

## **STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES**

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Guests: Annabella McElroy (Ubyyssey), Nathan Bawaan (Ubyyssey), Aisha Chaudhry (Ubyyssey), Peter Guo (MNP), Ashley Haines (AMS Elections), Kamil Kanji (AMS President's Office), Celia Chung (Acting Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council), Joanne Pickford (Admin Assistant)

### **A) Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:54 pm.

### **B) Territorial Acknowledgement:**

The Speaker:

- UBC is situated on Musqueam territory.
- What we call Vancouver is the land of the Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam, and Squamish peoples.

### **C) Approval of the Agenda**

#### 1. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO:

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

#### 2. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED KATHERINE FENG:

“That the agenda be amended to add a CFP motion.”

... No objections

#### 3. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO:

“That the agenda be adopted as amended.”

... No objections

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

New members: Rhiannon Terpstra (Nursing), Sabbir Hossain (GSS), Shisir Nurul (GSS), Franziska Mey (GSS)

Vacancies: Architecture, Audiology, Journalism, Library-Archival, Population & Public Health, Regent, Science

Goodbyes: Ayo Lado (Nursing), Cara James (GSS), Chhavi Mehra (GSS), Mopelola Akinjala (GSS)

**E) Speaker's Business and Remarks (5 minutes)**

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

**G) Approval of Minutes of Council and Committees**

4. MOVED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the following minutes be accepted as presented."

AMS Council minutes dated November 23, 2022 (meeting 1)	[SCD289-23]
AMS Council minutes dated November 23, 2022 (meeting 2)	[SCD290-23]
AMS Council minutes dated December 6, 2022	[SCD291-23]
AMS Finance Committee minutes dated October 7, 2022	[SCD292-23]
AMS Finance Committee minutes dated November 4, 2022	[SCD293-23]
AMS Finance Committee minutes dated December 23, 2022	[SCD294-23]
AMS Finance Committee minutes dated October 28, 2022"	[SCD295-23]

... No objections

**H) Consent Items**

**Consent Items Requiring a Simple Majority**

**Consent Items Requiring a 2/3rds Majority**

**I) Presentations and Accompanying Motions**

***MNP Financial System Update – Peter Guo (MNP consultants)*** [SCD296-23]

Highlights

- You want to know what is going on with the system you've invested in and you want the problems resolved before the new Councillors come in.
- You inherited a problem.
- New systems are never easy: the biggest organizations struggle with them.

Background:

- There are challenges with Continia, the new expense management application.
- There's been an inability to reimburse members and clubs within the 20-day billing cycle.
- Ideally should be able to reimburse within 5 to 10 days.
- The students need their money back.
- We looked at Initial Design vs. Implementation.
- Conversation hasn't happened well with the clubs.
- There have been a series of problems.
- We looked at what's causing them, the root causes.
- Need proper governance.
- People don't remember, that's part of the problem.

- Need to get Executive, staff, Encore (the implementation partner) talking the same language. That's missing.
- You need continuity of knowledge even if there's turnover.
- Backlog to deal with: need to prioritize high dollar, longstanding overdue; not first in, first out.
- Need to get the process flow right.
- Establish new governance to ensure centralized control.

#### Observations

- Inaccurate forms.
- Inaccurate claim form submission.
- Insufficient error handling procedures.
- Inadequate process formalization.
- Ineffective policy formalization.
- Instability of system after going live.
- Insufficient process testing before going live.
- Inefficient hands-on training before going live.
- Insufficient end user training.

#### Four Major Buckets

- Quick Wins: standardize the claim forms
- Thankless Tasks: clearing the backlog, with external assistance if required
- Minor Projects: guides
- Major Projects: system changes.

#### Looking Ahead

- By end of February, stability, so people are not being yelled at.
- You don't want people to still be saying, Where's my money?

#### Eshana Bhangu:

- Would like to continue working with MNP to fix this.
- It's like I'm on an apology tour every day over this.
- Supporting Constituencies and Club members is our mandate.
- I see this as the way forward.
- I know I said I didn't contemplate more spending from CPF, but this has come up.

#### Questions

##### Rachel Kim:

- Will external consultation be necessary to clear the backlog?

##### Peter Guo:

- Your existing staff are doing other things besides the backlog.
- You'll want to use us or a staffing agency, or close your front desk, to get people working just on the backlog.
- Have to use brute force.

- The benefit of using our people is that they're trained; they know how to get through these problems.
- We're giving you a good deal, a 15% discount.
- We want to do the more serious parts of the backlog.
- If we do it, we experience it and can write a playbook for you,

Lawrence Liu:

- In November we had a lot of turnover.
- We were training new staff at the same time as the system transition.
- That's why the problem.

Peter Guo:

- The backlog was up to 700 or more; now it's down to 400, which is better.
- But you benefited from the Christmas break.
- The backlog will swell again.

Mathew Ho:

- Re the observations: which are the most serious?

Peter Guo:

- Some are more serious than others.
- Sometimes the clubs were submitting bad information.
- But the serious issues were that too much knowledge was concentrated in one or two people.
- The problem was a lack of dissemination of knowledge.
- We'll fix Continia, but there's a larger issue: knowledge transfer.

Mathew Ho:

- Will the solutions be client focused?
- Should the parameters be made clear to the clients?
- Canvas courses?

Peter Guo:

- We did not focus on the design, but on the inability to process expense claims.
- This is not the time to focus on design.
- Need to draw up guidelines.

#### 5. MOVED ESHANA BHANGU, SECONDED LAWRENCE LIU:

"Be it resolved that AMS Council, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee, approve \$120,000 from the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) for the ERP system transition and stabilization.

"Be it further resolved that Code Section IX B, Article 6(5)(a) be suspended to allow an expenditure of more than half the annual CPF intake and to allow approval without consultation at a previous Council meeting."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Note: The approximate annual intake in CPF is \$450,000.

Note: Current Balance of the CPF is \$2,004,998.27. If motion is approved, balance of CPF will be: \$1,884,998.

Salva Sherif:

- This means the \$120,000 is the maximum amount for the stabilization?

Eshana Bhangu

- Yes.

Salva Sherif:

- What is the breakdown?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Peter went through the breakdown.
- I can't give you numbers.

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... Carried

**For (23): Anisha Sandhu, Ben Du, Lawrence Liu, Erin Co, Audrey Chow, Ayesha Irfan, Mathew Ho, Kaysan Adriyanto, Cynara Onyemordi, Thomas Dunsmore, Rachel Kim, Jasneet Bal, Christian Kyle, Sofia Cecic, Kana Kawanishi, Koda Tootoosis, Cissy Zhang, Maddie Elder, Amelia Walker, Salva Sherif, Cindy Wang, Katherine Feng, Rhiannon Terpstra**

#### ***Elections – Max Holmes***

[SCD297-23]

- I am the Elections Administrator.
- The rest of the team is:
  - Sansian Tan – CRO
  - Erin Wong – Events

- Shayan Jahangiri – Communications
- Please only contact us via our email addresses.
- Election dates are on the website.
- Nomination dates are different for the Senate and Board of Governors: they end a week earlier than AMS Executive nomination dates.
- Faculty Senate elections are a week after all the rest, as set by UBC.
- Might change the closing time on March 10 from 4 to 5 pm.

#### Values and Goals

- Increased engagement and awareness.
- Posters up now to advertise the elections.
- Want to reduce unnecessary rules to allow the candidates to spend less time on paperwork and more on campaigning.
- Conflict of interest situations to be publicly disclosed.
- Will give candidates as many resources as possible via preferred vendors

#### Big Goal!

- 25% Voter Turnout!
- Last year it was 17%.
- Before that, for a couple of years, it was dismal.
- But before that we had three years in a row of 20%.

#### Conflict of Interest

- I will not be participating in Council discussions except as the Elections Administrator.
- I am in a conflict of interest for the Board of Governors elections as I am a current Board member: the CRO will handle the Board elections.
- Written statements will come from the full Elections Committee, not just me.
- All proposed rule changes will go through the entire committee.

#### Changes to Improve Turnout

- Bringing back postering.
  - Big debate in the past.
  - We've heard that for those who are less involved in the AMS, posters are an effective way to get the word out.
  - We will use QR codes to track how well the materials were used.
- We will use polling stations to give out coffee, tea, and chocolate to bring people in.
- Our own Elections social media has few people on it, so we will communicate through the main AMS Communications account, but our posts will be clearly tagged with a logo for the Elections Committee.

#### Code changes

- We won't ask for information we don't need, so will get rid of some of the endorsement requirements: the focus will be on financial endorsements; those are the ones that will still have to be reported.

- The recent change to restrict referendum campaigning to active members (students) would prevent Services staff and Bike Kitchen staff from campaigning; may want to change that.
- We may shift from Condorcet to instant run off voting.

#### *Questions*

Eshana Bhangu:

- Did Services staff bring up the problem of not being able to campaign?

Max Holmes:

- Heard this concern from Aquasoc, the Bike Kitchen, SASC.
- They have non-student staff.
- Looking at this rule.
- Don't know how much the Elections Committee was involved in this Code change.
- We wouldn't change the ban on outside organizations; just want to allow staff in clubs or at the AMS to take part.

Christian Kyle:

- Will these changes be omnibus?

Max Holmes:

- We are here today for feedback.
- Some of these things require Code changes.
- We were planning one Code change for all of them.

Christian Kyle:

- I would prefer the referendum one be separate from the omnibus changes.
- Also, I would keep the Election social media account active; just post something saying to go to the main AMS account.

## **J) Executive and Committee Motions**

### **7. MOVED KATHERINE FENG, SECONDED MATHEW HO:**

"That Anisha Sandhu be appointed Chair of the Advocacy Committee effective immediately and ending at the first Council meeting in May 2023."

... No objections

### **8. MOVED LAWRENCE LIU, SECONDED RACHEL KIM:**

"That an increase of \$2036.36 be approved in the Miscellaneous Expense line item of the operating budget of the VP Administration for the development of the Laptop Charging Station in The Commons."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Ben Du:

- This is to accommodate the new charging station in the Commons.
- We saw a need: if a commuter forgets their charger, it's game over.
- Embarrassing for a student building of this size not to have a charging station.

Mathew Ho:

- So the items have been purchased?

Ben Du:

- It was approved by Finance Committee, so we took that as approval.

Eshana Bhangu:

- Under our new rules this doesn't have to come to Council.

Lawrence Liu:

- This motion does not exceed the Finance Committee's financial threshold and does not need to be on the agenda.

9. MOVED LAWRENCE LIU, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That this motion be removed from the agenda."

... No objections

10. MOVED LAWRENCE LIU, SECONDED RACHEL KIM:

"That an increase of \$2036.36 be approved in the Miscellaneous Expense line item of the operating budget of the VP Administration for the development of the Laptop Charging Station in The Commons."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Withdrawn

**K) Constituency and Affiliate Motions**

**L) Discussion and Consultation**

**M) President Remarks – Eshana Bhangu**

[SCD298-23]

- Apology tour on reimbursements.
- Awards reception being planned.
- Expanding Safewalk for intoxicated people.
- Academic Experience Survey: want it to include more academic experience questions.
- Search firm for Managing Director hiring.

*Questions*

Mathew Ho:

- Is the MD hiring on track?



Eshana Bhangu:

- Yes, will probably be sending out invitations to come to the search committee to help me make the decision.
- Also, Constituency of the Year discussions: 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Will paint the main floor alcove with the colours of the winning Constituency.
- We want to create a wall that shows the winners over the years.

Mathew Ho:

- How much will painting this area cost?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Don't know.

## **N) Executive Remarks**

### **VP Academic & University Affairs – Anisha Sandhu**

[SCD299-23]

Audrey Chow:

- With the transition is there anything you will not be able to complete?

Anisha Sandhu:

- Things are still going ahead
- Very much trying to honour all Dana's goals.
- OER champions night will be next Tuesday.
- Revisiting the Academic Experience Survey.

Mathew Ho:

- Will we hear more about Campus Vision 2050?

Anisha Sandhu:

- We have submitted formal correspondence to the Board of Governors.
- There will be an engagement period in February.
- They will come to Council on February 1.

### **VP Administration – Ben Du**

[SCD300-23]

Mathew Ho:

- Public engagement road show – what is this?

Ben Du:

- This is a first.
- Two projects for improving student experience:
  - Increasing the number of microwaves.
  - Making the pocket lounges more usable.
- We were on the ground with presentation display boards at Clubs Days to gather feedback.
- Online surveys are useful, but I think roadshows are the way to go in some cases.

**VP External Affairs – Erin Co**

[SCD301-23]

Mathew Ho:

- Post-secondary funding review:
- How will we work with UBC on this and what has happened?

Erin Co:

- The Provincial Government has a new leader, and there's been a cabinet shuffle.
- The post-secondary funding review has been impacted.
- Met with UBC to see where our priorities align.
- Both UBC and the AMS want to build more student housing.
- And we both want more non-repayable grants.

Mathew Ho:

- What is happening about the letter in support of Ukrainian students?

Erin Co:

- Ukrainian students approached us for support.
- We are drafting the letter now.
- We want to make sure the process is student-led.

**More for the VP Academic & University Affairs – Anisha Sandhu**

Salva Sherif:

- There have been recent student housing rent increases of 6-8%.
- Are you doing anything to combat this?
- I thought UBC Housing was making a profit.

Eshana Bhangu:

- There will be a 6-8% increase.
- They're not making a profit; they have a deficit.
- Still, we voiced opposition to the increase.
- Rents were frozen for a couple of years, so now an increase.
- We've been told that the lower priced units will have lower increases.
- It's all to catch up, but we have opposed it, saying if it has to be done, there should be offsetting bursaries, and the increases should not be more than inflation.

**VP Finance – Lawrence Liu**

[SCD302-23]

**Interim Managing Director – Celia Chung**

[SCD303-23]

**Senior Student Services Manager – Kathleen Simpson**

[SCD304-23]

**O) Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee – Lawrence Liu**

- Reforecast next week.

**Operations Committee – Ben Du**

- Meeting tomorrow.

**Student Life Committee – Christian Kyle**

- Interfaculty cup going well.
- SUS trivia is the first event on January 31.

**Advisory Board – Eshana Bhangu**

- More conversations about the governance review.
- Discussed how to change the Advisory Board.
- They will help with the MD Search.

**P) Report from President’s Council – Eshana Bhangu**

- No report.

**Q) Board of Governors, Senate and Ombudsperson (3 minutes each)**

**Senate – Melina Amirsharafi**

Eshana Bhangu:

- What are your updates?

Melina Amirsharafi:

- Three new Killam professors.
- Re the lack of family doctors: Increasing the MD program by 18 seats.

Mathew Ho:

- How is the triennial review going?

Melina Amirsharafi:

- Not started yet.

**R) Historical Update (10 minutes)**

Sheldon Goldfarb

Lawsuits

- Talked about the Duke’s Cookies one last summer, but there have been others.
- The first involved a snake dance in 1929 in which UBC students rampaged through the streets downtown and broke someone’s leg.
  - Sherwood Lett, our first President, and by then our lawyer, represented us.
  - We settled for \$500 (about \$8700 today).
- In the 1990’s we were part of a lawsuit over the Travelcuts travel agency, which had at one point belonged in part to us, but which had been transferred to the CFS.
  - That led to a settlement too, and we got money or a revenue stream.
- Other times we lost money (in legal fees) even when we won:
  - We were sued for not allowing anti-abortion displays in the old SUB. We won, but it cost us.

- Set a good precedent for us, though: saying we controlled what could be displayed.
- We were sued by someone over the Health & Dental Plan, and again we won, but it cost us.

#### *Questions*

Mathew Ho:

- Where does the money go when we win?

Sheldon Goldfarb:

- There wasn't any money for us over the displays in the SUB or the Health & Dental Plan.
- We got some money from the travel agency lawsuit. Not exactly sure where that went.

### **S) Other Business, Including In Camera Discussions, Notices of Motions, and Submissions**

#### ***Bylaw Changes***

Eshana Bhangu

- Scrapped a lot of the recommendations from Governance Review.
- Later will come with some Code changes.
- Today Bylaw changes.
  - Added something to be able to remove an executive other than by referendum. Now Council will be able to do it by a 2/3rds vote.
    - Best HR practices to be followed, of course.
  - We've not been assisting Constituencies that well.
    - Difficult for the VP Admin to do both Clubs and Constituencies.
    - Constituency Presidents expect to liaise with the AMS President.
    - So we're adding this to the duties of the President; they'll be the point person.
  - The President will manage the VP's: this is in line with the Code change already made and with other organizations of our type.
  - VP Admin will focus on the clubs, but doesn't mean they won't help Constituencies.
  - Spent whole day discussing how to reduce Council size.
    - Going to reduce redundancy: some Constituencies represented twice, through the GSS and themselves: e.g., Audiology, Journalism, Social Work, Library-Archival.
    - Smaller boards are more efficient.
    - People aren't talking at Council now, but when there are less in the room, more people will engage.
    - Planning has been all-grad student, but now they're going to get an undergraduate cohort.
    - Still, they and the all-grad Constituencies are okay with the change as long as other channels are enhanced.
    - They want a strong Presidents Council and the President liaising with the Constituencies.
    - All Constituencies can send motions to Council.

- The Affiliates would combine to send one representative: Regent said they're okay with that.
- Also, going to make a Code change to have the Affiliates Committee meet once a month.
- Re Planning: will have to work on integrating their undergraduate cohort.

Christian Kyle:

- Future proofing the number of seats if UBC keeps increasing.
- Changing the rule for how many seats the larger Constituencies get.
- They will get two seats at 4,000, three at 9,000, and four at 16,000.
- This is from a mathematical formula  $n^2 \times 1,000 = \text{the \# of students}$ .
- We could just say additional seats for every 6,000 students (instead of the current 3,000), but then only a couple of Constituencies would have more than one rep.

Salva Sherif:

- Would this change the current seat distribution?

Christian Kyle:

- It would take one or two off the larger Constituencies.

Eshana Bhangu:

- We also want to make the VP's into non-voting members.
- This way there will be less of an Executive voting bloc.

Katherine Feng:

- How does this differentiate between the role of the President liaising and the Constituency reps liaising?

Christian Kyle:

- The reps would liaise with their Constituency councils.
- The President would liaise with the Constituency Executives about such things as bookings and reimbursements.

Katherine Feng:

- Can this go in the Bylaws?

## **T) Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting of Council is February 1, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

**Votes and Attendance**

	Constituency	Attended	MNP Proposal
Neal Cameron	Speaker	X	
Eshana Bhangu	President	X	
Anisha Sandhu	VP Academic	X	Y
Ben Du	VP Admin	X	Y
Lawrence Liu	VP Finance	X	Y
Erin Co	VP External	X	Y
Kathleen Simpson	Sr. Student Services Manager	X	
	Architecture		
Audrey Chow	Arts	X	Y
Ayesha Irfan	Arts	X	Y
Mathew Ho	Arts	X	Y
Kaysan Adriyanto	Arts	X	Y
Cynara Onyemordi	Arts	X	Y
	Audiology		
Max Holmes	BoG	X	
Georgia Yee	BoG		
Thomas Dunsmore	Commerce	X	Y
Rachel Kim	Commerce	X	Y
Jasneet Bal	Dentistry	X	Y
Yash Ahlawat	Economics		
Damian Spence	Education	X	
Christian Kyle	Engineering	X	Y
Sofia Cecic	Engineering	X	Y
Kana Kawanishi	Forestry	X	Y
Sabbir Hossain	GSS		
Shisir Nurul	GSS		
Franziska Mey	GSS		
Samia Syeoti Ramim	GSS		

Koda Tootoosis	Indigenous Seat	X	Y
	Journalism		
Victor Liu	Kinesiology	X	
	Law		
Cissy Zhang	LFS	X	Y
	Library-Archival		
Maddie Elder	Medicine	X	Y
Amelia Walker	Music	X	Y
Rhiannon Terpstra	Nursing	X	Y
Charlene Yang	Pharmacy		
Hussein Elhagehassan	Planning		
	Population & Public Health		
Alec Lee	Ombudsperson		
	Regent		
	Science		
Cindy Wang	Science	X	Y
Katherine Feng	Science	X	Y
Salva Sherif	Science	X	Y
Melina Amirsharafi	Senate	X	
Keannu Yu	Senate		
Muge Tiritoglu	Social Work		
Jonathan De Souza	St Mark's		
Shadia Qubti	VST		