

2020 Student Council Summaries

COUNCIL SUMMARY – JANUARY 8, 2020

Elections: Council heard a report from the Chief Electoral Officer on the timeline for the next elections and asked him to consult further before going ahead with a plan for separating student senator elections from other elections in Constituencies.

Council also asked the Chief Electoral Officer to consult with the Constituencies before bringing in rules banning slates and posters in Constituency elections.

Renovations: VP Administration Cole Evans presented Council with information on three proposed renovation projects, one to redo the area in front of the Services corridor in the Nest, one to spruce up the thoroughfare between the Nest and the Life building, and one to create an Interactive Sustainability Centre in the Life building.

Advisory Board: President Chris Hakim announced that candidates have been found to fill the AB vacancies.

Clubhouse and Campus Vibe: The VP Administration announced that Campus Vibe is going out of business, so the Clubhouse system for AMS clubs will have to be replaced by a new system for managing clubs.

Consultation: VP Academic & University Affairs Julia Burnham said January will be a busy month, with three University policies up for consultation, including the policy on sexual violence.

Services Review: Abdul Alnaar, the Senior Manager of Student Services, said significant work has been done on the Services Review, primarily in data collection.

Too Much Surplus? Councillor Max Holmes asked if the AMS would be setting a lower target for its surpluses, saying that 30% was too high for a non-profit. Managing Director Keith Hester said there is a deficit to pay off.

Budget Submission: Max Holmes asked when the AMS would be making its budget submission to the University, and was told it would be happening as soon as possible. He said it should have been done earlier so that the AMS could have had a bigger involvement in setting UBC's spending priorities, and he suggested that a process be put in place to ensure this going forward. President Chris Hakim agreed, and said hopefully a process can be created.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be at 6 pm on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum on the fourth floor of the Nest.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – JANUARY 22, 2020

Advisory Board: After months of waiting for candidates to be found, Council was finally able to fill the vacancies on the Advisory Board, the body meant to provide advice and recommendations on long-term goals for the AMS.

Other Appointments: Council also filled vacancies on its Advocacy Committee, naming two brand new Councillors to sit on it: Anne Khong from Social Work and Rashika Srivastava from Journalism. Another relatively new Councillor, Danny Liu, was named to a seat on the ad hoc Council Governance Committee. And Nicholas Harterre from Economics was named chair of Advocacy.

Executives away: Because of the snow day, UBC Senate moved its meeting to the same time as Council, so President Chris Hakim and the VP Academic & University Affairs, Julia Burnham, were at Senate, and VP Finance Lucia Liang was at a conference, meaning VP External Cristina Ilnitich reported for all of them (and herself), noting that:

1. brochures and other materials are being released to publicize the new AMS policies on sexual violence and respectful community;
2. feedback is being provided to UBC's committee reviewing the UBC policy on sexual violence;
3. two providers have presented to the Health and Dental Plan Committee as part of the RFP process to decide on the plan administrator going forward;
4. hiring of a Referendum Coordinator is underway;
5. a new budgeting process is in the works;
6. discussions are continuing with the University Neighbourhoods Association about AMS representation on their board;
7. a statement is being drafted on the Wet'suwet'en situation;
8. advocacy is continuing on bringing SkyTrain to UBC.

Clubhouse: VP Administration Cole Evans announced that with Clubhouse gone, club applications and other club-related information has been moved to the main AMS website. A replacement for Clubhouse is being sought. Meanwhile Clubs Days is underway.

Nest Experience Survey: The survey is out, and VP Evans reported that there are already over 2,000 responses.

Clubs Resource Centre: The CRC is going really well, said the VP Admin. There was a grand opening, and a report on metrics has been presented.

Speakeasy: Student Services Manager Ian Stone reported that the Speakeasy peer support service had visited the Engineering Student Centre and could visit other buildings on campus to reach students who don't come to the Nest.

He added that there was a lot of interest in the Speakeasy service at a services conference he just attended in New Orleans: peer support is a big thing now, and we've had a service of this sort since the 1970's.

Block Party: Managing Director Keith Hester said Block Party has launched and already 2,500 tickets have been sold.

New ticketing system: Councillor Nicholas Harterre asked about high service fees on ticket purchases, and the Managing Director said a new ticketing system is being looked into that would address that issue among others.

Student Governance Transition: Proxy Andy Wu, on behalf of Riley Ty, the chair of the HR Committee, said the committee is looking into revising the way transitioning is done, and may be sending out a survey.

Expulsion Policy: VP Admin Cole Evans said the revised policy on expulsion of people from AMS buildings is going forward; it is now being looked at by AMS legal counsel.

Bookings Policy: VP Evans said changes are being made to create clearer guidelines for booking rooms in the Nest. These may involve quotas so that no group can book an excessive amount of hours. The idea is to make sure people get what they need.

Student Life: VP Evans, as chair of the Student Life Committee, said he is looking into changes to the committee: it may not continue as a standing committee.

Code changes: Council approved changes to expand the Managing Director's signing authority, to update the duties of the VP Administration, and to reduce the meetings of the Presidents Council to once a term from once a month.

U-Pass: Council ratified the new five-year contract, setting the new price for U-Passes: they will rise 2% a year. VP External Cristina Initchi said this was the best rate possible, and it involved convincing TransLink that the program is not supposed to be revenue-generating or even cost-recovery, but instead is providing a service to students while also potentially converting them into future transit users.

Academic Freedom: Council heard that the Senate meeting was running long, in part because of a discussion of academic freedom.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be at 6 pm on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum on the fourth floor of the Nest.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 5, 2020

Air Conditioning: AMS Designer Michael Kingsmill presented a plan to Council for adding air conditioning to the Nest to deal with the problem of summer overheating. To make sure the building retains its LEED Platinum certification as a sustainable building, the project will include the addition of solar panels to conserve energy.

Bylaw Amendments: Council discussed proposed changes to the bylaws, especially focusing on the need for an amendment to protect against the release of documents whose disclosure would cause harm to the Society. There was also discussion on whether to increase the number of signatures needed to initiate a referendum by petition.

Indigenous Seat on Council: Council was told of a separate bylaw amendment proposal to create a voting seat on Council for an Indigenous student.

Ad Hoc Council Governance Committee: AMS President Chris Hakim was named to fill the position of chair on this committee after the resignation of two previous chairs. Council later extended the deadline for the committee to submit a report until November.

Flight 752: Councillor Arash Shadkam expressed disappointment that the AMS had not issued a statement about the shooting down of this flight, especially since four members of the UBC community died in it. AMS President Chris Hakim said the criticism was valid: the AMS had echoed a statement made by the University, but should have issued one of its own.

Paranormal Research Club: VP Administration Cole Evans said he had seen a television show on such a club at Pennsylvania State University and wished we had such a club. (By the end of the meeting someone had submitted an application to create such a club, just in time for the close of new club applications.)

Bookings: Councillor Michelle Marcus asked about problems with bookings. VP Evans said he had been hearing complaints from clubs and Constituencies and said his team is looking at changing procedures; they are also looking at new software systems. He said he is hoping to roll out a solution by the end of his term.

Report from Ottawa: VP External Cristina Ilnitchi sent in a report from Ottawa, where she is with fifteen other student unions on a lobby trip. They have had 70 meetings with MP's and staff.

Pow Wow: A representative of the Indigenous Committee told Council about a Pow Wow being planned for April 3.

Senate Independence: Council passed a Code change to establish that student Senators and student members of the Board of Governors are independent of the AMS and its Constituencies and should not be assigned tasks by Council or the Constituencies.

Fee Update: Council also passed a Code change to update the fees and funds listed.

Qualtrics: Council again named Qualtrics to be the platform to be used to collect electronic signatures for referendum petitions.

Academic Experience Survey: At the request of VP Academic & University Affairs Julia Burnham, Council agreed to suspend the policy on the survey in order not to run certain questions required by the policy which were felt to be no longer relevant.

Next meeting: There will be a special Council meeting on February 12. The next regular Council meeting will be at 6 pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum on the fourth floor of the Nest.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 12, 2020 & FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Referendum Questions: The special meeting of February 12 was called specifically to discuss the questions being sent to the membership. Council approved a general package of bylaw changes, including the abolition of Student Court and the introduction of rules to designate certain records confidential. These will now go to referendum March 2-6 for approval by the general membership.

Council also approved a proposed bylaw amendment that would create a seat for an Indigenous student on Council. This too will go to referendum March 2-6.

The regular meeting of February 26: The following issues came up:

Art Sale? Or not: The agenda on February 26 included a motion related to selling two pieces of art from the AMS Art Collection. However, a large delegation from the Visual Arts Department presented arguments against the sale, and the student directors of the AMS's Hatch Art Gallery also said such a sale would be detrimental, so the matter was referred back to the committee dealing with the issue.

Air Conditioning: Council approved a motion to spend up to \$15,000 to hire an engineering expert to look into expanding the air conditioning system in the Nest in a sustainable way.

Financial report: VP Finance Lucia Liang reported that the AMS was getting more revenue than expected from its businesses and was spending less than expected on its Executive portfolios. More money than expected was spent on the Welcome Back Barbecue because of a change of artist. Councillor Max Holmes noted that despite the extra spending on Welcome Back Barbecue, there was still an increase in the overall surplus, and suggested that the AMS should use such money to help students now rather than putting it aside for the future.

Lobby Trip: VP External Cristina Ilnitchi reported on her trip to Ottawa with other student unions in UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities) to speak to MP's and government staff about issues surrounding affordability, international students, Indigenous students, and undergraduate research. She said it was a successful trip, with more meetings than in the past two years.

Access Grants: VP Ilnitchi also reported that the provincial government is bringing in new access grants, which she said is great first step towards affordability, though still not enough.

Strategic Plan and Equity: President Chris Hakim said he was hoping to bring in consultants to help with the process of creating the strategic plan. VP External Cristina Ilnitchi said the RFP for consultants on the new Equity Plan is going out in March.

Block Party: Managing Director Keith Hester said the line-up is out and 3,500 tickets have been sold.

Budget and Fees: Council passed two Code changes, one to update the section on how fees are administered and one to change the budgeting process to have it start earlier and produce a preliminary budget by the end of April instead of the end of May.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be at 6 pm on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum on the fourth floor of the Nest.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – MARCH 11, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **March 11, 2020**:

New Recreation Facility: After hearing a presentation from UBC's Associate Director of Facilities, Council voted to approve agreements with the University to finance and manage the new recreation facility that students voted to pay for in the 2017 AMS referendum (students will pay about one-third of the cost via an AMS fee, and will have three of the seven seats on the facility's management committee).

Climate Strike: Council heard a presentation about a climate strike planned for April 3, but with a caveat that the strike may be cancelled because of COVID-19. The organizers said the previous strike, on September 27, was successful in getting the University to declare a climate emergency and commit to fossil fuel investment. AMS VP External Cristina Ilnitichi said the AMS would be supporting the strike.

Elections! The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Ahsan Sahibzada, announced the election results, making them official. The new AMS President will be Cole Evans. The other Executives will be VP Finance Lucia Liang, VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr., and VP External Kalith Nanayakkara. (The VP Academic & University Affairs, or VPAUA, is still to be chosen in a special election.)

Indigenous Seat (and turnout): The CEO also announced that the bylaw amendment to create an Indigenous seat on Council passed. However, the omnibus bylaw amendment question failed for lack of quorum, and turnout generally was down, perhaps because of the ban on posters.

Council discussed the turnout issue and directed the Student Life Committee to look into it. It also directed that the omnibus bylaw amendment question be rerun at the same time as the special election for the VPAUA.

Get Thrifty: VP Admin Cole Evans announced that the thrift store approved in a referendum last year held its grand opening in the Life Building.

Ovens: Council approved an expenditure of just over \$40,000 to buy two new ovens for the Nest kitchen.

Health & Dental Plan: Council went in camera to discuss an RFP related to the plan.

COVID-19: Managing Director Keith Hester said Block Party was still on for now, but some sponsors had pulled out (Block Party was later cancelled). Council passed a motion allowing it to meet by teleconferencing or videoconferencing if necessary, and President Chris Hakim said he would report back with contingency plans.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting was scheduled to be at 6 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum on the fourth floor of the Nest, but because of COVID-19 may be held virtually.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – MARCH 25, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **March 25, 2020**:

Meeting Virtually: Because of the COVID-19 situation, and in accordance with a Code provision passed on March 11, Council conducted the meeting online. At the end of the meeting Council discussed how best to proceed in the future as long as it cannot meet in person. AMS President Chris Hakim said he is looking into purchasing software to make virtual meetings more efficient; he is also looking into greater delegation to committees. He also said a link will be posted next time to allow students at large to access the meeting.

Speakeasy and Vice: Council heard from Ian Stone, the Student Services Manager, about plans to merge two AMS Services: Speakeasy, the long-time peer support service, and Vice, the newer service dealing with substance use. The new service would be called AMS Peer Support.

Keeping going during the COVID situation: President Hakim said staff are working from home, and he is working on responses to the situation in line with the recommendations of health authorities.

Ongoing Business: President Hakim said he has hired a new Indigenous Students coordinator. He has also met with Hatch Art Gallery staff and the art community about the AMS art collection. He's been interviewing candidates for the Student Services Manager position. Executives are working on their final goals report, the agreement with UBC about the \$21 Athletics & Recreation fee is coming soon, and the ad hoc committee on Council governance has recommended that Council members fill out an exit survey.

Effect of COVID-19 on Students: Council was told by the President and the VP Academic & University Affairs, Julia Burnham, that the University is bringing in Credit/D/Fail options for students and the AMS is looking for accommodation for students concerning withdrawal deadlines and transcript notations. The AMS has also been speaking to the University about financial support for students as well as discussing the University budget and ensuring that students who withdraw won't lose their awards.

The University has also announced that the first summer term will be held online.

The AMS also wants to make sure residents in student housing are being supported.

Effects on grad students: Councillor Alireza Kamyabi said grad student research has been halted, but grad students are still paying fees: would it be possible to waive student fees? VP Burnham said she will follow up on that.

The Government Role: VP External Cristina Ilnitchi reported that the provincial government is pausing student loan payments and is providing support for renters: freezing rents and banning evictions. There is also a \$500 rent stipend. The AMS is advocating to ensure students get access to the stipend.

On the federal level a press release has gone out from UCRU (Undergraduates at Canadian Research-intensive Universities) congratulating the federal government for providing student loan interest relief. Now we are looking to see how the emergency fund that the federal government has announced applies to students.

The AMS is creating a resource page to let students know about the supports available to them.

The AMS is also advocating specifically for international students concerning work permits and visas.

COVID and the Nest: VP Administration Cole Evans announced that the Nest is closed until April 14, but it is not certain the building can reopen then and the situation will be re-evaluated.

Clubs and Constituencies: VP Evans said club orientations may go online, office and locker allocations have been postponed, and he said he will follow through on his promise to find an office for the BoG and Senate reps. He and VP Finance Lucia Liang said communications are going out by email.

The VP Finance added that e-transfer is being used for refunds for Block Party and club events.

Block Party: Managing Director Keith Hester said Block Party has been cancelled and refunds are going out. The AMS will be losing \$250,000 on the event.

Layoffs: The Managing Director said quite a number of hourly staff have been laid off. HR has been processing the paperwork so those employees can apply for EI. The AMS is looking into further government assistance for them.

Finances: The VP Finance said budgets are being prepared, and discussions are underway with the University about enrollment. Emergency bursaries are also being looked into. Investments are doing well.

Services: Student Services Manager Ian Stone said the services have been disrupted because of the situation. Safewalk is not operating. Tutoring is moving online. Food Bank is continuing to operate, thanks to incredible community support, and there has been an increase in usage.

Operations Committee: The Chair (Cole Evans) said a new Operations Committee Manual has been approved.

Steering Committee: The Chair (Chris Hakim) said the committee will be meeting to finalize a report on a consultant for the Strategic Plan.

Ad Hoc Council Governance Committee: The Chair (Chris Hakim) said the committee discussed what can be done in the short and long term, and was hoping to pass the file on to the regular Governance Committee.

Fermentation Lab Committee: Cole Evans reported that there is talk of looking at alternative locations.

Student Senate Caucus: Student Senator Dante Agosti-Moro said the Caucus is drafting a letter about the University's response to COVID-19.

CampusGroups: Council approved a contract with CampusGroups for a replacement to the Clubhouse clubs management system.

Student Life Committee: Council approved a Code change to the terms of reference for the Student Life Committee to make it more of a bridge to Services, Events, and Communications.

Expulsion Policy: Council approved a new policy on expulsions from AMS property.

Fund expenditures: Council approved Code changes to streamline the process of approving expenditures from the Capital Projects Fund and the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund.

Consultation with the University: Council discussed the importance of voicing the concerns of students to the University.

Graduation Ceremonies: Councillor Kaili Sun from Architecture voiced concern about the hit to morale if there is no ceremony. President Chris Hakim said there have been discussions with the University.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held virtually on April 9, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – APRIL 9, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting, held virtually on **April 9, 2020**:

Omnibus Motion: Council approved an omnibus motion covering a number of items:

- 1) Repeal of policies on Communications and Sponsorship.
- 2) Replacement of the policy on Relations with External Organizations with Code provisions on that topic.
- 3) Amendment of policies on Media Relations and the Use of Student Email Addresses.
- 4) Approval of an agreement with the University concerning the \$21 AMS fee for Athletics and Recreation.
- 5) Approval of a budget amendment to pay for new board management software.
- 6) Approval of procedures for selecting student senators from Forestry, Dentistry, and Arts.
- 7) Approval of Chalaya Moonias as the student senator from Forestry.
- 8) Creation of an Associate Equity and Inclusion position.
- 9) A Code amendment to allow email voting by Council.
- 10) A Code suspension to make it easier for committees to use email voting.
- 11) A Code suspension to allow oral reports and remarks to Council to be replaced by written ones.
- 12) Approval of an expenditure of \$5,002 from the Capital Projects Fund to pay for a wall for the Services.
- 13) Reappointment of Chris Hakim and Max Holmes to the CiTR board of directors.

Special Election and Referendum: The AMS Chief Electoral Officer, Ahsan Sahibzada, announced that Georgia Yee had won the special election to become VP Academic & University Affairs. He also reported that the rerun of the bylaw referendum had failed for lack of quorum.

Health and Dental Plan: Council approved a 3% increase in the Health and Dental Plan fee and discussed extending the contract of Studentcare, the plan administrator, for two years. It was decided to postpone the vote on the extension until after further documents could be circulated to Councillors, and to conduct the vote by email.

Councillor of the Year: AMS President Chris Hakim announced that the Executive had chosen Engineering representative Katherine Westerlund to be Councillor of the Year.

COVID and Government: VP External Cristina Ilnitshi reported on advocacy concerning the U-Pass and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). She added that a web page on student support has gone up on the AMS website.

Clubs: VP Admin Cole Evans said CampusGroups is being implemented as the new administrative platform for clubs (replacing Clubhouse). He said club renewals are taking place online, but Club Executive Orientations are on hold. VP Finance Lucia Liang said Club Treasurer Orientations are going ahead on Zoom.

Food Bank and Other Services: Student Services Manager Ian Stone said Food Bank is being “very well used,” reflecting the severity of the current situation. Tutoring is working online, and there are plans to put Speakeasy Peer Support online as well. Safewalk is not running.

Awards during COVID: VP Academic & University Affairs Julia Burnham said she is involved in advocacy to ensure the continuity of awards.

Emergency funding: VP Finance Lucia Liang said \$280,000 for students has been found to deal with the COVID situation. She said the AMS would be giving it to the University for the University to administer.

Budgets: The VP Finance said she's preparing three different budgets for the next Council meeting to provide options. But she added that Services, as a core program, will not have their budget cut.

HR: Riley Ty, the chair of the HR Committee, said the committee has been looking at Executive pay and is working on hiring the Ombudsperson, the Speaker of Council, and the Chief Electoral Officer.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held virtually on April 22, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – APRIL 22, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **April 22, 2020** (held virtually):

Omnibus Motions: Council approved omnibus motions covering a number of items:

- 1) Appointment of a new Ombudsperson (Oluwakemi Oke)
- 2) Appointment of a new Chief Electoral Officer (Isabelle Ava-Pointon).
- 3) Reappointment of Kareem Ibrahim as Council Speaker.
- 4) Extending the health and dental administration contract with Studentcare for two years.
- 5) Amending Code to change procedures concerning Resource Groups.
- 6) Amending Code to create a new Student Service to be called AMS Peer Support (which will combine the old Speakeasy and Vice services).
- 7) Amending the policy on the Academic Experience Survey.

Executive Goals: The Executive spoke to Council about their achievements over the year now ending, highlighting the following points:

- 1) Creating an AMS sexual violence policy.
- 2) Convincing the provincial government to introduce a grant program.
- 3) Mobilizing students and getting politicians to engage with them during the federal election campaign.
- 4) Organizing a Town Hall about the University's sexual misconduct policy.
- 5) Creating the Open Education Resources Award to promote the use of open resources.
- 6) Putting an online financial transfer system in place for such things as club reimbursements.
- 7) Reopening the Norm Theatre.
- 8) Building connections between the AMS Services and the University communities.
- 9) Acquiring \$50,000 for Food Bank.

Missing Goals: Several Councillors asked why the goals from the VP Administration were not included. VP Administration Cole Evans apologized for not having them ready in time. A motion of censure was proposed but was overwhelmingly defeated.

Preliminary Budget: Because of the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, VP Finance Lucia Liang presented three versions of the budget, based on three different projections for enrolment. She said the top priority will be maintaining Student Services.

COVID and Government: VP External Cristina Ilnitchi noted the federal government's announcement that morning about support for students and said it was a big win.

Graduation: VP Academic & University Affairs Julia Burnham said there had been an excellent meeting about creating a virtual graduation ceremony.

U-Pass Suspension: With most students not using transit because of the COVID situation, Council approved a motion to suspend the U-Pass contract from May through August. Discussions are still underway about refunds for April.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held virtually on May 13, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY- MAY 13, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **May 13, 2020** (held virtually):

Turnover: It was the first Council meeting for the new Executive and for many Councillors. Also the first time using new agenda software. And the fourth meeting held virtually.

Sustainability Action Plan: Council approved a new AMS Sustainability Action Plan (to be known as ASAP) to replace older policies and strategies on sustainability. The new plan covers the Nest, AMS businesses and services, advocacy, and collaboration with other campus groups. An Indigenous section will be added later.

New Resource Group: Council approved a new AMS Student Resource Group: the Neurodiverse and Disabled Alliance.

Nest Reopening: AMS President Cole Evans announced that the Nest will be reopening on May 19 in a limited way. Blue Chip Cafe will be open, to be followed the next week by a reopening of the Gallery and the Honour Roll, all for take-out service only. There will be no table seating, no reusable mugs and containers, and no large gatherings. Club offices will remain closed.

The idea is to follow provincial guidelines, maintain social distancing, and do more cleaning. There will be signage. Use of elevators will be restricted. Virtual meetings are still encouraged, and office staff may still work from home. Masks will be available for staff who do come in.

SASC Office Expansion: The Sexual Assault Support Centre will be moving to larger quarters down the hall in a more private space. Work will be done to improve soundproofing. The Health and Dental Office will take over the current SASC space.

Red Chairs: Council agreed to postpone the replacement of the Nest's red chairs on the grounds that the matter is not urgent at this moment.

New Senators: Council asked the UBC Senate to appoint new student senators for Arts (Justin Zheng) and Dentistry (Diane Nguyen).

Nursing Fee: Council voted to notify the UBC Board of Governors of an increase in the student fee for Nursing students (the fee was approved by a referendum of the Nursing students earlier in the year).

Discipline Guidelines: Council directed the Governance Committee to look into guidelines and procedures for Council disciplinary action.

Fall Reading Break: Student BoG rep and senator Max Holmes told Council that the long-debated Fall Reading Break proposal is going to the University Senate for approval on May 27.

Appointments: The bulk of the meeting was taken up with filling committees, including the appointment of the following committee chairs:

Advocacy Committee – Joshua Kim

Governance Committee – Sebastian Cooper

Student Life Committee – Chrissa Rassias

HR Committee – Lawrence Liu

Fermentation Lab Committee – Lawrence Liu

The Operations Committee is automatically chaired by the VP Administration (Sylvester Mensah Jr.) and the Finance Committee is automatically chaired by the VP Finance (Lucia Liang), but Council directed the Governance Committee to look into whether that system of automatic appointment should continue.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on June 3, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY- JUNE 3, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **June 3, 2020** (held virtually):

AMS Strategic Plan: Council heard a history of attempts to create a plan, which stretch back almost 20 years, and was presented with various options for going forward, but the consensus in discussion was that this was not the time to proceed because there are higher priorities to do with COVID-19.

Will We Ever Meet Again? Councillor Mathew Ho asked if Council would ever meet again in person. AMS President Cole Evans said he was sure it would happen eventually, but it was hard to say when: perhaps in the late summer.

Anti-Black and Anti-Asian Racism: VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee said it was not enough to make statements (as the AMS did); work must be done to acknowledge the systemic problem. There will be community engagement (a Town Hall), education. She is working on a bystander intervention program. VP External Kalith Nanayakkara said it could be useful to start collecting race-based data.

COVID Survey: VP Georgia also said the COVID survey asking students about how they've been affected has just gone out. There are also plans for a digital meal donation program.

BC Budget: VP External Kalith said the two asks would be for open education resources and more funding for postsecondary institutions.

Hatch Art Gallery: VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. said the Hatch is trying to figure out ways to remain active during the virus. The new Hatch manager is working on an online display of the permanent collection.

Interactive Sustainability Centre: VP Sylvester said consultation is being done before bringing a plan to Council.

Software Provider: Student Services Manager Ian Stone said he is working with his team to explore data collection options because Olivewood, the company we've been using, is shutting down.

Reopening: Managing Director Keith Hester said three outlets are now open in the Nest (Blue Chip, Honour Roll, and the Gallery), and they're seeing about 200 customers a day. Students are using the building for studying while maintaining social distance. He said plans are being made for what to do if things get better and what to do if things get worse.

VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. said there will still be no bookings until further notice.

Advocacy Committee: Joshua Kim, the new chair, said the committee has decided to discuss climate change and recovery after COVID.

Club membership fees: VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. said some club members are facing financial strain, and clubs are being advised to be mindful of this.

UBC Sexual Violence Policy: Board of Governors rep Max Holmes said dissatisfaction had been expressed to the Board over the fact that SASC (the Sexual Assault Support Centre) is not represented on the committee reviewing the policy.

Fall Reading Break: Student Senator Alex Gonzalez said Senate had approved the Fall Reading Break for 2021 by attaching two extra days to the Remembrance Day break.

Also Senate is working on wording for a COVID-19 statement to go on student transcripts.

Senate is also renaming student evaluations “student experience of instruction.”

SASC Expansion: Council approved an allocation of \$218,380 for the project to expand the office of the Sexual Assault Support Centre.

UNA: At the request of the Executive, Council voted to reject a proposed memorandum of agreement with the University Neighbourhoods Association and directed the Executive to seek an agreement with the UNA that ensures adequate student representation on the UNA Board.

U-Pass: VP External Kalith Nanayakkara presented information concerning the temporary suspension of the U-Pass. A subsidy fund is being set up for students who have to use transit. The issue of reinstating the U-Pass is being looked into.

COVID-19: Student Senator Chris Hakim and Board of Governors rep Max Holmes asked the Executive to present updates about planning for the COVID crisis. Let Council see the various options being explored, they said.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on June 24, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – JUNE 24, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **June 24, 2020** (held virtually):

Indigenous Seat: Laura Beaudry became the first person to fill the new Indigenous seat on Council in accordance with the bylaw amendment passed in March and a Code amendment approved tonight.

Other Code Changes: Council also amended Code to clarify what is meant by distance education students and to change the terms of reference for the Presidents Council. Before the meeting, by email vote, Council had also amended the Code to exempt students registered during COVID-19 from paying the \$21 AMS Athletics & Intramurals fee.

And a Policy Change: Council approved combining three old policies (on travel, alcohol reimbursement, and cellphones) into a single policy on Executive reimbursement.

Executive Goals Postponed: After a discussion focused on the presentation of KPI's, Council asked the Executive to come back with a revised goals document including quantifiable statements wherever possible.

AMS Budget: Council approved the budget, with the understanding that a revision would be coming in August because of the uncertainties associated with COVID-19. Managing Director Keith Hester said business revenue had declined dramatically because of COVID, and some Councillors asked for more business details.

VP Finance Lucia Liang said there would be no cuts to Student Services, and Council passed a motion asking the Finance Committee to look into wage increases in the Services.

Advisory Board: AMS President Cole Evans announced that the Advisory Board had finally met after being unable to for a long time.

UBCO Violence and anti-Black Racism: AMS President Cole Evans expressed solidarity with a statement from the student union at UBC Okanagan concerning the violent actions of an RCMP officer against a UBCO student. He added that the AMS is committed to developing programs around anti-Black racism.

VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee said the AMS is asking UBC to review its relationship with the RCMP. She added that discussions are underway with the UBC Black Students Union and external organizations like Black Lives Matter Vancouver.

VP External Kalith Nanayakkara said he will be advocating for race-based data collection.

Board of Governors representative Max Holmes reported on the resignation of the Board chair, Michael Korenberg, over his online behaviour and noted that the Board had reaffirmed its commitment to anti-racism.

Fee suspensions: Councillor Chris Hakim asked if other AMS fees besides the \$21 Athletics & Intramurals one would be suspended. President Cole Evans said other fees had been looked at, but it was decided that the \$21 fee should be the main one targeted. VP Finance Lucia Liang said there have been conversations about a refund of part of the Health and Dental fee and about making subsidies more accessible. VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee said the AMS is also asking the University to reduce its athletics fee.

Sustainability Report: After debate over whether the priorities in the report were ambitious enough, Council directed the Executive to bring back a new report at the next Council meeting.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on July 15, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – JULY 15, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **July 15, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Transit Subsidy: VP External Kalith Nanayakkara told Council that the suspended U-Pass program is scheduled to restart on September 1. In the meantime the AMS has put together a subsidy program for students taking transit in the summer.

Services: Student Services Manager Ian Stone discussed plans for the Services, including improvements in marketing and outreach and clearer guidelines for management responsibilities.

Funding Changes: Council approved a temporary decrease in the membership fee for the Commerce Undergraduate Society and also amended the AMS budget to add funding for new software for the Sexual Assault Support Centre. It also approved spending to replace worn-out audio-visual equipment and approved an increase in the amount being spent to install air conditioning in the Nest.

Equity Plan: Council also approved additional funding for the AMS Equity Plan. AMS President Cole Evans said he is super happy with the consultants chosen for the plan and said an implementation committee will be put in place to guide the process.

Appointments: The new Indigenous representative, Laura Beaudry, was appointed to three committees: HR, Advocacy, and Sustainability. Paige Braithwaite was named to a position on SHAPE (the committee looking into the sale of Hatch art).

Wage subsidy: AMS President Cole Evans told Council the federal government has extended its wage subsidy till December. VP Finance Lucia Liang said she would be seeing how this affects the AMS budget.

COVID Survey: VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee told Council there have been over 7,000 responses to the survey. The most obvious takeaway is that international students have been disproportionately affected.

Students on campus: VP Finance Lucia Liang said there was good news about this: instead of only 5% of student residence places being filled, it now looks like the number will be 50%. Because of this, she will be revising the projected business revenue up.

Clubs and club bookings: VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. said room bookings have resumed to a certain extent. His team is also working to help clubs pursue alternatives to in person meetings and events in the fall.

Written reports: AMS President Cole Evans said he is recommending to the Governance Committee that reports to Council (by Executives, committees, and others) be done in written rather than oral form.

Sustainability report: After discussion on setting a specific date as the target for making the Nest carbon neutral (it was agreed to specify 2025), Council passed the revised Sustainability priorities and report.

Executive goals and KPI's: Council approved the revised Executive goals, but continued to discuss the issue of KPI's and the difficulties of measuring Executive achievement. It was suggested that the Governance Committee look into the issue.

UNA: Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the University Neighbourhoods Association about the AMS role in the UNA.

Zoom and China: Nursing representative Jake Reznik and Phoenix Au-yeung from the Enlightenment of Hong Kong group raised the issue of students taking part in meetings and classes over Zoom. Because Zoom data is routed through China, student safety could be at risk.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on August 5, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – AUGUST 5, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **August 5, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Omnibus Motions: Council approved a number of motions en masse, including:

Endorsement of a Statement of Principles for a Just Recovery after COVID.

Approval of \$44,646 to replace the current surveillance system server.

Approval of a revised MoU with the University about access to student information.

Approval of a delay in the submission of a report from the Governance Committee on discipline.

COVID Effects: Georgia Yee, the VP Academic & University Affairs, reported on a COVID survey which showed that issues affecting students include layoffs, housing insecurity, access to technology for online courses, and mental health. She said international students had been disproportionately affected.

UCRU: VP External Kalith Nanayakkara presented on UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities), an informal coalition of student associations from nine of the largest Canadian universities. He said there are plans to make UCRU into a more formal, incorporated organization with bylaws and procedures.

CampusBase: Nicolas Williams, the AVP Administration, updated Council on CampusBase, the new AMS platform for managing AMS clubs, which it is hoped will be something that all campus groups will start using, not just the clubs, to help create a virtual community and a social network.

Appointments: Council appointed Nevena Rebic and Joshua Kim to the new working group for implementing the AMS Equity Plan.

Systemic racism: VP Georgia Yee said there is a large conversation going on about this, focusing on empowering survivors of incidents such as the recently reported one of a female Asian UBC student who was allegedly assaulted on a Vancouver bus.

Indigenous Lounge: Indigenous representative Laura Beaudry said the Indigenous Committee is talking of opening an Indigenous Lounge in September.

Talkative Students? Student Senator Alex Gonzalez reported that Student Senators were told they talk too much, but the Senator who made the comment has since apologized.

Who Shall Chair the Finance Committee? After much debate, Council approved a Code amendment to allow Councillors other than the VP Finance to chair the Finance Committee. (The amendment will also allow Councillors other than the VP Administration to chair the Operations Committee.) The debate focused on the need for oversight versus the need for experience.

Surplus Funds: AMS President Cole Evans shared a document on proposed distribution of surplus University funds resulting from tuition increases. The University is proposing to spend money on COVID aid, a U-Pass subsidy, upgrades to the Graduate Student Centre, upgrades to the Norm Theatre, new vehicles for Safewalk, and graduate student aid. There is still money

left over that could be spent on emergency student aid, AMS-operated housing developments, Indigenous capital investments (including Indigenous art in the Nest), and investment in equity-related areas.

Some Councillors suggested focusing the student aid on mental health services.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on August 26, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – AUGUST 26, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **August 26, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Equity Plan: Council heard a presentation from Adeline Huynh, the consultant for the plan, which is meant to create an Equity Framework for the AMS over the next few months, with a finalized plan done by February.

CampusBase: VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. announced that CampusBase, the new platform for clubs and other campus groups, has launched. There was a problem in the run-up to the launch that temporarily exposed some personal information, but it has been fixed, and he now expects the number of users to skyrocket.

U-Pass: VP External Kalith Nanayakkara said the U-Pass is being reinstated as of September even though classes will be online, because students need the U-Pass for more than going to class. However, students remaining outside the Lower Mainland will be exempted, an arrangement the AMS pushed for.

Housing Contract: VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee said the AMS has convinced the University to change a clause in the contract for student residences so that students will not go homeless if the University closes a residence.

Health & Dental Plan: VP Finance Lucia Liang announced that international students who remain out of the country will be able to opt out of the Health & Dental Plan.

Committee Appointments: Council approved a new policy on committee appointments, under which Council will fill its committees online outside of Council meetings.

Eastside Furniture: Council brought back a motion from May and approved an expenditure of \$153,390 on new furniture for the east side of the Nest to replace the old red chairs with more study-friendly seating.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on September 16, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of September 16, 2020 (held virtually on Zoom):

AGM: Council set the date of the next annual general meeting as October 29, 2020. AMS President Cole Evans said a determined effort is being made to meet quorum in order to pass amendments to the bylaws. The meeting will take place virtually.

Code changes: Council approved a clarification to one of the rules for Constituency elections and also modified the terms of the Clubs Benefit Fund.

Textbook Broke: Council heard a presentation from VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee on the high price of textbooks and the need to make education more accessible.

Academic Experience Survey: VP Georgia Yee also presented results from the Academic Experience Survey (AES), including a finding that more students have become aware of the University's career support services. The AES also revealed that 47% of students reported financial hardship resulting from the cost of housing and 21% spend more than an hour on their commute to campus.

Committee Appointments: Instead of being held during this meeting as in previous years, they are being conducted online. President Cole Evans reported some glitches (emails going to spam folders), but said all the appointments will be made before the next Council meeting.

Mandatory Masks: Council approved a policy requiring mask wearing in the Nest as part of the response to the COVID pandemic.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on September 30, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 7, 2020

AMS Council held a regular meeting on **September 30, 2020** and a special meeting on **October 7, 2020** (both held virtually on Zoom). Here are notes from the two:

Bylaws and the AGM: At both meetings Council discussed a package of bylaw amendments to be presented to the Annual General Meeting later this month, including previously proposed changes such as removing Student Court and clarifying the requirements for referendums, along with newly proposed changes such as updating Executive duties, allowing voting by proxy at AGM's, allowing Council to remove seats on Council, and allowing Council to repurpose dormant funds.

The previously proposed amendment to the bylaw on access to records would also be brought back as a separate amendment.

Councillors debated whether it is appropriate to send these to an AGM rather than waiting for a referendum and decided that it was.

After opposition was expressed to allowing Council to remove seats at the first meeting, AMS President Cole Evans said he would remove that proposal from the package. Questions were also raised about the updating of Executive duties and the proxy proposal, and both those proposals were withdrawn as well, as was the proposal to repurpose dormant funds.

In the end it was decided at the second meeting that what will go to the AGM are the following separate motions: 1) Previously proposed housekeeping changes; 2) Newly proposed housekeeping changes; 3) The proposal to abolish Student Court; 4) The proposal to amend the bylaw on Records.

Affiliated Colleges: The special meeting set up an ad hoc committee to look at relations between the AMS and students at the Affiliates: Regent College, the Vancouver School of Theology, St. Mark's College, and perhaps Carey Theological College (which is currently unrepresented).

Other business from the regular September 30 meeting:

BC Election: Council approved an expenditure of \$7,000 for the upcoming provincial election and also heard a presentation about plans to get out the student vote, including having a polling station in the Nest and hosting a debate between the local candidates.

Code change: Council approved a change requiring committees to report the vote tally on recommendations they send to Council.

Imagine Day: President Evans reported that the virtual Imagine Day had been a huge event, with 10,000 attending.

Orange Shirt Day: Several speakers mentioned that the meeting was taking place on Orange Shirt Day, the day to mark the sending away of Indigenous children to residential schools.

New degree: The new Senate rep, Anisha Sandhu, reported that Senate had approved a new bachelor's degree in Indigenous Land Stewardship.

Audit: Managing Director Keith Hester said the audit has been completed, and the numbers will go to the Annual General Meeting.

Masks: The Managing Director said more and more people are wearing masks in the Nest. In response to a question, he said those who don't have a mask can purchase one for 75 cents, but the AMS can't afford to give away masks for free.

Sustainability Symposium: VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. told Council about the first AMS Sustainability Symposium, taking place the following Friday.

Prime Ministers on Council: The Archivist noted that the recently deceased John Turner, who was Prime Minister in 1984, began his political career as "Chick" Turner on AMS Council in 1948, adding that he was one of two prime ministers to have served on Council, the other being Kim Campbell. There was also a Councillor in 1927, James Sinclair, whose grandson Justin Trudeau is the current Prime Minister.

Councillor appointments: These were done online before the September 30 meeting. The Standing Committee Chairs are now:

HR Committee: Lawrence Liu

Operations Committee: Katherine Feng

Student Life Committee: Agam Gill

Finance Committee: Lucia Liang

Advocacy Committee: Mathew Ho

Governance Committee: Sebastian Cooper

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be held on October 14, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY- OCTOBER 14, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **October 14, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Climate Emergency: Council heard a presentation from various campus groups about creating a fund for projects that will support climate action and racial justice.

Proctorio: AMS VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee made a presentation to Council calling for an end to the University's use of the software platform Proctorio to invigilate exams, on the grounds that it is an invasive system creating issues around privacy, academic freedom, and equity.

Housing: Mitchell Prost, the new AMS Housing service coordinator, told Council of plans to launch the service, which will help students with off-campus housing.

AGM: AMS President Cole Evans said an email announcing the annual general meeting has gone out and the response has been beyond expectations. He said we are on track for a quorate meeting.

Masks: President Evans also said the AMS is working to make free masks available in the Nest.

Flood: Council was told about the flood that has affected certain parts of the Nest, the result of a burst sprinkler head. Construction of the new area for the Sexual Assault Support Centre has been set back six weeks, and other parts of the Nest suffered some damage as well.

Health & Dental: Managing Director Keith Hester said he and VP Finance Lucia Liang are working on how to handle the extra funds produced by the over-collection of the Health & Dental fee.

Businesses during COVID: Managing Director Keith Hester said AMS businesses were really suffering: down 90% compared to last year. This was not unexpected, he said, but it still hurts.

Steering Committee: President Evans said the aim is to give this committee a new focus on strategies for Events and Services.

Code change: Council approved a change in the terms of reference of the Indigenous Committee.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be held on October 28, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – OCTOBER 28, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **October 28, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Sustainability Update: Claire Ewing, the AMS Sustainability Projects Coordinator, told Council about plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions for 2025; this will involve hiring an external consultant. She also spoke of plans to bring back and expand the Mug Share program, to introduce a waste hub and supply chain audits, and to open the Interactive Sustainability Centre.

Discipline: Sebastian Cooper, chair of the Governance Committee, led a consultation session on plans to introduce a Discipline Committee and develop other options besides censure when Council feels something is needed to deal with the conduct of Council members. Councillors questioned whether the Ombudsperson or the Speaker of Council should chair such a committee. Questions were also raised about the name of the committee and its membership.

AGM: AMS President Cole Evans said there has been high advance registration for the annual general meeting and he is expecting a turnout well above quorum.

Service Film: Student Services Manager Ian Stone said filming is being done for two Services (Tutoring and Peer Support) as a form of outreach in this time of distancing.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be held on November 12, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **November 12, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Code and Policies: Council amended Code and its Policy on Policies to create a new category of Strategic Plans separate from regular policies.

Advisory Board: Council extended the terms of three members of the Advisory Board.

UCRU: Council heard from two leaders of the national federation of students known as Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities (UCRU), to which the AMS belongs. UCRU has been an informal coalition up to now, but plans are to formalize it and introduce bylaws and fees.

Committee chair transitions: Council discussed a proposed new policy on what outgoing committee chairs should provide to their successors and informally agreed with the idea of paying honorariums to outgoing chairs for their transition work.

COVID-19: President Cole Evans announced that to deal with the COVID second wave all in-person events in the Nest are being suspended and seating is being halved in the Gallery Lounge. He also said that business revenue is down 90%, but Services are still functioning.

Executive Reports: VP Finance Lucia Liang said there will be consultations on what to do with the Health and Dental surplus. VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. said the AMS will play a bigger role in this year's (virtual) Student Leadership Conference and said the Runoff Garden in the Nest should be fully operational soon. He also said room bookings and bothing in the Nest have been suspended, and seating has been reduced.

Service Film: Student Services Manager Ian Stone showed a video that has been done to promote the Tutoring service.

AMS Events: Council discussed a Halloween beer crawl involving the AMS Events Department, which posted photos of unmasked people partying. When President Cole Evans talked of the department not aligning with AMS values, Councillors asked how that was possible and set up a committee to look into the structure of the department.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be held on November 25, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **November 25, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Advisory Board: Council discussed the reason for the repeated postponement of reports from the Advisory Board. AMS President Cole Evans said the Advisory Board was still determining how it should function.

AGM: President Cole Evans reported on the annual general meeting, noting that 1,625 people attended and passed all the Bylaw amendments. He said the virtual format was very successful and said he had received lots of positive feedback. Councillor Max Holmes asked if it was a good idea to give out prizes to encourage attendance. President Evans said it would be good to explore other approaches.

Business revenue: Managing Director Keith Hester reported that business revenue was down 80% from last year because of COVID, but said he was confident that the businesses will come out of this stronger.

Math cheating: VP Academic & University Affairs Georgia Yee said she is pushing for a compassionate response to the reports of cheating in Math 100 to foreground student well-being, adding that there is a larger issue of how UBC approaches academic misconduct.

CampusBase and Privacy: VP Administration Sylvester Mensah Jr. reported on the work being done to ensure that the new CampusBase platform for clubs and others is kept secure to protect the personal information of AMS members.

Ethics and Accountability: Council created an Ethics and Accountability Committee to look into issues of alleged wrongdoing by Council members and directed it to look into a question of conflict of interest concerning the VP External (Kalith Nanayakkara)

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be held on December 2, 2020.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2, 2020

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **December 2, 2020** (held virtually on Zoom):

Council Grows! The annual headcount of students revealed a large enough increase in the number of Science students to entitle Science to an additional seat on Council, which on an interim basis is being filled by Science Undergraduate Society President Shovon Das.

Elections during COVID: At the request of Chief Electoral Officer Isabelle Ava-Pointon, Council suspended sections of Code to allow the AMS elections in March to be conducted without polling stations or poll clerks and without in-person campaigning or in-person submission of nomination forms. Council also appointed three members of the Elections Committee.

Arts Student Centre: Council approved a lease for the new centre for Arts students.

Services: Student Services Manager Ian Stone, with his assistant Emily Pearson, updated Council on what's been happening in the very heavily used Food Bank service and the other services run by the AMS.

Audit: VP Finance Lucia Liang went through the recently completed audit for Council, noting AMS assets of \$126 million (mostly the value of the Nest) and liabilities of \$94 million (mostly from the loan to pay for building the Nest).

Indigenous representative Laura Beaudry asked if the AMS would be moving its investments away from RBC as part of its fossil fuel free investment policy. Managing Director Keith Hester said the policy only required divestment from fossil fuel companies, not from banks that fund such companies, but said there could be a discussion on that.

Executive Goals: AMS President Cole Evans said the main collective goal of the Executive has been to adapt and respond to COVID. Other goals have included working on a new AMS brand, working on an AMS equity plan, developing an off-campus housing service, collaborating with other student associations, upgrading our financial systems, introducing CampusBase for clubs, and developing a collaborative approach to sustainability.

Health and Dental Plan: Bahareh Jokar and Kristin Foster from Studentcare, the administrators of the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan, reported that \$7 million in claims were processed in 2019-20, which was a drop from the year before because COVID reduced such things as dental appointments.

Winter Break Extension: President Cole Evans reported that the University was probably going to extend the winter break by a week and was also planning to extend the withdrawal deadline.

Student Loan Interest Break: VP External Kalith Nanayakkara said federal lobbying week had just ended and he was happy to announce that the federal government is eliminating interest on federal student loans for the next two years.

Child Care Expenses: Council approved a motion to spend \$58,500 from the Childcare Bursary Fund to subsidize students needing help paying for diapers and other childcare supplies.

Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be held on January 13, 2021.