



AMS Finance Committee

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
August 15 2022 at 4:00PM PDT to August 15 2022 at 4:40PDT
<https://zoom.us/j/91667532872>

| Name | Attendance |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Eshana Bhangu | P |
| Keith Hester | P |
| Thomas Dunsmore | P |
| Maddie Elder | A |
| Kana Kawanishi | P |
| Alex Liang | P |
| Sadhvi Sail | A |

Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

BIRT the agenda is adopted

Moved by

Seconded by

Eshana: Does anybody have any issues with the agenda? Would anybody like to add something or remove something? There is one item that I added. It's for pure sport. Awesome. We have it. Okay, has anybody gotten a chance to look at the minutes? Is everyone okay with them? Can I get a mover and seconder? Okay.

Approval of the Minutes

BIRT the minutes for the July 25th, 2022 Finance Committee meeting are approved as presented.

Moved by

Seconded by

A/C In the Nest

The AC project we're just going to officially vote on this last week we unofficially voted on it I think all finance committee members know materials were also attached. be resolved that finance committee recommends Council approve \$755,000 from the capital projects fund for the nest air conditioning system upgrade.

AC Project: BIRT that Finance committee approves 755k from the Capital Projects Funds for the Air Conditioning upgrade in the nest

Moved by Alex
Second Eshana
Motion carries unanimously

Eshana: Unanimous consent. Yes. Any objections? No. Okay, motion carries. The minutes reflect that it has been approved. Now we will move to some SPF applicants. One is from AMS sustainability. We have had materials in advance, so please rest assured the committee members have brought them when you're presenting and you are talking to a familiar audience. So I'll hand it over to Sustainability for their pitch on this.

SPF Application from AMS Sustainability

Bernadette: I won't go over it too much because most of the information is already in the applicant application, but overall we are just requesting funding to produce and verify our 2022 Inventory Report to GHG climate. So having a third party verification is needed to purchase the offsets later in the year and mitigate our remaining emissions and also maintain a carbon neutral status. So having this carbon neutral status and purchasing offsets would allow the society to take full responsibility for their missions. That's why we're here today. Any questions?

Keith: the funding when we actually get to whatever carbon offsets are required, will that come from sustainability projects fund as well?

Bern: Yeah. For my knowledge, I know last year's offset purchases came from the SDF.

Keith: Okay, great, thank you.

Eshana: Any other questions? Do we approve this project? So for this large project I will need a mover and a seconder
10,416.

BIRT that the Finance Committee approved the disbursement of \$10,416 from the SPF for the “AMS Net Zero, 2022 GHG inventory report.”

Moved by Eshana Seconded by Thomas

Unanimous consent

Eshana: unanimous consent. Okay, perfect. Motion carries. That funding will be disbursed. Thank you. You guys are free to stay if you like or you can leave if you'd like we're just gonna move on to the next slide. Okay, so we have sustainagineers and I love this name. That's pretty cool. So we have Asha, Chanel and Jenny. So I will hand it to I believe Asha is here from the team. Right? Okay. Awesome. Why don't you take that away?

SPF Application Sustaingineering - Tiny Home

Asha: This is fantastic. Hi. Yes, my name is Asha. I'm one of the CO leads. And with me I have Hypatia. So if you don't mind, I have a couple of like slides that I can screen share. And then we'll just have a quick overview of the project. Okay. So, yes, this is the production engineering. We were founded in 2014. It's to motivate students. Through engineering, raise awareness on sustainability issues. We're now an interdisciplinary design team of over 70 students. We have a lot of current and past but we are here for our current project of tiny home. And yeah, we have a lot of stakeholders and advisors on that project as well.

Hypatia: Yes, so Dr. Ordonez is the kind of lead mentor on this project. And he works with an electrical engineering team called the Alpha group. And so we have his expertise and mentorship. We also have a couple of grad students who have been helping us throughout the project. And then one of our key stakeholders is bills without borders. And builders Without Borders is an engineering nonprofit, and they are currently working with the indigenous nation of Bella Bella and we are looking to the future to continue working with them to create an iteration of this tiny home that will be a comprehensive and sustainable housing unit. And so for this iteration of the project, we're just creating a proof of concept, just a kind of hope, like a structure that incorporates some of our already existing sustainable technologies to create a future tiny home. And so if we go back to the other side, here are a couple of different drawings that our architect has drawn up. These are drawings that we've developed, sustain engineering, group of engineering, engineers, and also other people from other faculties in concert with our architect, and these plans are also kind of been iterated on and improved upon based on expert feedback from bills without borders. So here, a couple of different sustainability elements that we have in the tiny home. So we have our solar powered water pump. These are all technologies that we've developed. We have our rainwater harvesting system. We have a wind turbine that we've developed, and then although we haven't developed our own solar panels, we will have a hybrid renewable energy system energy system that incorporates energy from the solar panels and the wind turbines and then also additional additional electricity from the grid. And so you can see a couple of different vendors there. Yeah, and then currently, we have a permit to build the tiny home on campus which is really amazing. It was important for us to have the tiny house on campus, because it's going to be used for this iteration, rather than a structure that people are living in. We're not going to have that. But it's going to be a kind of housing area for some

engineering students to test the systems that our other teams are working on. And then also have a space for studying or for storage as on campus. And then once this development permit, the time allotted for us to be staying at the NYO space is up, which is the space that the site is called. We are considering moving it elsewhere on campus and continuing our testing and iterations there. And then of course, safety is really important to us. And so we've been working consistently with campus and community planning. We have safety procedures that are being developed and are already in place. And those procedures kind of dictate who is able to work on which part of the project obviously constructing a home is a large undertaking. And so there will be parts of the projects that will just be done by professionals, some that are done by students who are overseen by professionals because it is really important for us that our students get that hands-on experience. And then also part of the project that students can just do by themselves. And so our timeline is a little bit flexible, but we are preparing the site for construction. We are also going to be potentially starting construction itself either before the end of this winter term or after the kind of rainy season during the spring. Next spring 2020. And then for after our permit is up which is time allotted that we can stay on that current space. We're considering a couple of different purposes for the tiny home we are potentially considering having it altered to be housed elsewhere in Vancouver. Maybe someone wants to take that on and make it a livable space. We also have connections with nonprofits in Latin America, because Dr. Antonio has had some connections there and so we're considering there being something there. But once again, this is a proof of concept and it'll be used for testing this. This tiny home is not livable, but the intention is for this iteration to inform future livable tiny homes that will be produced in concert with builds up borders in a specific community. Do you have any questions?

Alex: I had a quick question other than UBC. Did you guys have any other spaces that you were looking into relocated?

Asha: Yeah, so we've been considering the UBC farm. We currently have another project our rainwater harvesting team. They have a piece of technology that's housed there that we've been using for testing. And so we've been considering moving it to the farm which would make it accessible for our students to continue using it.

Thomas: Yeah, I'm just gonna say I really like this. I totally spoke to the wrong motion earlier when I was speaking and I'm just sorry. So yeah, I really liked this idea. I think it's super cute and I'm excited to see how it goes. So is there gonna be like an Instagram account where regular updates about it to make it accessible to students and stuff?

Asha: Yes, so we do have, we have a whole marketing team, which kind of speaks to the interdisciplinary aspect of sustained engineering. So we have a marketing team and we have an Instagram we will be doing updates. Yeah. And you can you can I think if you just like look us up on Instagram, you might be able to find us. But we also Yeah, or, at some point we would like to kind of bring the tiny home because it is mobile. It's actually on a trailer. At some point we would like to kind of bring it on campus, you know, responsibly but so that people can actually take a look at it and like see what's going on and to see like students made this and like other students can be making things like this too.

Eshana: Okay, any other questions? I appreciated the level of detail you guys provided that the budget breakdown was very helpful and responsible. I should say it was nice to see that. Okay, to be honest, like my thoughts as well are that I think we should. It's definitely an interesting project. It's quite ambitious. So, yeah, I'll move the motion to approve

BIRT that Finance Committee approve the disbursement of \$15,000 from the SPF for the "Sustaining - Tiny Home"

Moved by Eshana Seconded by Thomas

Unanimously approved

Eshana: So just to make sure that you have the physical space is confirmed for construction now. Right.

Asha: We have a development permit that started in May. Thank you so very much. Thank you for your time.

Eshana: Okay, we'll move on to the next one, which is blue chip Mondays. So I believe we have some members from BlueChip. Go ahead, Terry.

SPF Large Project - Blue Chip Mondays

Terry: For our project, I was thinking that Monday would be a good day to remove the surcharge of the vegan milk that all cafes have because it's usually twice as much to use vegan milk and not on dairy milk. So the whole idea is to promote sustainability to the wider public. The application is requesting \$5,000 to support Bluechip Monday, so to advocate for more sustainable option and also exposure of non vegan vegan meal credit customers and also to engage in partnerships and also create increased sustainability awareness with the stakeholders, including assess a local coffee shop and also note suppliers because for example, the oat milk is local. What we will do for the bluechip Mondays is that for the whole Monday of the term, we will be removing the 70 cents surcharge to substitute like in your latte and coffee. And this funding will be more than enough if I'm not mistaken based on the numbers for the substitution to be made. And by not using whole milk we can divert more greenhouse gasses, land use and also water use and also by advertising this as a marketing point of view. In terms of just bringing awareness and also like blue chip as the first if I'm not mistaken, coffee shop on campus to not charge for it. We could potentially increase people substituting dairy milk by up to as much as 50%. At least that's what the survey says. By moving in this direction, we're basically following a lot of the UBC and AMS sustainability policy and also like the food systems, because it's more of a bottom up approach. Where we allow people to vote with their dollars by choosing a more sustainable option. And also some people I guess, you know, like to have no dietary needs to be exposed to a more sustainable option. So I think this is one gateway into it. And I think it's also a good way for AMS to be present in terms of like just being in a storefront and actual presence and showing it support by removing the surcharge. Yeah, that's my presentation.

Eshana: Thanks for that Terry. Any questions?

Kana: I think it's a really good idea. I think that um, students will, because I think students nowadays care a lot about value if, if it is properly promoted that you will be doing this, like the Monday when the boosts to improve sustainability. I think it will also increase the popularity of blue chip overall. Just one concern is that I've read before that almond milk is more water intensive than normal milk. So to like align with the goal. I'm not 100% Sure, though, but if we align with the goals and maybe we can eliminate to just oat milk, and soy milk or something like that.

Terry: I totally understand, especially with almond milk does have an overall water consumption, like almond milk has the most but I think overall if you balance it out, you can notice this significantly less, based on the numbers. Almond milk is not very popular anymore, and if anything soy and rich. I believe in the long run, it's still a lot more impactful and like I didn't consider limiting just specific milk piping in the long run. It might be overcomplicating things, but it's good to see where it might go and perhaps if it's really successful, maybe.

Thomas: So just curious about the dollar figure you guys put forward where the 5000 came from how many people you're expecting to utilize this program? And if this is more of just like a test run, or if you actually like found the numbers Yeah.

Terry: It's all of those last year and 2021, in the first term, there were over 1700 substitution mates for all the drinks. And with \$5,000, we can make about just under 3000 medium size drinks. So by foreseeing an increase in demand and also because it's free, I do believe more people would like to try it. So this number can uphold 50%. So the 50% was based on a survey that asked people what's stopping you from trying to sign up, and a lot of times it is cost. They don't need to see this, they don't see the need to spend like 70 cents extra and the added tax on top of that, and if you don't like vanilla syrup, that's like \$1.50 already, so they decide not to but if it's free, perhaps more people would be likely. So this is a very like, liberal figure. If anything, just to like, prepare to be overwhelmed by the demands.

Alex: I was wondering like, Do you have any estimates?

Terry: I don't have the number but it is based on like the 1700 Mondays from September to but I guess just basically every Monday in a month more or less. So 16 Mondays? Yeah.

Keith: my question was, what happens when we run out of the 5000? Are we are we intending to come back to the sustainability project from maybe next term?

Terry: Well, for the first term, I think it's unlikely but come the next let's say the next term finishes, I do see that. It could be a very good marketing thing that can boost exposure and also presence on campus, therefore, attracting more customers. And also it would be a good start for

a conversation about like sustainable options and food, being like one of the main way where we can combat climate change right now

Thonas: There seems to be an intention to come back and ask for more SPF funding.

Terry: Yes, or at least to see how this pilot project will take on and we'll assess what's the next best part about it. And you know if the support from the consumer is good, because I believe that, you know, being the first one to take initiatives, especially on campus, perhaps we can garner more support from the public as well.

Eshana: Okay, I'll ask for a mover and a seconder so we can start debate on the motion.

BIRT that the Finance Committee approve the disbursement of \$5,000 from the SPF for the project "BlueChip Mondays"

Moved by Kana Seconded by Alex

New furniture and decorations for the AMS Peer Support Rooms

Mitchell: We are hoping to secure funding for our Peer Support space which is really outdated. The furniture is breaking down. We hope to set up a comfortable space for our visitors through decor and relaxing atmosphere.

Thomas: Thanks to you Terrence actually. Yes. If you are going to come back and request it again. I'm just wanting to get on with like numbers and how successful the project was.

Terry: Yeah, for sure. like I myself, I believe, like numbers don't lie. So I already have plans to record especially like the inventory for Monday and then also to keep back from the customers from the services. Thank you.

Quarterly Reports

Eshana: We will have more progress on the quarterly report for council at the end of the month. But hopefully we will have it soon. I'm gonna have to suspend code for the quarter report because the meeting is on the 31st. And the code says August 30. So it's like one day. Anyway, so yeah, that's the irony of it that you know, we're hoping to present it on August 30. Council will still have to suspend code because it's like a day late because of the meeting. But we'll share that with you, of course.

AMS Deficit

Eshana: In terms of the AMS deficit, like us, we're just drafting a skeleton which we can share more in advance. We can share that for the next committee meeting for now. It's confidential because there are discussions related to fees there. So just be mindful of that.

AMS Fees discussion

Eshana: In terms of AMS fees discussion, so here's a preliminary idea that we've had, I believe, we spoke about it at the executive committee. So what we're thinking is, um, I'm essentially restructured that would allow us to use all these small, small, small, small fees that we've introduced over the years. \$1 or \$2 fees for things that are just collecting and accumulating and then you have these large large reserves and that's just not that great. So it would be good to be able to use those for use that money for other things. So we just have more discretionary spending. But I want to emphasize this does not mean that the groups and the you know, purposes that the funds are collected for won't have access to that money anymore. For example, like the climate action fee, exactly like we have a process for that. It's not like that money isn't going to students just because we reduce the fee, right, like we still hear the SPF applications. We're still adjudicating that money. So all of that is still happening. And I want to ensure that we're not losing that messaging anywhere, is that the money's still there and students can still use it. There's just going to have to be a little more responsibility attached to it. For example, they'll have to submit a budget. And concern that often comes up is like what if they budgeted 50,000 And then they have a really good idea that's actually going to cost them 70,000. Just like executives and other departments of the AMS, they are able to come to the finance committee. I believe they will also be able to come to the finance committee and ask for that approval. And of course the Finance Committee will be like if it's a really good idea to let them do it. Right. And that's just how funds work.

Kana: like if we group it all up into one would it be like another like an extra step for students to like if they want to they can keep some are like, would it just be like all sortable? We're like not, like not paying off.

Eshana: I think if we were to opt out, well then we would just keep them separate opt-outables.

Alex: What about, like, optional? so opt out will fees or optional fees. Isn't this what if it's like automatically like, opted out, but then you have to opt in

Eshana: No, no, no, we don't do that. That's just people who will never opt in for fees. But forget about us that money doesn't go to us actually, that's gonna lose the group's money and they'll hate it. They'll hate us for it. Yeah. Any other thoughts on this? Oh, of course. Like I know, the concern that comes up is transparency, because right now when you go on this link, I'm looking at my desktop. Let me show but if you guys just open this link up. You can see the breakdown of all fees. But we can totally provide information that helps students with, you know, learning more about where their money's going just with a link that leads them to a different page with that information and broken down budgets and all of that stuff. without restricting our ability to spend this money. Like we're in a \$1.2 million deficit right now, like in terms of our operating budget, it would help to be able to use some funds, which are just sitting there dormant. So yeah, that's kind of the idea behind it.

Thomas: I think it also might give you some flexibility if you give almost percentages or something of like roughly this percent will be given up your fee to this and stuff like that. Makes it a little easier.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:40