STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

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Guests: Joshua Kim (student at large), Kaitlyn Hugihara (student at large), Yohann Rurcage (student at large), Elif Kayali (Ubsyssy), Charlotte Alden (Ubsyssy), Nathan Bawaan (Ubsyssy), Yasmine Semeniuk (art student), Lorris Leung (AMS Senior Manager of Student Services), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

A) Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm.

B) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Speaker:

- We are on the traditional, ancestral, unceded land of the Musqueam people.
- What we call Vancouver is the stolen territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.
- The holiday season is a time to reflect on these things.

C) Approval of the Agenda

1. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED SAAD SHOAIB:

   “That the agenda be approved as presented.”

2. MOVED ROMINA HAJIZADEH, SECONDED KAMIL KANJI:

   “That the agenda be amended to add minutes and a report from the HR Committee.”

   Eshana Bhangu:
   - The documents would need a few minutes to read.

   Romina Hajizadeh:
   - They are very short, but they can wait till January.

3. MOVED ROMINA HAJIZADEH, SECONDED KAMIL KANJI:

   “That the agenda be amended to add minutes and a report from the HR Committee.”

   ...Withdrawn

Kamil Kanji asked to add a discussion, Executive Update.
4. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED SAAD SHOAIB:

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

… No objections

D) Membership and Attendance: Introductions, new member, declaration of vacancies

New members: Amy Deutscher (Regent College)

Vacancies: Journalism, Population & Public Health, Audiology, GSS x 2

Goodbyes:

E) Speaker’s Business and Remarks (5 minutes)

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

G) Approval of Minutes of Council and Committees

5. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That the following minutes be accepted as presented.”

Governance Committee minutes dated November 8, 2021 [SCD256-22]
Governance Committee minutes dated November 15, 2021 [SCD257-22]
Presidents Council minutes dated September 28, 2021 [SCD258-22]
Presidents Council minutes dated October 26, 2021 [SCD259-22]
Steering Committee minutes dated November 5, 2021 [SCD260-22]
Finance Committee minutes dated November 15, 2021 [SCD261-22]
Finance Committee minutes dated November 22, 2021 [SCD262-22]

… No objections

H) Consent Items

Consent Items Requiring a Simple Majority

6. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

From the Executive Committee

“That on the recommendation of the Executive Committee Louis Retief, Ron Gorodetsky, Jerry Jim, and Alessia Rodriguez be reappointed to the Advisory Board for a term starting January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.”

… No objections
I) Presentations and Accompanying Motions

**Midterm Executive Goals Update** [SCD263-22], [SCD264-22], [SCD265-22], [SCD266-22], [SCD267-22], [SCD268-22]

Cole Evans:
- Thanks for the extra time to get these goals to Council

General Executive Goals
- Pandemic recovery:
  - Thought we’d be further along than we are, but we’re not.
  - We’ll see what Omicron is.
- Community Engagement:
  - Always a goal.
  - New brand strategy launched on social media.
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI):
  - Equity Plan.
  - Consultation.

President’s Goals update – Cole Evans
- Strategic Plan and Governance Review:
  - Hired Nicolas.
  - Student Experience Survey.
- EDI:
  - Doubled staff capacity.
  - New subcommittee.
  - Goal plans in January.
- Indigenous Presence:
  - Indigenous Culture Month: super successful, learned lessons.
  - New student organization:
    - Touching base with the new Indigenous Committee about this.
  - Representation in the Nest:
    - Still waiting to solidify contacts with the Musqueam before going ahead.

VP Academic’s Goals Update – Eshana Bhangu
- I’ve had success on lots of my goals. I’ll talk about three:
  - Affordability:
    - Got close to half a million dollars allocated to the UBC Meal Share program.
    - Presented budget priorities to UBC, pushing for needs-based aid.
    - Serving on the Student Affordability Task Force and pushing for an Affordability Plan.
    - Opposing tuition increases.
  - Food Insecurity and OER:
    - Asking for $700,000 to $900,000 to address food insecurity, e.g., through a UBC Food Hub.
    - Seeking funding for the Agora, Sprouts, etc.
    - Quarantine bursary.
- Successful OER reception attended by the UBC Executive, members of the Board of Governors, Deans.
  - Return to In Person:
    - Successfully advocated for a mask mandate and a soft vaccination policy, including a Senate motion on compliance.
    - Lecture capture technology: retaining one of the good things to emerge from COVID.

VP External’s Goals Update – Saad Shoai
Federal lobbying and advocacy
- Get Out the Vote campaign with UCRU in federal election.
- Worked with student unions across Canada.
- Received commitments from the Liberals and the NDP to remove interest rates on student loans and to double grant amounts.
- Working to fast track permanent residency for international students.

Provincial
- Recommendations for provincial budget accepted:
  - Indigenous language revitalization.
  - Sexual violence prevention.
  - Mental health support.
- Working with the GSS on the annual lobby week.

Transit
- Commitment from governments to fund 80% of the cost of expanding SkyTrain to UBC.
- Administered U-Pass exemptions.
- Increased funding for U-Pass subsidy.

VP Finance’s Goals Update – Mary Gan
Health & Dental Plan
- Doubled the subsidy allocation from $50,000 to $100,000.
- Looking at plan add-ons.
- Improvements coming.

Treasurer Learning Hub
- Authorization forms and other resources are now part of a Canvas course.

Funds and Fees
- Fee restructure in the spring.
- Reducing or eliminating fees where we can.

Student Service Goals Update – Mitchell Prost
Opportunities for Growth
- Hiring, transition, training courses.
Housing Service
- Launched in September.
- Lots of development recently.
- Two teams supporting students with housing needs:
  - In person and virtually.
- Education and outreach:
  - Planning more event based initiatives.

Services Review
- Reviewing the report from 2019.
- Pre-planning for the 2022/23 review.
- Will include EDI, guided by the AMS Equity Action Plan.

Questions
Julia Burnham:
- How will Council be involved in the fee restructure?

Mary Gan:
- Am doing consultation with fee-receiving groups.
  - Would like to pause some fees for a while and draw on reserves.
- Haven't solidified numbers yet.
- After doing that, will come to Council.

Julia Burnham:
- Concerned about the amount of things being taken on by the VP External.
- How will it all get done?
- Also, how will Indigenous student support be included in the January lobbying?
- And climate action: are you looking to a provincial collective rather than UCRU?

Saad Shoaib:
- On Indigenous student support, have begun discussions with the Indigenous Committee about federal lobbying.
- Working with UCRU to identify Indigenous representatives to bring to Lobby Week.
- On climate change we identified gaps between what we were advocating from one year to another:
  - We have started discussions with other provincial student lobby groups and climate action groups to create a unified platform.
  - Can bring an update in January.
- As to the length of the goals, I have a reputation for long writing.
  - I wanted to provide context.
  - The document seems lengthy, but the goals are being worked on day to day.
  - I'm making progress on every goal.
  - These are achievable, realistic goals, based on my experience as the AVP.
Julia Burnham:
- What is the timeline for the Campus Safety Audit?
- How has SASC been involved in the University’s sexual violence policy (SC-17)?

Eshana Bhangu:
- The Campus Safety Audit report will be ready in January.
  o Hoping to get it to the VP Students.
- On SC-17 implementation, have been touching base with SASC:
  o They will have a seat in the implementation group.

Julia Burnham:
- Looking for more detail on first year engagement and electoral engagement.

Cole Evans:
- First year engagement is with the Student Life Committee, as assigned by Council.
- On electoral engagement, the short term plan is to provide support to the Elections team.
- I’m not taking part in the elections, so I am going to focus on getting people enthusiastic about running.
  o Giving briefs on running for election.
  o Will send out an election package to groups on campus.
  o A how-to-run package.
- Referenda are coming up as part of the election season.
- Will be working with the Elections Committee on different strategies for voter turnout:
  o Better email and advertising.
  o Using the main AMS social media accounts, not just the Elections Committee social media.

Julia Burnham:
- When will we receive an update on the VP Administration’s goals, especially the Hatch?

Cole Evans:
- Will probably wait for Lauren to come back.
- As to the Hatch, the position has been posted for two weeks.
  o A couple of interviews have been scheduled.
- Want a general conversation about the Hatch:
  o We don’t have a lot of experience with art galleries.
  o I think we need a better long-term solution.
  o My current idea is to get more involvement from the relevant departments at UBC.
  o I want to make sure the artistic community at UBC is more involved in that space.

Emily Gubski:
- What will it mean to advocate to expand the mental health network?
Mary Gan:
  - We will work with Studentcare, asking them to find more providers to expand the network.

Mina Chiew:
  - Are there any plans to create mental health projects like the one for the Black Caucus?
  - There are other equity-deserving groups on campus with their own intersectional needs.

Eshana Bhangu:
  - This is very important.
  - The Black Well-Being Study is a start.
  - I hope it will transcend the Black experience and be applied to other equity-deserving groups.

Mathew Ho:
  - Will there be more done on prevention of substance abuse?

Eshana Bhangu:
  - Been working with the Social Justice Centre.
  - Gave them a thousand fentanyl strips.
  - We had some issues getting them from Vancouver Coastal Health.
  - I hear students on this; they want to make it a priority.
  - This wasn’t here at the start of my term, but I’m raising awareness now with UBC.
  - The nearest drug-testing site is an hour and a half away, hence the use of fentanyl strips.

**Student Services Update – Mitchell Prost**

**Utilization:**
  - Huge number of Food Bank visits, increasing exponentially.
  - COVID has had a huge impact.
  - There’s been an increase overall in the use of Services:
    - 3590 interactions overall from May through October.
    - Food Bank saw a huge increase; extremely concerning.
    - Safewalk is down and trying to recover:
      - Lots of students are new.
      - Reputation building.

**Individual Services**
  - Advocacy:
    - Assisted various students with academic and non-academic concerns.
    - Helps with Senate hearings, writing letters to professors and administrators.
  - eHUB:
    - Entrepreneurship service.
    - Ran mentoring sessions.
- Hosted networking sessions.
  - Our coordinator is an entrepreneur.
- Food Bank:
  - Emergency food relief.
  - Coupon programs.
- Housing:
  - New service.
  - Workshops.
- Peer Support:
  - In person and virtual programs.
- Safewalk:
  - Two new shuttles.
  - Want to increase awareness of Safewalk.
- Tutoring:
  - Group sessions in person and virtually.
  - Also one-on-one.
  - Collaborating with the Constituencies.
  - Mostly serving first and second year students.
  - Two new shuttles.

Questions
Julia Burnham:
- How has the amalgamation of Vice and Peer Support gone, especially in relation to the drug poisoning crisis?
- Vice was specifically for substance use.

Mitchell Prost:
- Just the name Vice has disappeared.
- In Peer Support we have two branches:
  - Peer Support, which is still trying to find its footing.
  - Vice.
- The work that Vice did before is still going on.

Mathew Ho:
- Can you talk more about staff retention, hiring, and turnover?

Mitchell Prost:
- Several coordinators continued; some are new.
- There was not as much carryover as we aimed for.
- The aim is for assistant coordinators to become coordinators.

Emily Gubski:
- How will you get through to the students to tell them about the Services?

Mitchell Prost:
- We did a lot of boothing in September and October to reach first year students.
• Also Imagine Day.
• Reached out to the Affiliated Colleges.
• Did presentations; that’s new this year.
• New posters in the residences.
• TV ads in the Nest.
• Ads on buses that come to UBC.
• Lorris is working on a comprehensive marketing plan.

Mathew Ho:
• Re food security: Are you developing partnerships other than the one with the Acadia Food Hub?
• Are there opportunities to collaborate with off-campus organizations to serve students who travel to campus and can’t really use on-campus resources?

Mitchell Prost:
• There are lots of conversations about the role of the AMS.
• The AMS is already stretched thin with Food Bank and shouldn’t stretch more.
• We are students.
• Some things may be better left to professionals, the University.
• A lot of work we do is advocacy, e.g., through the UBC Food Security Initiative.
• There’s also the Greater Vancouver Food Bank (we work with them through Acadia):
  o They’re diverse and broader than us.
• We’re an emergency resource.
• We hope not to be the main resource.
• As to students not on campus, we advocate to the UBC Meal Share program.
  o They can get food vouchers, financial aid, bursaries.

J) Executive Committee Motions

7. MOVED ROMINA HAJIZADEH, SECONDED SOPHIE PENNIMAN: [SCD270-22]

From the Human Resources Committee
“That on the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee the AMS Elections Committee Job Description Changes be accepted as presented.”

Romina Hajizadeh:
• These are changes I brought November 24, but Council wanted some time to look them over before approving them.
• We have actually already hired for the positions; apologies.

Emily Reid:
• The changes are decent in intent, but they seem more colloquial than is proper for an AMS job description.
• Also, the document says the Elections Committee is independent and autonomous: is it?
8. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED EMILY REID:

“That this motion be referred back to the HR Committee.”

Julia Burnham:
- I would encourage hiring an HR manager.

9. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED EMILY REID:

“That this motion be referred back to the HR Committee.”

... No objections

10. MOVED ROMINA HAJIZADEH, SECONDED SOPHIE PENNIMAN:

From the Human Resources Committee

“That on the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee the AMS Elections Committee Job Description Changes be accepted as presented.”

... Referred to committee

11. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED EMILY REID:

From the President

“That AMS Council suspend the relevant section of Code to allow the Human Resources Committee to appoint interim personnel, and hire, for the positions of Chief Electoral Officer and Ombudsperson effective immediately and ending January 7, 2022.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Cole Evans:
- There will be one and a half months with no Council meeting.
- We have two positions we have to hire.
- This will give the HR Committee the power to hire.
- It’s been done before.
- All this means is that we don’t wait for Council; we don’t wait a month; we hire immediately.

12. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED EMILY REID:

From the President

“That AMS Council suspend the relevant section of Code to allow the Human Resources Committee to appoint interim personnel, and hire, for the positions of Chief Electoral Officer and Ombudsperson effective immediately and ending January 7, 2022.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... No objections
K) Discussion and Consultation

Executive Update
Kamil Kanji:
- There’s some concern about the Executive’s recent trip to Toronto, especially the fact that the VP Administration went and claimed expenses even though she’s on medical leave.

Cole Evans:
- That conference was budgeted for and booked in advance, before Lauren went on leave.
- It was too late to change the itinerary; the money would be spent regardless.
- The leave was in effect, and she didn’t receive any compensation.
- Lauren did ask if it was okay.
- I said yes, the money’s already spent: better to use it than waste it on an empty seat and hotel room.
- She wasn’t paid while away.
- I didn’t think sidelining her from a professional development conference was the best thing to do.
- We thought about it; we discussed whether it was appropriate.

Romina Hajizadeh:
- I did not know about this conference.
- Wish we’d been given a heads-up
- I wish in general that we’d been getting a heads-up about the VP Administration.
- We could have sent the AVP.

Cole Evans:
- I can’t talk too much about the details of Lauren’s leave.
- I don’t think a public conversation would have helped her.
- This organization should have better mechanisms about how things are going in the Executive portfolios:
  - Some of us have been looking at governance changes about that.
- It’s important first to look after the health of individuals.
- Now I’m confident we can take care of this portfolio till January.

Julia Burnham:
- Executives do not seek permission to go to conferences.
- A better question is about the utility of a conference on higher education to our operational portfolios.

Cole Evans:
- Lots of topics were covered at the conference:
  - EDI
  - Indigenous peoples
  - Leadership.
I went in 2019 as VP Administration, and that’s why I knew it was relevant.
It’s difficult to find conferences.
This is one of the few relevant to the VP Administration’s role.

Julia Burnham:
Could each Executive state one thing they learned at the conference?

Saad Shoaib:
There was a presentation on Indigenous partnerships, on how to involve Indigenous voices.
Also good on government advocacy.

Eshana Bhangu:
Higher education is relevant to the VPAUA portfolio.
There were some National Geographic photographs on climate change.
Also the Indigenous Voices presentation, on not just tokenizing: engagement rather than consultation.
Also a cybersecurity presentation.

Mitchell Prost:
A presentation from the Toronto Raptors on hiring, staff management, and good leadership.

Mary Gan:
The Raptors President on leadership.
Also cybersecurity:
   - Finance deals with lots of information that needs to be processed securely.

Cole Evans:
HR-related items:
   - In 2019 conflict management.
   - In 2021 how to include and empower people from the BIPOC community.

Kamil Kanji:
Thank you.
I appreciate the transparency.

L) Historical Update (10 minutes each)

Sheldon Goldfarb:
Last time Mathew asked about the Ubyssey article about pyjama-clad men.
This turns out to be an article on the men in male residences objecting to the presence of women because that would mean they couldn’t walk around in their pyjamas anymore.
There were no student residences till after World War II, and then they were all single-sex.
• That was a light-hearted article, but probably true.
• However, sometimes the Ubyssey runs joke stories that aren’t true at all.
• Some examples:
  o Pierre Berton running amok as “the Beast” rampaging over campus.
  o An article about the swimming pool being full of herpes.
  o An article saying the Registrar’s computers had crashed, destroying thousands of student records.
  o The cartoon that suggested the TRIUMF reactor had nearly blown up.
  o A photo display in which it was said that there was a petition campaign underway to have a dome built over Buchanan Tower “to facilitate rain drainage” and also to paint the tower pink to fit in with the sunsets.

M) Other Business, Including In Camera Discussions, Notices of Motions, and Submissions

AMS Q2 Rationale
AMS Q2 2021-22

N) Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of Council is January 12, 2022.

13. MOVED EMILY GUBSKI, SECONDED SANJANA BEDI:

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.
# Votes and Attendance

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<td>Eshana Bhangu</td>
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