AMS Finance Committee Minutes
Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
Nov 15, 2021 at 12:00 PM PST
@ https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91667532872

Attendance

Members Present:
Francesca Kohn (SaL), Rita Jin (Staff), Cole Evans, Mary Gan, Keith Hester, Mitchell Prost

Members Absent:
Emily Covell (Staff), Archives Assistants, Kamil Kanji, Aryan Mishra

I. Adoption of Agenda

BIRT the agenda is adopted as presented

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Mitchell.

II. Approval of Minutes

BIRT the minutes for November 8th, 2021 Finance Committee are approved as presented

[November 8th, 2021 AMS Finance Committee Minutes.pdf]

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Mitchell.

III. AMS SPF Plastic Needle Waste Application

BIRT $11,850 is approved from the SPF for the DECAP Plastic Needle Waste Recycling project

[AMS Sustainability Application Form-IN.docx]

Ina:

Hi, I'm Ina. I'm a PhD student at UBC and, on the side, I work with a program that reduce the risk of injuries through needle tests. I realized that the way the device is designed also offers a way for the needle cap to be recycled. After discussing, we were wondering if we could get people to collect their needle caps for recycling instead of the landfills. This project can probably have more use both on UBC and off campus (e.g. pharmacy vaccination clinic, UBC hospital). The idea is to spread word that the device is available for people to try to use and to make their plastic waste from needles recycled. It can be placed in several locations and can be sterilized (and remain sterile). The plan is to have the project ongoing for a year. The funding will be used to purchase the materials needed for the project.

Mary:

Is there a picture of what the decapping device would look like?
Ina:

There isn't one in the presentation but I can pull up a picture of it.

Mary:

Do you plan to collaborate with labs or other locations on campus as well? Like pharmacies or science research locations?

Ina:

Yes, that is correct. Without the SPF funding, we can probably only focus on research locations. With the funding, we can expand to vaccination clinics and actual pharmacies on campus.

Mary:

Normally, how is the needle cap removed after use?

Ina:

Everyone has to take the needle cap off before usage. Right now, people just use their hands to remove the needle cap.

Mary:

The decapping device would probably reduce the potential injuries that come occur from the needle cap off?

Ina:

The removal and replacement of needle caps actually causes of 50% all needle stick injuries. The cap is usually strongly attached and sometimes the needle can rebound and poke the user.

Mitchell:

Do you more statistics on what this project would reduce?

Ina:

This device allows needle caps to be put back on too. It was catch into that slot and be prepared to be placed back on the needle. There's a lot of academic literature over the world on the incidents of needle stick injuries. There's also a lot of unreported needle sticks. We did a quick survey about a year ago with people at UBC CCM about their history of needle sticks, we noticed that, across the board, people have had injuries with
uncapping and recapping a needle. Since a lot of needle use has to be sterile during transport, there is potential for needle stick injuries.

Keith:

Great presentation Ina. Just two questions:

1) Have you spoke to UBC about this? It seems like something they would be interested in.

Ina:

Yea, a facility from UBC has had purchased this from us. This idea depends on the person. When micropipettes were introduced, people were hesitant on that as well. There seems to be a lot of parallels with introducing our product to them to improve personal safety in labs. We are currently working with CCM to publish academic literature and resources on this to improve education on this. We have talked with stores at UBC as well and we are now listed as a vendor for that as well. I would love to chat with whoever may be in charge of listing for UBC.

Keith:

Yes, I can give you her contacts.

2) Another thing is you mentioned that once you get the funding this, you will contact the facilities. Have any of them given you their commitments for the project?

Ina:

Our plan is to get commitments co-currently while we get supplies for the product. We are pretty confident on CCM and labs that we are collaborated with before to be onboard with the product, in addition with the vaccination clinics since they are using a lot of needles.

Mary:

Is it guaranteed that all needle caps are recyclable or is it only a selection?

Ina:

As long as they are the plastic type (not the metal types), they are recyclable. Although they are unlabelled, there is a facility that can recycle them.

Mary:

Okay Ina, I think that's all we need to know.
Keith:

Why isn't UBC paying for this.

Mary:

Are there funds for this?

Keith:

Health and Safety should have the funds responsible for this.

Mary:

I feel like UBC funds are pretty limited for projects like this.

Eshana:

To add in on this, UBC funds have pretty high barriers and aren't really encouraging student projects.

Francesca:

Yeah, UBC funding are usually for more research oriented projects.

**BIRT $11,850 is approved from the SPF for the DECAP Plastic Needle Waste Recycling project**

Moved by Mitchell, Seconded by Francesca.

Eshana:

Open-licensed textbooks save students thousands of dollars. However, this takes a lot of time and unpaid hours from the faculty. So, we host the Open Education Resources champion night was to encourage and to highlight the faculty goodwill. In the end, we will also be giving formal letters from Cole and Santa Ono. For our attempt this year, we would want to make the ceremony for award night-like rather than just a meeting so we are asking for a budget increase. Originally, the cost was just for the catering and room bookings. Now, we have thought of new ways to award the faculty. It would be appreciated if I could have a budget increase of $3,500 in academic projects.

Keith:

My concern is why UBC can't chip for this. It primarily benefits them and not the AMS people.

Eshana:
This is AMS's effort to highlight the professors because this saves money for the students everyday but the university does not have this on their priority.

Cole:

Technically, faculty is considered associate members of the society (as per our bylaws).

Mary:

I feel like this is kind of because we shouldn't be allocating money towards UBC employees. This should be more going back to students that pay for our membership fees.

Cole:

There is a value in making awards for people helping with the transition to OER because you are raising awareness and promoting their efforts in it. Now, I think the point that if it is too much to spend is fair and should be discussed. However, Eshana's event is in 2 weeks so the event has already been planned so the best course of action should be approve this and address the issue in the next budget cycle.

Eshana:

Honestly, that is not the approach here. However, I would be really disappointed if $3,500 would not able to be spent on the OER.

Mitchell:

I don't mind spending some money on this event to encourage the work faculty members have been doing for OER.

Eshana:

Just to add on, most of the money is going towards award plaques, mugs, catering, and incentive for students. Students engagement with this initiative was quadrupled this year and we are giving out gift cards to students for that. Almost $2,000 is going back to UBC students for engaging with this issue.

**BIRT $3,500 budget increase is approved for the Academic Projects line in the VP AUA portfolio.**

IV. Get Thrifty/AMS Auditorium Lobby Expansion (Presenters: Cole Evans)

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Finance Committee recommend to AMS Council the approval of up to $337,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for the construction of the Get Thrifty/AMS Auditorium Lobby Expansion.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Finance Committee recommend to AMS Council the suspension of Section IX, Article 6(a)(iii) of the AMS Code of Procedure to allow for an expenditure greater than 50% of the annual intake of the fund.

Note: The current balance of the CPF is approx. $2.7 million

Note: Part of the $337,000 will be paid back by the Permanent Thrift Store Fund at a rate to be determined by the Finance Committee and Get Thrifty.

AMS Auditorium Upgrades GT Update.pdf

Cole:

Please see the slides regarding the auditorium updates as discussed in Council.

Mary:

So Get Thrifty is okay with spending this much money from their fees?

Cole:

Yes, and if the scenario changes, we don't have to spend all of the money. This is just approval to be able to sign this.

Mary:

Yes, for groups like this, it is best to sign a MOU to guarantee that they will pay back the amount spent for this.

Cole:

This is less risky because it is going towards a fund and we know how much is generated each year. A lot more secure than a club repayment plan.

Mary:

Any other thoughts about this?

Keith:

What would happen if we didn't put the money into this?

Cole:

They would get really upset because that would indicate that we are not letting them do the renovations which goes against our word in the past 2 years.

Keith:
But we can tell them we are not doing this until the rest of the auditorium renovation happens. So we won't have to spend this extra money.

Cole:

We would have to spend the money anyways. We are just doing this first.

Keith:

A big chunk of the money is to lower the floors. We are only doing it because they want us to.

Cole:

We would still have to front the money to that work.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Finance Committee recommend to AMS Council the approval of up to $337,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for the construction of the Get Thrifty/AMS Auditorium Lobby Expansion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Finance Committee recommend to AMS Council the suspension of Section IX, Article 6(a)(iii) of the AMS Code of Procedure to allow for an expenditure greater than 50% of the annual intake of the fund.

Moved by Cole, Seconded by Mitchell.

V. AMS SPF Code Changes

BIRT Finance Committee recommends to AMS Council the approval of the code changes as presented Note: Changes in bold, deleted parts striked out

AMS SPF Code Change.docx

Mary:

With this code amendment, we are planning to change the AMS code as well. Changes are bolded in the word document.

Keith:

Perhaps we should take the line out of J2 because it indicates only students can apply to the fund. So the sustainability department won't be able to apply to the fund.

Mary:

I can amend that on the spot so that it allows active members and the society itself. Any thoughts or concerns?
BIRT Finance Committee recommends to AMS Council the approval of the code changes as presented

Moved by Mary, Seconded by Francesca.