

STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

Guests: Charlotte Alden (Ubysey), Annabella McElroy (Ubysey), Jocelyn Baker (Ubysey), Tova Gaster (Ubysey), Nathan Bawaan (Ubysey), Iman Janmohamed (Ubysey), Isabella Falsetti (Ubysey), Guest 1 (Pride Collective), Guest 2 (Pride Collective), Guest 3 (Pride Collective), Guest 4 (Pride Collective), Guest 5 (Pride Collective) and many other members of the Pride Collective and the Trans Coalition, also Guest 6 (Education), Joanne Proft, Brittany Jang, and Aviva Savelson (UBC Campus & Community Planning), Kamil Kanji (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 6:13 pm with Eshana Bhangu in the chair.

B) Approval of the Agenda

1. MOVED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the Chair be allowed to participate in the debate."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... No objections

2. MOVED AYESHA IRFAN, SECONDED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO:

"That the relevant sections of Code be suspended to allow the Executive to not submit written reports at this meeting."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Eshana Bhangu:

- We submitted reports last week so there is not much new to report.

3. MOVED AYESHA IRFAN, SECONDED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO:

"That the relevant sections of Code be suspended to allow the Executive to not submit written reports at this meeting."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... No objections

4. MOVED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO, SECONDED RACHEL KIM:

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

... No objections

C) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Chair:

- Vancouver is situated on traditional ancestral Musqueam territory.
- It is a privilege to learn on these lands.
- Be conscientious about what we do on these lands.

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

New members:

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

Goodbyes:

E) Speaker’s Business and Remarks (5 minutes)

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

Guest 3 - Pride Collective:

- We are here from the Pride Collective and the Trans Coalition seeking equitable healthcare.
- Involved with the AMS Executive, Studentcare, and Blue Cross about adding coverage for gender-affirming care to the Health & Dental Plan.
- We want to add a \$6 fee plus something for drugs, for a total of \$10.
- The AMS President has backed off her earlier support and is now saying this is too much to include on the upcoming referendum.
- But we can’t put a price on Trans lives.
- We’re not satisfied; no Councillor should be.
- The AMS doesn’t get to back down like this.
- The President has been repeatedly absent from meetings on this.
- If this issue is placed on hold, you will have to look Trans students in the eye.
- We’ve been working with Studentcare to put this on the referendum.
- If it doesn’t go forward, it will force us to gather thousands of signatures for a separate question.
- The AMS Executive is so disorganized it couldn’t get this done.
- They have demonstrated abominable ignorance and transphobia.
- We need to acknowledge that part of decolonizing is acknowledging Trans lives.

Eshana Bhangu:

- I am happy to circulate the email I sent on this issue.
- Thank you for coming.
- I absolutely agree that there are serious systemic issues surrounding gender-affirming care.
- The AMS has not backed out of supporting this cause.
- The Health & Dental Plan has a large deficit.
- It might take an \$83 fee increase to cover the deficit; anything less could mean cuts in the plan.
- We have a Health & Dental presentation later in the meeting. Councillors will hear about the finances.

Guest 3:

- This is an extreme disappointment.
- We will not be stopping.
- It's clear what the AMS position is.
- Saying you will continue to support us means nothing.
- You are putting Trans lives at risk.
- You are being wilfully ignorant and are not fulfilling your role.

Guest 6 attempted to speak on behalf of the Education representative, but was informed that proxies are no longer allowed at AMS Council.

5. MOVED CYNARA ONYEMORDI, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That Council allow another student at large to speak."

... No objections

Guest 6:

- I'm on the Education Student Association and am a Trans person.
- This is very upsetting; it feels underhanded.
- The President sent us an email two hours before this meeting; that isn't right.
- Why didn't you attend the earlier meetings with us?

Eshana Bhangu:

- I have to send responses even if it's just before Council.
- I have been very transparent; nothing is being done shadily.
- I have shown up to multiple meetings.
- I have met with members of your group.

Mathew Ho:

- Some of us are not aware of what is going on.
- What should we be looking into?
- What should we be doing?

Guest 6:

- Support the gender affirming fee increases for the Health & Dental Plan.

Maddie Elder;

- This seems like a significant moment for the AMS-trans relationship.

G) Approval of Minutes of Council and Committees

6. MOVED CYNARA ONYEMORDI, SECONDED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO:

“That the following minutes be accepted as presented.”

AMS Council minutes dated August 24, 2022”

[SCD305-23]

... No objections

H) Consent Items

Consent Items Requiring a Simple Majority

Consent Items Requiring a 2/3rds Majority

I) Presentations and Accompanying Motions

Campus Vision 2050 – Joanne Proft, Brittany Jang, and Aviva Savelson (UBC Campus & Community Planning)

[SCD306-23]

Joanne Proft:

- Engaging on the draft vision for the next 30 years of the campus.
- On unceded territory.
- Working with the Musqueam to develop a new, transformative agreement.
- Having conversations across the University: with students residents, alumni, staff and faculty.
- Hoping to finalize a draft in the spring.
- Main way to engage is through a survey, workshops.
- Issues we've heard about:
 - Affordability
 - Climate emergency
 - Relationship with Musqueam
 - Safety
 - Growth and green space
 - How to finance.

Brittany Jang:

- Never engaged the Musqueam before.
- Now engaging with senior leadership and doing community-wide engagement.

- We want to strengthen Musqueam presence on campus.

Joanne Proft:

- Expecting 30% growth.
- Target of 3300 new student beds.
- New neighbourhood development.
- Big Ideas:
 - Balance of needs and interests.
 - Learning City: academic growth; could have over 100,000 students in 30 years.
 - Mixing learning space throughout campus:
 - Mixed use hubs
 - Anticipating development of Place Vanier.
 - Housing action plan to support housing.
 - Community of communities:
 - Childcare
 - Places to eat, gather
 - Arts and culture district.
 - Restorative and resilient landscape:
 - Indigenizing the landscape.
 - Biodiversity, ecological connecting.
 - Connected Campus:
 - Rapid transit station.
 - Enhanced campus transit system.
 - Expanding pedestrian, carpool, cycling.
 - Climate mitigation.

7. MOVED RACHEL KIM, SECONDED MATHEW HO

“That the VP Administration take over as Chair of the meeting.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... No objections

Questions

Cynara Onyemordi

- 3300 beds are not enough.
- Students can't find housing.

Joanne Proft:

- Affordability is hitting us all
- There are trade-offs we will have to make about financing.
- Our hands are a little tied.

Ayesha Irfan:

- What does engagement look like?

Aviva Savelson:

- This has probably been the most student engagement ever.
- 31% of the survey responses have been from students.

Kaysan Adriyanto:

- Will the new housing have elevators?
- Accessibility is an issue.
- Currently some areas in Place Vanier don't have them.

Joanne Proft:

- It's part of the building code now.
- There will be elevators in the new building.
- We hear the call for accessibility loud and clear.

Mathew Ho:

- In the process of building, will first year residences be closed?

Joanne Proft:

- Students will not lose housing.
- The idea is to construct new housing in Place Vanier.
- The plan is to build new buildings first.
- Not removing housing units.

Brittany Jang:

- We will fulfill the first years' guarantee of housing, but they may be relocated.

8. MOVED RACHEL KIM, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That the Chair be transferred back to the President."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... No objections

Kana Kawanishi:

- Can you talk more about Musqueam space and the Gateway?

Aviva Savelson:

- When people arrive at campus, it's important that they recognize where they are.
- There's already a housepost and art work as part of the Indigenous welcome at University Boulevard and Wesbrook.
- We want to do something similar at other gateways.

Shisir Nurul:

- The long term planning is good, but present students pay the cost.
- There was a recent rent increase.
- Is UBC increasing rent to pay for this?

Brittany Jang:

- The recent rent increase was not related to this project.
- It was part of Student Housing's operational budget.
- It is the result of COVID recovery, the rent freeze, and inflation.
- It's not related to the new project.

Max Holmes:

- Current student housing rents don't finance new student housing.

Joanne Proft:

- That is correct.
- The project is financed through the revenue from the sale of condos, not through rent increases.

Anisha Sandhu:

- The student housing targets are not ambitious enough.
- We need rapid transit: SkyTrain coming to campus.
- Students are having to move further away for any housing, not just affordable housing.

Joanne Proft:

- Fill out the survey.

Ayesha Irfan:

- Re communities within communities - having prayer space is important.
- I would suggest contacting interfaith student groups.

Brittany Jang:

- We will involve them.
- This idea came from the students; there was a strong voice about it.

Mathew Ho:

- Climate mitigation: meeting sustainability standards?

Joanne Proft:

- Climate resilient buildings are part of the picture, related to the Climate Action Plan.
- There are various strategies to design and retrofit buildings to the highest environmental standards.
- We have targets to reduce GHG emissions.
- We have a neighbourhood action plan that will align with this.
- We want to avoid using AC.

Cynara Onyemordi:

- Are you going to prioritize Black spaces?

Joanne Proft:

- Me and We spaces.
- Affinity groups.
- Not specifically for Black students, but we want culturally diverse spaces.

Kana Kawanishi:

- Re Musqueam spaces – how will you do this?

Aviva Savelson:

- Been working with the Musqueam.
- They have expressed a desire for a greater sense of belonging.
- That may mean Musqueam-specific spaces.
- Restorative landscaping will mean bringing in Musqueam knowledge.
- Creating spaces to learn about the Musqueam.

Eshana Bhangu:

- 3,300 beds are not enough.
- We expect more.

Student Care Health and Dental Plan – Sophia Haque

[SCD307-23]

Background

- This is part of our annual presentation.
- We work exclusively on student H&D plans.
- We have 25 years' experience.
- We work with 95 institutions and one million students overall.
- In BC 130,000 students.
- We are the co-consultant and Plan administrator.
- We negotiate with insurers, do trend analysis and risk/financial analysis.
- In our administrator role, we provide a service centre and do opt-outs and enrollment, data management, and service research.
- Responsible for handling complaints.

Trends

- After a COVID dip in 2019-20, there has been a shocking increase in claims:
 - \$6.96 million last year, compared to \$4.32 million the year before.
 - Mental health claims last year were \$3.4 million.
- Per capita, claims have gone up dramatically, from \$6 per student to \$74 per student.
- The amount of the increase was not anticipated, though we knew there'd be some increase because of the increase in mental health benefits:
 - At first coverage decreased from \$1,500 to \$1,000, then it went back up to \$1,250 in response to student pushback.

Where is the plan now?

- Plan fee charged to students is \$277.50.
- The actual Plan premium (the true cost) is \$330.66.

- The difference (\$53.16) is being funded by the AMS/GSS Plan through its reserves, but this is not sustainable.
- The biggest cost is claims:
 - Increased use = increased cost, and plan use is trending up.
 - Can expect more next year.
- The current 5% annual increase in the fee is not enough.
- We predict a gap of \$75–\$90.
- There are three choices:
 - Increase the Plan fee.
 - Decrease benefits.
 - A combination of the two.
- Difficult position, partly driven by the student mental health crisis.
- Students want gender-affirming care; it's identified as a priority.
- Also want chiropractic, massage, and vision coverage.
- But the plan is in difficulty.
- The question is, What fee increase should go to the students?
- This is a cost-sensitive time for students, but the plan is important to student well-being.
- We have a survey showing that students do not want benefit reductions, but if a fee increase fails, you may have to look at that.

Eshana Bhangu:

- We did turn to UBC for funding, but they declined.

Questions

Rachel Kim:

- Will this presentation be available after the meeting?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Yes, we want to be transparent.
- Even the \$83 fee increase I mentioned might not be enough, but affordability is an issue, so we can't ask for as much of an increase as we need.
- If an increase fails, we might have to cut mental health coverage, which students said they didn't want to do.

Mathew Ho:

- It would be great to see different scenarios.

Eshana Bhangu:

- Sophia's graph shows this.
- We're talking millions of dollars, which we could cover because of low usage before, but now we're just draining our reserves.
- We want to increase mental health coverage, but there's no money going into it.

Salva Sherif:

- This is also a political issue to do with the province.
- Are we lobbying the government for coverage of mental health care?

Eshana Bhangu:

- It's also a University issue.
- Have been trying to show the value to the University.

Erin Co:

- Yes, we are lobbying the Provincial Government.
- Lobby Week is coming up.
- We are lobbying for increased coverage for contraceptives.
- Also for addressing the health care worker shortage.

Rachel Kim:

- Does UBC not support us because they have their own counsellors?
- But Commerce students pay for them.

Kaysan Adriyanto:

- Studentcare could provide more support resources for mental health, partnering with other organizations.

Mathew Ho:

- Are we lobbying the government to add more support for things like gender affirming care?

Erin Co:

- Not at the moment, but I am happy to talk about setting up meetings.

Cynara Onyemordi:

- What is the sustainable fee?

Eshana Bhangu:

- We need a \$23-\$30 increase to get us by for next year.
- We will put a note on the ballot about what happens if the referendum fails.

Cynara Onyemordi:

- How much longer will the reserve funds last?

Eshana Bhangu:

- 1.5 years.
- Then we would have to make cuts.

Maddie Elder:

- Why would mental health be cut first?
- Are there other things we could cut?

Eshana Bhangu:

- The things that are not being used don't cost much, so it doesn't make sense to cut them.

Sophia Haque:

- Claims drive the cost of the plan.
- If no one uses part of the plan, it does not affect costs.
- Mental health is costing the most because it's producing most of the claims.

Eshana Bhangu:

- We've consulted Studentcare and our other consultants.
- They've all been shocked by the number of claims.
- There's an actual crisis on this campus.

Rhiannon Terpstra:

- Could we put various options on the referendum ballot?

Sophia Haque:

- This presentation is to let Council know the situation.
- We are waiting for more information before the actual question is decided on.

Rhiannon Terpstra:

- Why does it have to be all or nothing: vote yes or lose coverage?

Eshana Bhangu:

- We don't want to mislead students and not tell them the consequences of the referendum failing.
- We are losing millions from our reserve on this.

Maddie Elder:

- Perhaps we could deal with some of the upstream causes leading to mental health costs.
- Things like gender affirming care would help.

Lawrence Liu:

- The University offers an emergency mental health service.
- Not a lot have heard of it.
- Usage has gone down; we suspect the University has not promoted it enough.
- We hope they can step up in promoting it.
- This would help decrease the need to use the AMS plan.

Sophia Haque:

- Yes, there are other issues at play that need to be addressed.
- There are other things that could be included in the plan.

Damian Spence:

- If we are asking for a general increase of \$30, can we add an option for spending \$36 to include gender affirming care?

Sophia Haque:

- Yes, that is an option that could be considered.
- The committee has looked at two categories for gender care:
 - Prescription drugs and surgery.
- Prescription drug costs can change due to utilization. Not a fixed amount.
- Surgical care is not fully priced out. Hope it can be finalized in time for the referendum.
 - This would be a more fixed and stable cost.

Mathew Ho:

- The spike in mental health claims seems to be UBC-specific.

Sophia Haque

- Due to the size of the student population at UBC, the sheer dollar value is large, but there are similar per capita costs at other universities.
- In BC UBC is unique.

Salva Sherif:

- Is it sustainable to keep raising fees to avoid dipping into the reserve fund?

Eshana Bhangu:

- We are exploring different models.
- The last spike in claims came from changing mental health coverage; that led to an influx.
- Before that we weren't seeing financial problems.
- The plan was stable.
- I am optimistic that if we can get through the next few years we will see stability again.

Sophia Haque:

- There are different ways to structure a health and dental plan.
- Other institutions have different models that we could look at.
- One model is a flex plan in which you choose the coverage you want.
- An individual might sacrifice vision or dental for mental health.

Eshana Bhangu:

- Sophia, can you address the feasibility of the asks for gender affirming care?

Sophia Haque:

- The presentation showed the financial state we are in.
- There are a number of different factors that can be considered besides the financial impact: the social and political impact, for instance.
- That's driven by the student body.

- Mental health coverage was driven by the student body wanting us to add it.
- Sometimes decisions are made that don't have financial logic, but they serve other needs.

Damian Spence:

- There's a mental health crisis, so it seems unconscionable to remove mental health coverage.
- Can we take action to get the province or UBC to pay instead of asking the students to pay more?

Eshana Bhangu:

- It seems UBC is not interested in stepping in.
- We've gone through the traditional channels, had conversations.
- We received a strong no.
- As to government advocacy, government doesn't traditionally support student plans.
- When it comes to the students, they can opt out.
- We do try to keep the plan as cheap as possible.
- Don't want to propose a staggering fee increase.

Maddie Elder:

- What are the next steps?
- Is it possible to work in gender affirming coverage?
- Can we see different options?

Eshana Bhangu:

- The Health and Dental Committee has been talking about these things and can circulate options to Councillors.

Guest 3 (Pride Collective):

- Thank you, Sophia, for your input.
- What Sophia has highlighted is that there are social and political factors involved.
- We make the decision about what goes to referendum.
- We hear it's going to be tough to pass a referendum.
- We fear that gender affirming care is being pushed out of the referendum and will have to go on a separate ballot.
- That would make us a target.
- Adding it this year would be massive.
- We are willing to help get out the vote.

Eshana Bhangu:

- We believe that this should be included, but the issue is, Will our plan be able to survive?
- \$6 seems like an easy thing to add, but next year can we afford it?
- I don't want to make false promises.
- We have to be realistic.
- Until we have all the numbers, I can't say we can add gender affirming care.

- Look at the \$1,500 mental health coverage that we introduced as a one-year increase.
- Then that was taken away and it hurt students.
- What if next year the Executive wants to take this away?

Cissy Zhang:

- Why is the implication that gender affirming care would be first to go?

Eshana Bhangu:

- That was not the implication at all.
- I'm just talking about what happened in the past with mental health.
- Recent additions are often the first to go.

Rhiannon Terpstra:

- Has this issue about gender affirming care been discussed in Council before?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Just in the Health and Dental Committee.

Cindy Wang:

- Have we looked to other universities to see how they manage their funds?

Eshana Bhangu:

- That's a hundred percent worthwhile.
- We have spoken to other universities.
- Studentcare works with other universities.
- We're working to find solutions.

Rhiannon Terpstra:

- What would be the next steps?
- Will there be future discussion?

Eshana Bhangu:

- This will go to the Health and Dental Committee to decide on the question and vote on it.
- Then it comes here.

Mathew Ho:

- Re figuring out the costs for gender affirming care.
- What does this process look like and what is the timeline?
- In time for the referendum?

Sophia Haque:

- The goal is to meet the referendum timeline.

Ayesha Irfan:

- Are the Health and Dental Committee minutes available?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Once approved, they will be published.

J) Executive and Committee Motions

9. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That the agenda be amended to add an appointment motion:

... No objections

10. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED ESHANA BHANGU:

“That Council appoint Srusti Subash as Polling Officer as recommended by the Elections Committee effective immediately until March 31 2023.”

... No objections

11. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

[SCD308-23]

From the Elections Committee

“That Council adopt the report of the Elections Committee entitled ‘Code Changes 2023: Referendum Campaigning’ and thus amend the Code as recommended.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Max Holmes (Elections Administrator):

- Code changes in November were introduced to make sure non-student actors (like UBC) could not participate in our referendums.
- The Elections Administrator at the time was not consulted on these changes.
- We’re bringing forward some modifications to those changes.
- Looked at previous SASC and Bike Kitchen referendums.
- Non-student staff who are part of the Society took part in our referendums.
- The November Code change was quite restrictive: it might prevent SASC staff from campaigning, except for student volunteers.
- The AMS has paid staff who are not students; they are part of the AMS, but not students.
- We recognize merit in saying large outside organizations probably shouldn’t be allowed to interfere with our referendums, but the November change went a little too far.

Eshana Bhangu:

- These new Code changes are coming from a good place, but they could be misused.
- I’d be in favour only if AMS Council takes a Yes position.

- The AMS is a student society; students should be the ones campaigning

Christian Kyle:

- How far back have staff participated?

Max Holmes:

- At least 20 years, from the earliest SASC referendum.
- Then there was a CiTR referendum, a Bike Kitchen referendum.

Christian Kyle:

- I strongly feel that we should limit this to referendums endorsed by the AMS.

Max Holmes:

- I don't think the Elections Committee would approve of such a change.
- We do allow No committees for fairness.
- There are diverse parts of this Society.
- The Elections Committee would still have the power to add limitations.
- And under the November rules, would the Elections Committee have to tell the AMS Communications Department that it can't take part because they're paid staff rather than students?
- Studentcare would no longer be allowed to provide information during referendums.

Rachel Kim:

- That's a very expansive interpretation.
- We could just add a line saying AMS Communications is exempt from this.

Eshana Bhangu:

- It's a risk to allow non-students to participate.

Christian Kyle:

- Providing information as Studentcare does is not the same as campaigning.
- I would not allow campaigning by random staff breaking with what Council endorses.

Max Holmes:

- This new Code change would not allow Communications staff to campaign against our referendum questions.
- We let students bring petitions for referendums.
- That would be restricted if we only allow campaigning for Council-endorsed referendums.
- Organizations that are funded by students should be able to participate in referendum campaigns.

Eshana Bhangu:

- Active members of the Society can bring petitions: students, not non-students.

Max Homes:

- Anyone can collect signatures.
- Only the people who sign the petition must be active members.

Christian Kyle:

- I don't know why non-students have to do referendum campaigning.

12. MOVED RACHEL KIM, SECONDED MATHEW HO:

"That this motion be tabled."

... Carried

For (20): Anisha Sandhu, Ben Du, Erin Co, Audrey Chow, Ayesha Irfan, Mathew Ho, Kaysan Adriyanto, Jasneet Bal, Rachel Kim, Christian Kyle, Sofia Cecic, Kana Kawanishi, Koda Tootosis, Cissy Zhang, Maddie Elder, Amelia Walker, Rhiannon Terpstra, Katherine Feng, Cindy Wang, Jonathan De Souza

Abstained: Salva Sherif

13. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

From the Elections Committee

"That Council adopt the report of the Elections Committee entitled 'Code Changes 2023: Referendum Campaigning' and thus amend the Code as recommended."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Tabled

14. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

[SCD309-23]

From the Elections Committee

"That Council adopt the report of the Elections Committee entitled 'Code Changes 2023: Miscellaneous Election Changes' and thus amend the Code as recommended."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Max Holmes:

- Lots of small changes.
- Want candidates to spend less time doing bureaucratic things with the Elections Committee.
- Need to do these before February 17.

Eshana Bhangu:

- I like a lot of these changes:
 - Getting rid of market value for expenses and reimbursements.
 - Hiring staff to remove posters.
- But I have a concern about warnings to candidates not being publicized:
 - If candidates are not following the rules voter should be aware of it, as in the past.

Erin Co:

- More clarification between voting systems: Instant Runoff vs Condorcet.
- In Instant Runoff do you have to rank all candidates?

Max Holmes:

- I think you can just rank one or two.
- If those candidates get eliminated your vote will not be transferred.
- We decided to switch because Condorcet can give you no result: nobody would win.
- Instant Runoff is preferred by most who use a ranked system.
- It's much easier to read the results with Instant Runoff.

Rachel Kim:

- In the Constituency election section, you want to change it to allow the AMS Elections Committee to intervene if there has been "one attempt to launch an internal appeal."

Max Holmes:

- This is because of an issue that has come up: sometimes an appeal is not ruled on, and then the AMS Elections Committee can't act.

Christian Kyle:

- It doesn't say what sort of attempt.
- It should be a valid attempt following process.

Mathew Ho:

- Re postering: it has been discussed in the past, and the conclusion was that postering was not a good idea.
- Now we're going to bring back unlimited postering.
- It can be a source of tensions, and there are environmental issues.

Max Holmes:

- We are not bringing it back as an approved campaign method.
- We are just getting rid of the ban, allowing the Elections Committee to decide whether and how to allow posters.
- This year we're thinking of limiting the number of posters and using a preferred vendor so the cost can be directly charged to an AMS account, and candidates won't have to wait for reimbursements.
- As to sustainability, when posters were banned, they were replaced with lawn signs, which produce lots more waste.
- And we're going to have rules that forbid frivolous poster complaints.

Cynara Onyemordi:

- Why would we not use a simple majority vote in the elections?
- Why are penalties not exhaustive?

Erin Co:

- Why cut out the minimum four hours a day for polling stations?

Max Holmes:

- Better to have a polling station for two or three hours rather than for no hours.
- The list of penalties is not exhaustive because candidates find so many creative ways to violate the rules.
- As to simple majority (first past the post), we have transitioned to ranked votes because that way everyone's vote counts: supporters of fringe candidates get their second choices counted.

Christian Kyle:

- Constituency appeals – will there be changes to this Code change?

Max Holmes:

- Elections Administrators do not want to be involved in Constituency elections.
- It would be great to pass this tonight and I can bring small tweaks later.

Eshana Bhangu:

- I suggest you take this back without a vote.
- We will have a meeting before Reading Week.

Christian Kyle:

- Can we change the Constituency election change to say something about the AMS Elections Committee stepping in if the appeal is not resolved in X amount of time?

Cynara Onyemordi:

- Why will you no longer publish the results?

Max Holmes:

- The Ubysey already publishes the results.
- We put the results on our website.
- We could pass all the changes except the one on Constituency appeals (Article 9, section 3).

15. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

“That the motion be amended to approve all the changes except those in Article 9, section 3.”
... No objections

16. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

“That Council adopt the report of the Elections Committee entitled ‘Code Changes 2023: Miscellaneous Election Changes,’ except the changes in Article 9, section 3, and thus amend the Code as recommended.”

Note: Requires 2/3rds

Max Holmes:

- On the warning issue, most Elections Committees have not published warnings.
- We don't want to shame people.

- This helps make elections more accessible.

17. MOVED MAX HOLMES, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

"That Council adopt the report of the Elections Committee entitled 'Code Changes 2023: Miscellaneous Election Changes,' except the changes in Article 9, section 3, and thus amend the Code as recommended."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried

For (19): Anisha Sandhu, Ben Du, Erin Co, Audrey Chow, Ayesha Irfan, Mathew Ho, Kaysan Adriyanto, Cynara Onyemordi, Jasneet Bal, Damian Spence, Sofia Cecic, Kana Kawanishi, Koda Tootoosis, Cissy Zhang, Maddie Elder, Amelia Walker, Rhiannon Terpstra, Cindy Wang, Salva Sherif

Abstained: Rachel Kim, Christian Kyle

18. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED AMELIA WALKER:

"That Council recommend to Senate the appointment of Anisha Sandhu as a student representative at large, and direct the President of the Society to inform the Secretary of Senate in writing of Council's decision."

... Carried

For (17): Erin Co, Lawrence Liu, Audrey Chow, Mathew Ho, Kaysan Adriyanto, Cynara Onyemordi, Rachel Kim, Jasneet Bal, Christian Kyle, Sofia Cecic, Kana Kawanishi, Koda Tootoosis, Cissy Zhang, Maddie Elder, Amelia Walker, Rhiannon Terpstra, Cindy Wang

K) Constituency and Affiliate Motions

L) Discussion and Consultation

Bylaw changes – Indigenous Constituency

[SCD310-23]

Eshana Bhangu:

- Empowers the Indigenous Committee to be more self-governing by transforming them into a Constituency.
- Part of the Equity Action Plan.
- The Indigenous Fund would go to this Constituency.
- Amending the definition of Constituency.

Maddie Elder:

- Who is on the Indigenous Committee?

Koda Tootoosis:

- Micah, Nakoda, Ceci, and Dominique.
- That's the team getting this going.
- I work with them.

Mathew Ho:

- If the referendum passes and this constituency is created, will the committee still exist?

Eshana Bhangu:

- No, the committee will become the Constituency.

Maddie Elder:

- Will members of this Constituency be self-identified?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Yes, we will not ask for ID.
- We are working on details and logistics.

Health & Dental Fee Increase

Rachel Kim:

- We got a lot of information tonight.
- I think we should wait for the Health and Dental team to come back with costing.

Amelia Walker:

- Thanks to all for coming.
- We will have to go back to the Health and Dental Committee.
- Want to do something.

Mathew Ho:

- Thanks to all the concerned students.
- The H&D committee still has work to do.

Eshana Bhangu:

- We will do more costing and look at more options

Rhiannon Terpstra:

- Will this be a priority?

Eshana Bhangu:

- This has been a committee priority for a few months now.

Guest 5 – Pride Collective:

- It's important to note that the idea of wanting to avoid passing this only to have it rescinded in a later year is not a fear for us: we will continue to fight for our health.
- If it comes back again next year, we will fight again.
- This is not something to worry about.

Eshana Bhangu:

- Thank you, that's helpful.

Cissy Zhang:

- When can we expect an update?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Next meeting.

Guest 3:

- When is the next committee meeting?

Eshana Bhangu:

- It will be published.
- You will be invited.
- We are going to be doing more research.

M) President's Business and Remarks – Eshana Bhangu

- Provincial lobby week planning.
- Updates on funding formula review.
- Final research report on equity based grants.
- MNP collaboration is ongoing:
 - Backlog being cleared, down from 800 to about 50.
- Annual funds and fees reports next meeting.
- Budget meeting are happening:
 - We have seen reductions.
- OER Champions was a tremendous success.
- Working on AES questions.
- New club applications close Friday.
- Pocket lounge renovation and microwaves.
- Lending Library.

Mathew Ho:

- What is the status of reimbursements?

Eshana Bhangu

- Students can see this on the expense management system.

N) Historical Update (10 minutes)

Sheldon Goldfarb

- Last month we had a special meeting that lasted only nine minutes.
- But what were the shortest and longest regular Council meetings.
- Longest was February 29, 1960.
 - 3:30 pm until 2 am.
 - Turnover meeting.
 - Two councils met together.

- Who were they?
 - All white and they look old (but they weren't).
 - Same outfits (blazers).
- Very formal: the minutes say Mr. and Miss.
- Council was very small: only 16 members.
- No Constituency reps.
- President was Pete Meekison.
- His brother Jim, also on that Council, was a generous donor later on, providing the money for the Meekison Arts Social Space (MASS).
- In 2018 he got the Great Trekker award from us.
 - All the Meekisons showed up.
 - Also Patti Darling from that same Council because she married Jim (or was it Pete?).
 - Proving once again that AMS stands for Alma Mating Society.
- Someone named Shakespeare was on Council that year.
- Appointments included the Ubysey editor (the AMS ran the Ubysey back then and appointed its editor).
- Also appointed a public relations officer; this was before we had a professional Communications Department; a member of Council was in charge of communications.
- And then they amended the constitution and bylaws, tinkering with the committee structure (some things never change).
- Shortest Meetings:
 - May 26, 2010, called to order at 6:00 and adjourned at 6:49: our lucky 649 meeting.
 - This was during the planning of this building, and this meeting appointed a food consultant, who recommended we change the Honour Roll to Peko Peko and Blue Chip to Upper Case (and we did, but changed them back).
 - New AUS president announced at this meeting. This happened four times this year: four presidents; well, one served twice: Brian Platt, Elysia Pine, Ryan Trasolini, then Brian Platt again.
 - But even shorter, November 4, 2015, from 6:04 to 6:31 pm.
 - Featured an appearance by Peter Guo of MNP, who did a governance review presentation.

O) Other Business, Including In Camera Discussions, Notices of Motions, and Submissions

P) Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of Council is February 15, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm when quorum was lost.

Votes and Attendance

	Constituency	Attended	Table referendum code change	Code Changes 2023: Misc. Election Changes	Appointment of student senator at large
Neal Cameron	Speaker				
Eshana Bhangu	President	X			
Anisha Sandhu	VP Academic	X	Y	Y	
Ben Du	VP Admin	X	Y	Y	
Lawrence Liu	VP Finance	X			Y
Erin Co	VP External	X	Y	Y	Y
Kathleen Simpson	Sr. Student Services Manager				
	Architecture				
Audrey Chow	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y
Ayesha Irfan	Arts	X	Y	Y	
Mathew Ho	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y
Kaysan Adriyanto	Arts	X	Y	Y	Y
Cynara Onyemordi	Arts	X		Y	Y
	Audiology				
Max Holmes	BoG				
Georgia Yee	BoG				
Thomas Dunsmore	Commerce				
Rachel Kim	Commerce	X	Y	A	Y
Jasneet Bal	Dentistry	X	Y	Y	Y
Yash Ahlawat	Economics				
Damian Spence	Education	X		Y	
Christian Kyle	Engineering	X	Y	A	Y
Sofia Cecic	Engineering	X	Y	Y	Y
Kana Kawanishi	Forestry	X	Y	Y	Y
Sabbir Hossain	GSS				
Shisir Nurul	GSS				
Franziska Mey	GSS				
Samia Syeoti Ramim	GSS				

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