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:
  - With the changes to the Societies Act, does the Regent MoU become unnecessary?

- Cole:
  - Not necessarily.
  - 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:
  - Also, even if the government passes the regulation, there may be conditions on transferring student information that could be included in an MoU.

- Cole:
  - 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:
  - An Indigenous Constituency?

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

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

- Cole:
  - No. They’re overseen by UBC and are not independent.
  - Mostly the 2020 AGM made the bylaw changes that had been backlogged from failed referendums.
  - 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.
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of November 3, 2021

- 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:
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.