved that the AMS Student Council direct the Society not to levy a new student fee to finance the construction of the Project and to pursue no further action on the issue.

Be it further resolved that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Fermentation Lab be dissolved.”

… Referred to committee
I) Consultation Period

*Mandatory Vaccinations Update* [SCD160-22]

Cole Evans
- The businesses have been preparing for the introduction of the proof of vaccination passport.
- I didn’t send out an email vote on amending Policy I-7A because the guidance from the province is enough:
  - There’s no need to touch the policy.

Katherine Feng:
- The AMS has been advocating to UBC for a vaccine mandate.
- Will the AMS introduce a mandate for its own employees?

Cole Evans:
- No. The AMS has received legal advice saying we’re not in a position to require vaccinations.
- And since everybody on campus is being required to be vaccinated, it seemed redundant.

Emily Gubski:
- How are we enforcing vaccine mandates at the Nest?

Keith Hester:
- Checking vaccine passports at the door for this meeting.
- We are doing this at our sit-down Gallery; it’s not necessary on the buffet side.
- We will do it at the Pit when it opens.
- We will do it for events and activities, including physical activities like the dance club.

Sajedeh Zaki:
- UBC is asking people to declare whether they’re vaccinated, but they don’t ask for proof.
- How is that helpful?

Eshana Bhangu:
- The University did not have the resources to collect proof at this stage, but everyone will soon be asked to upload proof.

Julia Burnham:
- I think it’s a misunderstanding to say all AMS staff are covered by the UBC mandate.
- The AMS is separate.
- Who does the UBC mandate cover?
- And I am confused over the legal advice saying we should not pursue this; other workplaces are doing it.
Cole Evans:
- Originally UBC was going to extend the mandate to all those working on campus and to visitors.
- But the current mandate does not do that.
- We'll have to explore.
- I don’t have the legal opinion in front of me, but I think it said we could potentially do this, but we would have to include accommodation for the non-vaccinated.

Keith Hester:
- We could mandate our employees to get vaccinated.
- Others have done that, but it might be illegal, a human rights violation, and we could be sued.

Cole Evans:
- I think the conversation was whether someone would have grounds to file a lawsuit or lodge a human rights complaint: that’s the context.
- It’s a grey area.
- We have seen banks requiring vaccinations, but our legal advisors are saying maybe the AMS should not be the one to take the lead.

Max Holmes:
- Perhaps this legal opinion dates to before the latest Provincial Order; it may need to be looked at again.
- If it’s illegal, why are we advocating that the University do it?
- If we’re advocating for that, then it should apply to the AMS.
- Why wouldn’t the AMS want to put the mandate in place?
- And just because someone can bring a human rights complaint doesn’t mean there’s validity to it.

Eshana Bhangu:
- A hundred percent our goal is to make the AMS safe and make everyone coming into the Nest safe.
- We will take all this into consideration and report back with an update.

Romina Hajizadeh:
- As far as the vaccine mandates go, what vaccines do we mean?
- International students may have received vaccines not approved here.

Cole Evans:
- We have to follow the Provincial Health Order.
- It requires vaccine cards based on approved vaccines.
- We can’t dictate what vaccines are appropriate.

Emily Reid:
- It would be helpful if the AMS could release a statement saying this.
Cole Evans:
- It’s government policy, not AMS policy.
- That would be the message.
- Apologies if that hasn’t been communicated clearly to Constituencies and Clubs.

Keanna Yu:
- I come from a province that does not issue cards.

Emily Gubski:
- You can get a temporary health number and with that get a card.

Noah Collins:
- There should be consistency between our advocacy and what we do.
- We need to put out communication saying we support vaccination.

Cole Evans:
- All our student staff are vaccinated.
- One gap potentially is in our permanent staff.

Eshana Bhangu:
- We have been making strong recommendations to our staff to get vaccinated.

Max Holmes:
- I thought any WHO-approved vaccine was acceptable.
  - That’s what the BC CDC says, and I think UBC is following that as well.
- It would be great to get an answer about the permanent staff.
- We need to look at the student staff as well.
- UBC has a soft vaccination mandate:
  - You either get vaccinated or undergo rapid testing.
- That’s disconnected from AMS advocacy for a hard vaccination mandate.

Katherine Feng:
- If the AMS wants to have its staff vaccinated, the AMS should take a leading role and not wait on UBC.
- Also, how does this apply to clubs?
- What support is the AMS giving clubs on checking vaccine status?
- How will we keep our clubs up to date?

Cole Evans:
- A bulletin has been sent to clubs.
- We are also sending out a newsletter on vaccination requirements.

Katherine Feng:
- Is there someone designated to keep the clubs up to date?
- Is there someone for the clubs to contact?
Grace Lee:
- Could this be done with Constituencies as well?
- We have questions about our beer gardens.
- The PHO seems ambiguous.

Cole Evans:
- I’d refer you to the VP Administration.

Emily Gubski:
- With the guidelines changing it can be hard to stay up to date.
- It would be helpful to have a point person.

J) Appointments

K) President’s Remarks (5 minutes):

Cole Evans
- Planning the AGM.
- Working on policies.
- Committee nominations have been delayed: people did not fill out the form.
  - Sending out a vote tomorrow; hope to wrap it up by the weekend.
- The Equity Plan will come next time.
- I’m giving a presentation to the Board of Governors next week.

Questions
Julia Burnham:
- There have been recent news reports about fraternity parties breaking the COVID rules.
- What is the AMS’s relationship with the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC)?
- They’re planning to do recruitment in the Nest.

Cole Evans:
- We have no formal relationship with the IFC.
  - We deconstituted them as a club.
  - They are a third party.
- We’ve been disappointed with what we’ve seen coming out of that community.
- We’ve informed the IFC we will not be hosting a booking in the Nest for their Bids Day (recruitment).
- We told them we didn’t feel confident they would be able to abide by safety rules.

L) Executive Remarks (3 minutes each):

VP Finance – Mary Gan
- Competed Q1.
- Transitioning new clubs.
- Hiring.
- Supporting clubs and Constituencies with their financial issues.
• Square reader.
• Increasing the Health & Dental subsidy via the Health & Dental Committee.
• Looking at funds and fees to see if there are any that can be reduced.

**VP Academic & University Affairs – Eshana Bhangu**

• My first ever in person Council meeting.
• Rapid testing at IKB was broken – it will be up by tomorrow.
• Advocating for symptomatic rapid testing on campus and for a vaccine clinic on campus.
• Pushing against removal of the question “Do you want tuition increased?” from UBC’s consultation.
• Working to ensure support for international students who can’t get back here.
• Parking issues.
• Textbook Broke campaign, hopefully outside the bookstore, to raise awareness about textbook costs.

**Questions**

Mathew Ho:

• Any work on pushing for course accommodation if someone catches COVID?
• Will lectures still be accessible?
• Will UBC be flexible?

Eshana Bhangu:

• We are 100% pushing for recorded lectures, and not just for international students.
• We have data indicating the need.

Shadia Qubti:

• What about international students who need to self-isolate?

Eshana Bhangu:

• There is a quarantine bursary. Working to make sure there is funding for it.
• A lot of students are making use of it.
• There is space in Walter Gage and elsewhere for quarantining.

Shadia Qubti:

• Is this available to Affiliate members?

Eshana Bhangu:

• Yes, I believe so.

**VP Administration – Lauren Benson (via Cole Evans)**

• Sorry I cannot be at Council.
• Final stages of preparing for Clubs Days:
  • Outdoor, indoor, virtual.
  • Catering to a variety of comfort levels.
• Clubs newsletter.
• Newsletter on PHO orders.

VP External Affairs – Saad Shoaib
• Get Out The Vote Campaign:
  o Please vote.
  o Getting positive engagement from students.
  o Thousands of pieces of information given out.
  o All events were successful.
• Lobbying through UCRU:
  o Successful in getting things added to both the Liberal and NDP platforms on student loan interest, debt, and mental health.
• Working on the BC budget submission:
  o Asking for funding for Indigenous programs, sexual violence prevention, mental health.
• Meeting TransLink about a Compass card vending machine in the Nest.

Questions
Mathew Ho:
• Re compass cards in the Nest: Is this an effort by the AMS alone, or are other student unions doing it too?

Saad Shoaib:
• Not sure if other student unions are discussing this.
• TransLink has come to us about it.

Georgia Yee:
• Can you update us about the lack of polling stations on campuses?

Saad Shoaib:
• Elections Canada has committed to having them in future elections.
• We were super disappointed over what happened this time.

Noah Collins:
• What is happening on the issue of work permits for international students at the theological colleges?

Saad Shoaib:
• We are meeting with the province’s David Eby next week.

Student Services Manager – Mitchell Prost
• Peer Support opened this week:
  o One on one support sessions.
  o Naloxone training program
• Partnering with Colour Connected.
• New Safewalk vehicle are ready to be used.
• New housing service had a soft launch this week.
• Food Bank:
  o Working to get new freezer.
  o Returning to grocery store model.
• AMS Services tote bags.
• Tutoring training.
• Assistant Student Services Manager: found a candidate.

13. MOVED ESHANA BHANGU, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

“Be it resolved that the committee updates be skipped at this meeting, while keeping in the BoG and Senate reports.

Be it further resolved that Council be extended until 11:10.”

Katherine Feng:
  • I’m in opposition because not all committees made their written reports.
  • It’s valuable to get updates, especially since these are the last reports from the old chairs.

14. MOVED ESHANA BHANGU, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

“Be it resolved that the committee updates be skipped at this meeting, while keeping in the BoG and Senate reports.

Be it further resolved that Council be extended until 11:10.”

... Carried

For (9): Eshana Bhangu, Emily Gubski, Noah Collins, Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Grace Lee, Joey Yang, Emily Masse, Ivran Rai

Against (6): Emily Reid, Aryan Mishra, Kamil Kanji, Katherine Feng, Sanjana Bedi, Romina Hajizadeh

Abstained: Shadia Qubti, Mathew Ho, Gabrielle Matheson, Sajedeh Zaki

L) Executive Remarks (continued):

Managing Director – Keith Hester
  • Working on vaccination evidence process.
  • Q1 report.
  • Compass card vending machine.
  • The Senior HR Manager has resigned.
  • Audited financials are back.
  • Most of our businesses have opened.
  • Services did booting at the Affiliate Colleges.
M) Committee Reports (5 minutes each):

Council moved to skip oral committee reports, but the following written reports were received:

Finance Committee – Mary Gan [SCD163-22]
Governance Committee – Katherine Feng [SCD164-22]
Operations Committee – Katherine Feng [SCD165-22]
HR Committee – Romina Hajizadeh [SCD166-22]

N) Report from Presidents Council (2 minutes): Cole Evans

- No report

O) Board of Governors, Senate, Ombudsperson & Historical Update Reports (2 minutes each):

Board of Governors – Max Holmes, Georgia Yee

Max Holmes:
- Board materials are available.
- Committees met last week: lots discussed, including:
  - Recombining the Sustainable Futures Pool into the Main Endowment.
  - Brock Commons housing project.
  - Allocation of incremental tuition increase revenue.

Georgia Yee:
- The Indigenous Engagement Committee received an update on the Indigenous Strategic Plan.
- There were discussions of the lessons learned about teaching in a pandemic.
- Campus security review.

Max Holmes:
- Full board will hear presentations from the AMS, the GSS, and the UBCO Student Union on their priorities.
- The full Board will discuss the return to campus and vaccination.

Questions

Eshana Bhangu:
- Why are there no student chairs of Board committees?
  - And no student on the Board’s Executive Committee.
- We sent a letter to the Board about transparency and closed agendas.
- Also about interference by the province.
Max Holmes:
- Re committee membership and appointments:
  - Student governors sent in preferences.
  - The Board chair decides.
  - It’s disappointing that there are no students on the Executive and that no students were appointed to be chairs.
  - Would be happy to see a change in the rules to add students.
- There have been transparency issues:
  - Glad to see that there will be an open agenda discussion on the return to campus.
  - In general, the policy on what is discussed in closed session and what in open needs to be addressed.

Julia Burnham:
- Will the meeting be online or in person?

Max Holmes:
- Over the summer meetings were online.
- For the future the Board decided that full board meetings will be in person.
- Committee meetings will remain online because Board members are all over the province and there are dual campuses; the idea is to aim for sustainability, to cut down on flying.

Senate – Eshana Bhangu (for Keanna Yu)
- Had an extraordinary meeting at which a motion was passed urging that all students, faculty, and staff be vaccinated.
  - But it’s not mandatory; this is not within the Senate’s jurisdiction.
- A motion to extend flexibility in offering classes (so they can be online and off) until October 22 to accommodate international students failed.
  - The Deans were in opposition.

Questions
Max Holmes:
- Why did Senate not meet as much over the summer to discuss Return to Campus?
- Why didn’t the Student Senate Caucus press for this?

Eshana Bhangu:
- It was decided that this was not in the Senate’s jurisdiction.
- Also, the thought was that the Senate had met a lot during the year.
- I personally disagreed.

Julia Burnham:
- It was decided that Senate staff needed vacations.
- SACADI (the committee on diversity and inclusion) had to pause.
- Senate will be meeting next week.
Historical Update – Sheldon Goldfarb
- No update.

P) Minutes of Council and Committees of Council:

Q) Executive Committee Motions:

15. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED MARY GAN: 

From the Executive Committee
“That Council approve an increase in the federal Get Out the Vote campaign budget from $10,000 to $12,000.”

Note: This motion will allow for an additional $2,000 to be withdrawn from the Federal Elections Reserve, which has a balance of approximately $20,000.

Saad Shoaib:
- We undershot what we needed.
- Didn’t realize there would be so many students on campus.
- The money comes from the federal elections reserve fund, which has $20,000 in it and can only be spent on federal elections.

Max Holmes:
- Since the balance is going down and there could be another election, can you let us know what the annual contribution is to this fund?

Saad Shoaib:
- $5,000.

16. MOVED SAAD SHOAIB, SECONDED MARY GAN:

From the Executive Committee
“That Council approve an increase in the federal Get Out the Vote campaign budget from $10,000 to $12,000.”

Note: This motion will allow for an additional $2,000 to be withdrawn from the Federal Elections Reserve, which has a balance of approximately $20,000.

... Carried

For (11): Saad Shoaib, Mary Gan, Aryan Mishra, Kamil Kanji, Mathew Ho, Emily Reid, Joey Yang, Julian Burnham, Emily Gubski, Emily Masse, Katherine Feng

R) Constituency and Affiliate Motions:

S) Committee Motions:

T) Other Business and Notice of Motions:
U) Discussion Period

Topics for the AGM

Cole Evans:
• The BC Societies Act requires us to hold an annual general meeting to approve our audited financial statement and our auditor’s annual report; also to appoint auditors.
• There is an opportunity to do other things, like amending the bylaws, but I don’t think any bylaw amendments are planned this year.
• There could be a motion to advocate against tuition increases.
• We’re looking for things to do.
• We would like to try to reach quorum again so we can do things beyond the required financial motions.

Emily Gubski:
• The main thing is to make the meeting accessible; make it possible for students to take part.

Max Holmes:
• As we mentioned last time, advocacy-related motions might be a good idea.
• The Advocacy Committee could discuss.
• We want low barrier items:
  o Bylaw changes and finances are not as accessible as tuition increases, etc.

Katherine Feng:
• Will the AGM be virtual?

Cole Evans:
• Yes, I think even after the pandemic we should continue to hold our AGM’s virtually.
• We can get more attendance that way; people can attend from home.

Julia Burnham:
• Why is it at 6 pm?

Cole Evans:
• We used that time last year.
• We’re trying to reach people when they’re not in class.

Textbook Broke

Eshana Bhangu:
• I’ll withdraw this discussion topic.
17. MOVED ROMINA HAJIZADEH, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That Council invoke Code Section II, Article 14 to allow Councillors to take taxis home and be reimbursed.”

Romina Hajizadeh:
- Like many, I am scared of transit at night.
- I’m a woman.
- I want to advocate for my fellow Councillors so they all get home safe; this is not just for myself.
- Can we also do this for the Ubyssey reporters here?

[The Ubyssey reporter said they could not accept compensation.]

Georgia Yee:
- Can we use Safewalk for people living in Wesbrook?

Mitchell Prost:
- Yes.

18. MOVED ROMINA HAJIZADEH, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That Council invoke Code Section II, Article 14 to allow Councillors to take taxis home and be reimbursed.”

... No objections

V) Submissions:

W) Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: September 29, 2021

X) Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 pm.

Y) Social Activity:
# Votes and Attendance

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