Attendance
Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 11:45), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration, left 11:57), Saad Shoaib (VP External, arrived 12:12), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

Guest: Michael Kingsmill (Design Office)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
- The meeting was called to order at 11:38 am on Zoom.

Agenda
- The agenda was adopted (Mary, Lauren).

Minutes
- The minutes of December 8 were approved (Lauren, Mary).

Gallery Lounge Furniture
- Michael Kingsmill:
  - Request for funding for the Gallery Lounge.
  - Been under the microscope to reimagine it.
  - Originally the location was the Perch Restaurant, an upscale establishment aimed at a niche market that didn’t materialize.
  - Today’s ask is for furniture, which has a long lead time because of supply difficulties, so we need to go forward now.
  - We won’t see it till May,
  - Though this is a major makeover, we are mindful about recycling; won’t be throwing out everything.

[Eshana arrives.]
• Michael (continuing):
  o We’re going to have movable furniture to add versatility because the area is used as a wedding venue as well as a lounge.
  o The cost from our quote is $56,222 before taxes; $62,695 after taxes.
  o No contingency needed.
  o This includes delivery and installation.
  o There will be a larger budget for the full reimagining.
  o Recycling:
    ▪ Some of the existing chairs have robust metal frames which we can retain and recover.
    ▪ Some will go to the Lev Bukhman Lounge.
    ▪ That will give us a couple of years before we have to get new furniture for the Lev Bukhman Lounge.

• Keith:
  o The money can come from the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund.
  o This can go to the Finance Committee and then Council.

• Cole:
  o There’s still money in the SUB Management Reserve; could take it from there.
  o Money that was expected to come from there for the Eastside Furniture project wasn’t needed.

• Michael:
  o The Eastside project was under budget, so there’s $80,000 left.

• Cole:
  o We can let the Finance Committee decide on the fund.
  o Can be a dual recommendation.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED ESHANA:

“Be it resolved that the Executive Committee recommend to Council that it spend $62,695 on furniture for the Gallery Lounge.

Be it further resolved that the decision on which fund to take the money from be deferred to the Finance Committee.”

... Carried

[Lauren left.]

Wage Restructure

• Keith:
  o There have been difficulties hiring, in part because of the labour shortage, but also because of our wages.
The perception is that we pay below market.

- We want to increase all hourly rates effective January 1, 2022.
- There was an increase scheduled for June, but we’ve decided to do it now to help with hiring (and abandon the June changes).
- Those paid $15.20 will get an increase to $16.
- We’re also introducing the concept of part-time availability and full-time availability: they will get paid at different rates.
- We will change the rates for our current pay tiers.
- Won’t need a budget amendment; can cover it in our current budget.
  - The cost will be $206,000, but Food & Beverage is doing better than budgeted (though it’s down this month), so we don’t have to amend budgets.
- There will be increases for hourly employees in student government, Food & Beverage, Conferences & Catering, SASC, and the Services.

[Saad arrives, 12:12 pm.]

- Saad:
  - Will the pay raises all take effect at the same time?
- Keith:
  - To be equitable, yes.
  - Not a requirement, but not fair to delay for some.
- Cole:
  - It will be valuable to revisit the Tier Structure.
  - There’s been talk of adding a fourth tier or adjusting the current tiers.
  - We can bring a proposal to the HR Committee.
- Sheldon:
  - That would be for student government tiers only.
  - The others are separate, not done through the HR Committee or Council.
- Cole:
  - We can send just the student government changes to the HR Committee, but can tell them we’re doing increases across the board.
  - I doubt the committee will object to increases.
  - This can probably be done for the January 26 Council meeting.

Referendum Update

- Cole:
  - Fee restructure.
- Mary:
  - Plan to get numbers for next Council.
  - The Campus Culture Clubs were fine with our plans.
o The Resource Groups were not.
  ▪ Even though some of them are inactive, the thought was that it’s a risk to pause the fee and they were talking of adding new groups, e.g., one on Climate Justice.

• Cole:
  o Maybe we should change from the idea of pausing to expanding the use of the fee.
  o Maybe change the name of the fee: to the Social Justice Fee.
  o That would create more flexibility.
  o The RGAC model (the Resource Group Allocation Committee) is not working.
  o If we can find a new model, that would be valuable.
  o Need to change the tone of the conversation.
  o I can understand their hesitation.

• Mary:
  o I don’t know if you mean allow other groups to apply for the fee.
  o Maybe the AMS should take over distribution.

• Cole:
  o We could allow other groups that are Resource Group-affiliated to apply, like Climate Justice.
  o Give more flexibility to how the fee is used.

• Eshana:
  o The Social Justice Centre could come with another group to ask to use the fund.
  o It’s pretty easy to access the fund.

• Saad:
  o It’s not just about the money, but how they’re planning to spend it.
  o They haven’t submitted budgets.

• Mary:
  o The Finance team usually reaches out for budgets.
  o Maybe COVID has been an issue

• Keith:
  o Child Care Fund:
    ▪ Last year wanted to use it, but couldn’t.

• Mary:
  o Is the fund still active?

• Keith:
  o There was an MoU with UBC, but that ran out.
  o Money is accumulating in the fund, and UBC doesn’t want the money.

• Mary:
  o Is there need for that fee?
  o We can just stop it, so that we’re not collecting unnecessary fees.
• Lorris:
  o The idea was to use it for the Acadia baby hampers.

• Sheldon:
  o The RGAC was not in the referendum question.
  o Council can change the distribution system for the Resource Groups without going to referendum, just by amending Code.
  o Child Care is different: that would take a referendum change.

• Eshana:
  o I disagree with the idea that the Resource Groups need more oversight.
  o They need more support.

• Saad:
  o I mean they need to establish spending plans like they used to, showing where the money’s going.

• Mary:
  o They don’t respond to us when we ask for reports.

• Saad:
  o If they need support, they should communicate that.

• Mary:
  o They’re not actually getting the money now because they have not been communicating.
  o There’s been no distribution.
  o The money is just sitting there; that’s why there’s $490,000 in the fund.

• Lorris:
  o SASC referendum:
    ▪ What do we need to present to Council?

• Cole:
  o It will be part of the general fee referendum.
  o Changes to the SASC fee could be standalone, but we can loop them in to the general question.
  o For Council all we need from you is documentation; no need to present.

• Lorris:
  o Three years ago before the previous SASC referendum the Ubyssey ran an article, even before Council officially called the referendum.
  o The more publicity, the better.
  o Can we ask the Ubyssey to run an article?

• Cole:
  o Absolutely.

• Sheldon:
  o The last time we combined a SASC fee increase with a general fee increase, it failed.
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of January 12, 2022

- Cole:
  - Bylaw changes:
    - Even though the new Societies Act amendments are not in effect yet, we should make the changes that will be required by them.
    - Also looking at Board structure: meeting Max to chat about this more.
      - Just an idea at the moment.
      - If do keep moving forward on it, then will go next time to Council.
    - Need to work with Governance on other changes.
  - Brewery:
    - Business plan still being worked on.
  - Health & Dental Plan:
    - Going to email Leger (formerly Insights West) about a survey on virtual health care.
  - Meeting with Kavie at UBC Athletics & Recreation about the funding shortfall for the new Recreation Centre.
    - We’d expected to start charging the AMS fee this year, but we can’t till they start construction.
    - Could get more funds from UBC.
    - Or on the AMS side we could add on to the existing question to charge for an extra year.
    - My preference is to just tell UBC to pay for it.
  - Digital fee opt-out provision:
    - The Ubyssey said we can’t force them to adopt that.
    - Have to look into it.
  - Referendum coordinators being hired.

Sign

- Eshana:
  - Can we add a Musqueam side to the AMS sign?
- Cole:
  - Trying to get more Indigenous presence.
  - But haven’t been able to get in touch with the Musqueam.
  - It would not be appropriate to act without the consent of the band.
- Keith:
  - And UBC took two years to approve the AMS sign.
- Cole:
  - Questions to address:
    - What should be said?
    - How?
    - Is the translation correct?
  - Have to speak to the Musqueam.
Working from Home

- **Eshana:**
  - What is the policy on this?
- **Keith:**
  - Bonnie Henry has asked staff to work from home if possible, so we’re doing that.
  - Limiting the number of people in the office.
  - There’s a limited work from home policy for hourly staff:
    - The wellness benefit can be used.
- **Eshana:**
  - Looking for flexibility for permanent staff.
- **Keith:**
  - Accounting staff have a schedule.

Updates

- **Cole’s update:**
  - Broadcast email from UBC just extended online classes till February 7.
  - This was expected.
  - We recommended it.

- **Keith’s update:**
  - Nest air conditioning project not going to Council tonight:
    - The numbers aren’t nice.
    - We’re revisiting.
  - Sprinkler claim (re last year’s flood):
    - Got settled.
    - Insurers will pay the $70,000.
  - Working on the reforecast and the budget for next year.

- **Mary’s update:**
  - Health & Dental meeting.
  - Promoting subsidies and opt-ins, opt-outs.
  - Financial systems person hired.
- **Cole:**
  - When will we increase mental health coverage?
- **Keith:**
  - Can happen once we approve it.

- **Saad’s update:**
  - Finalizing provincial lobbying week (February 8-9).
    - Adding ABCS to the week.
Scheduling meetings with federal MP’s via UCRU.

Vancouver tax issue:
- The city’s single use tax for plastic bags should not apply here.

Working with the Services:
- SASC to become a Naloxone distribution site.

- Eshana’s update:
  - Talking to UBC about international students:
    - Housing
    - Travel plans
    - Issues caused by going online.
  - Affordability plan.
  - Collaborating with SASC on Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
  - Campus Safety Audit almost completed.
    - Will present at next Council and send to UBC.

- Lorris’s update:
  - Two new staff at SASC:
    - Assistant Manager
    - Healthy Masculinities coordinator.
  - Services operating virtually except for Food Bank and Safewalk.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.