



AMS Finance Committee

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
November 4th 2022 at 10:00 PDT to October 7th 2022 at 11:00 PDT
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9334973816>

Name	Attendance
Eshana Bhangu	A
Lawrence Liu	P
Celia Chung	P
Thomas Dunsmore	P
Rachel Kim	P
Kana Kawanishi	P
Sneh Agarwal	P
Phuong Thao Ta	A

P = Present, L = Late, A = Absent, EA = Excused Absence

Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

BIRT the agenda is adopted with the addition of a VP Finance update

Moved by Rachel

Seconded by Thomas

Approval of the Minutes

BIRT the minutes for the October 28th Finance Committee meeting are approved as presented.

Moved by Lawrence

Seconded by Thomas

CUS AMS Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) - Large Projects

Requested \$5,000

Julie: First, we would like to amend and let everyone know that our total funding requested is now \$5000 instead of \$25,000. We wanted funding for the upcoming conference, but now we would like to fund last year's conference instead. RBC was previously funding this conference but CUSustainability was reached out to by students regarding concerns of having RBC as a sponsor for the event. The main concern brought to light was them being a top 5 funder of fossil fuels last year. The partnership was last years and this years, so we are trying to cover last years costs as the funding was pulled back for that too.

Valentina: Costs are higher for this conference compared to other ones because we had the funding and planned accordingly. Some of the expenses included a keynote fee, catering through Uber Eats, using a platform called Hoppin instead of Zoom, gift bags, and giveaways. We had 100 attendees who came and benefitted from the conference. This included a networking session with 15 delegates, and overall the conference received great feedback. We also had 5 workshops and a panel and 2 great keynote speakers, one of whom came from the United Kingdom. It should also be noted that it happened in February of last year.

Julie: We are proposing for this conference to connect students to sustainability professionals. It provides opportunity to not only explore sustainability, but also consider it as a vital career path. Workshops covered EDI, sustainability, marketing, tech, and more. Different scopes and backgrounds provided intersectionality and diverse perspectives. Information was very anecdotal and statistics based. All different features allowed students to be connected with how they can use sustainability in the business world.

Valentina: Most of our attendees were Sauder students, but we also had some external students from faculties like Forestry who attended. This year however, we are canceling the conference. The costs without funding are too high to move forward, so we are asking for the money to cover last year's conference and will not be moving forward with this years. There is not enough time to locate another sponsor.

Julie: Our project impact from last year lines up with AMS' goals. We are also focusing on the strategic plan of UBC from 2018. Further, the AMS Sustainability Action Plan lines up with those merits as well. Our Chasing Sustainability conference provided use last year to consider avenues and find different career path.

Valentina: This conference built community in Sauder, but also built connections outside of it.

Julie: We also want to take down the barrier behind the exploration of sustainability and establish that there is no background knowledge to see what it offers. Lots of people often feel out of space in this sector, so we want to become more inclusive moving forward.

Lawrence: Thank you for the presentation. Thoughts?

Thomas: If a conference were to be held this year, RBC would have funded it? What were they funding specifically?

Valentina: Yes, they would have been the sponsors. They were providing a large variety of necessities for the event, and were going to provide speakers too.

Julie: Our team morale is low and we don't want our team to feel like they are walking off a cliff. Deposits have been paid, as mentioned before with leftover residual costs.

Rachel: Why did you change the cost from \$25,000 to \$5,000?

Julie: We didn't think it was fair for the AMS to pay for the full conference, just overall not reasonable. We decided to shift to what has already created an impact instead of what is not going to be paid for and not cause impact.

Lawrence: How do we feel about the Constituency Aid Fund (CAF) instead? It impacts sustainability, direct correlation to constituency aid. CAF is administered by the Finance Committee and it would relate to helping CUS complete a special project related to academic interest. How do we feel overall?

Rachel: Is there any restriction to how many times a constituency can apply for it?

Lawrence: Three special projects can be granted through the CAF. No more than 3 through a fiscal year.

Rachel: What's the monetary limit?

Lawrence: Normally \$1000, but this is a special case. What are your thoughts Rachel?

Rachel: Acknowledging my bias as CUS president, we want them to get as much support as they can. I think they should apply to the fund that provides them the most support. However, if they get the same amount from either fund then I don't mind what route they take.

Lawrence: Not a biased answer don't worry, any other comments?

Kana: I personally also agree with the funding. It's good they stuck with their values in terms of their sponsorship and standing up to cancel their conference even though they really wanted to do it. It depends on how much is left in each fund, but I think SPF makes more sense.

Lawrence: On second thought, SPF makes more sense. I agree that it's unfortunate that it had to be cancelled, but commend for the decision. Let's put this to a vote.

BIRT that \$5,000 is approved by the Finance committee out of the SPF to Fund the Chasing Sustainability Conference

Moved by Lawrence

Seconded by Kana

VP Finance Update

Lawrence: Overall, things are going smoothly. Opt-outs and ins right now are quiet. We also have some more fund applications coming in for Clubs Benefit Fund, but Thomas can speak more on that as he serves on Funds Committee.

Thomas: Yes, the Funds Committee has been quite busy over the past few weeks but it has been great to see so many projects and high engagement from the student body. After all, that's what the money is there for. We oversee three funds, and it has been a very rewarding and interesting experience to help different individuals and groups fund their projects.

Lawrence: When do you meet?

Thomas: Sporadically, it depends on the week but often on Mondays at 1:15.

Lawrence: Thank you. As for some other things we are looking at, we are working on referendum planning. This is in regards to health and dental research, alongside some alternatives for the mental health plan as well. The finance office is also working on engagement workshops for these initiatives to see what students want in the plans moving forward, and what they don't. Also exciting is the new financial system that has been put in place starting on November 1st. Smooth transition so far! Lots of troubleshooting though and a few more steps to take. We are also looking at doing a reauthorization of club treasurers through a workshop with the new system. As for my VP Finance goals, those will be coming to AMS Council later this month.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 AM

Moved: Lawrence

Seconded: Thomas