

STUDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

Guests: Charlotte Alden (Ubysey), Nathan Bawaan (Ubysey), Esmé Decker (President-elect), 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 6:13 pm.

B) Territorial Acknowledgement:

The Speaker:

- UBC Vancouver and the AMS Student Nest are situated on traditional ancestral Musqueam territory.

C) Approval of the Agenda

1. MOVED ESHANA BHANGU, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

“That the agenda be amended to remove the historical update.”

... No objections

2. MOVED KAYSAN ADRIYANTO, SECONDED SALVA SHERIF:

“That the agenda be approved as amended.”

... No objections

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

New members:

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

Goodbyes: Muge Tiritoglu (Social Work), Shadia Qubti (VST)

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

The Speaker:

- If you have questions, please ask.
- We want you to feel comfortable participating.

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

Kai Rogers:

- Doctoral student at Allard Law.
- Was VP finance at the UBCO student union.
- Currently VP Finance of Allard Law Students Society.
- My message is this:
 - Born to fish.
 - Forced to work.
- Humanity has been forced to work.
- We used to fish, and in those days we were not stricken with the issues society has today.
- I urge this council to consider this in all motions and future plans.
- Endorse “fishing.”

Eshana Bhangu:

- I didn’t understand.
- What is the ask?

Kai Rogers:

- Born to fish – forced to work.
- I urge this council not to treat this as a joke.

G) Approval of Minutes of Council and Committees

3. MOVED MATHEW HO, SECONDED CYNARA ONYEMORDI:

“That the following minutes be accepted as presented.”

AMS Council minutes dated February 1, 2023	[SCD356-23]
AMS Council minutes dated February 13, 2023	[SCD357-23]
In camera Council minutes dated February 13, 2023	[SCD358-23]
AMS Council minutes dated March 1, 2023	[SCD359-23]
... No objections	

H) Consent Items

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

I) Presentations and Accompanying Motions

AMS 2023 Election Results – Max Holmes [SCD360-23]

- It’s required by Code that I present these.
- After this the results are official.

Team:

- Max Holmes – Elections Administrator
- Sansian Tan – Chief Returning Officer

- Erin Wong – Events Officer
- Shayan Jahangiri – Communications Officer
- Srusti Subash – Polling Officer
- Prad Mandal – Polling Officer

Turnout:

- 22.9% (14,067 Students).
- Second highest voter turnout.
- Most students ever to vote in a Presidential election.
- Unfortunately missed our 25% goal.
- No voting issues:
 - All affiliates could vote.
 - No mistakes on the ballot.
- More detailed data to come on how Constituencies voted.

Preliminary Constituency voting data:

- GSS: 16.8%: less than the average, still relatively high.
- Faculty of Arts had the highest turnout: 29.2%.
- Science: 29.1%.
- Commerce: 25.4%.
- Engineering: 27%
- Kinesiology: 24.3%
- Pharmacy (18.6%) and Law (20%) were below the average.
- Need more outreach to graduate students and professional students.

Observations:

- Peak voting after email blasts, especially ones from AMS Elections.
- AMS Newsletter blasts helped.
- We should have extended the voting hours another two or three hours.

Official results:

- Bylaw amendments, the increase in the general Health & Dental fee, the new gender-affirming care fee, and the increase in the Bike Kitchen fee all passed.

Details:

Bylaw Changes

- Passed with quorum
- Yes: 8680 (85.9%)
- No: 1427 (14.1%)

AMS/GSS Health & Dental Fee Increase

- Passed with quorum
- Yes: 8907 (70.7%)
- No: 3693 (29.3%)

AMS/GSS H&D Gender Affirming Care

- Passed with quorum
- Yes: 8026 (65.5%)
- No: 4224 (34.5%)

Bike Kitchen Co-op Fee Increase

- Passed with quorum
- Yes: 7065 (59.9%)
- No: 4722 (40.1%)

Election Results:

AMS Executives

- President – Esmé Decker (Remy the Rat)
- VP Academic & University Affairs – Kamil Kanji
- VP External Affairs - Tina Tong
- VP Finance – Abhi Mishra
- VP Administration – Ian Caguiat

Board of Governors

- Eshana Bhangu
- Kareem Hassib

Senate

- David Li
- Kamil Kanji
- Kareem Hassib
- Mathew Ho
- Sultana Razia

Student Legal Fund (SLFS)

- Esther Byle
- Joshua Kim
- Kamil Kanji
- Lawrence Liu
- Peter Mutsy
- Romina Hajizadeh

What worked

- Polling stations with free coffee, tea, and hot chocolate – new this year.
 - Had 2500-3000 students at the polling stations.
- Polling stations all got good foot traffic: first year dorms, the Nest, outside the bookstore, and at IKB.
 - Maybe next year aim more at the professional schools.
- Brought back posters with QR codes to see how many were scanned:
 - There were 5,000 scans and clicks.
 - That's 5,000 interactions we wouldn't have gotten.

- The lesson is: keep the posters.
- Information sessions for candidates helped people learn how to run.
 - Can provide more information next time.
- AMS vendor for printed campaign material saved candidates from having to make out-of-pocket expenditures and wait for reimbursements.
 - But people were not good at using the system.
 - That was disappointing: people used Uber to get material delivered instead of just going and picking it up themselves.
- Tent cards with candy and QR code – new this year.
- Maybe roving poll clerks next year.
- Email blasts work.

Areas to improve

- Campaigns had a slow start.
 - Normally all posters would be up the first day.
 - This year only 20%.
 - Is one week (between close of nominations and opening of the campaign period) enough time?
- Candidates dropped out before voting:
 - More than in past years.
 - Need to create more awareness of what's involved in the positions candidates are running for:
 - That should come earlier so they don't find out after being nominated and then withdraw.
- Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate ran out too quickly.
- Some email blast IT issues at first.
- Voting website is old and some said confusing: will upgrade next year.
- Faculty Senator election timeline is too long: will have a different one next year.
- New referendum rules inadvertently prevented some staff from campaigning: need to fix.

Recommendations for next year:

- Have nominations due a week earlier so there are two weeks between nominations and the start of campaigning: that would allow candidates to prepare better.
- Overhaul Elections Committee.
- More polling stations in more locations.
- More information for potential candidates about the role of Vice-Presidents.
- Increase Constituency awareness of the elections: have Elections Committee present to their councils.
- Seven-day voting period: include the weekend before the current voting week.
- Better coordination with on campus partners.

Questions

Salva Sherif (for Katherine Feng):

- On the ballot after voting in yes/no elections no name shows up.
- Is there another record of the result?

Max Holmes:

- We are presenting here, so there is a record here.

Salva Sherif (for Katherine Feng)

- Faculty Senate elections are too long.

Max Holmes:

- Changing the timeline.

Salva Sherif:

- Re candidates dropping out: What can be done?
- Education?

Max Holmes:

- Yes, ideally before they're nominated.
- More info sessions earlier in the year.
- Hire an Elections Committee for the year to do that.

Salva Sherif:

- Some campaigners were out getting their posters scanned, so that could have affected the QR results.

Max Holmes:

- The QR results were the best data we could use.
- I do think the posters raised awareness.

Eshana Bhangu:

- What else besides extending voting could you do to increase turnout?

Max Holmes:

- We want to include weekends.
- More polling stations.
- Targeted outreach to professional programs.
- Present to Constituency councils in January.
- More info sessions.
- More coffee and tea.
- Spread out email blasts and use each student's name.

Rachel Kim:

- Re presenting at Constituencies:
- Could you train AMS Councillors to do this?

Max Holmes:

- Yes, but sometimes the follow through isn't great.
- The Elections Committee would be better at that.

- Also Presidents Council.

Mathew Ho:

- Re collaborating with Constituencies:
- Candidates can present but might not be aware they can.
- Will you make them aware?

Max Holmes:

- Yes, we did tell them at our info sessions.

Salva Sherif:

- Why are Faculty Senate elections and Constituency elections separate?

Max Holmes:

- If I could write the rules, I would run them all at the same time.
- The Constituencies are not the responsible body for Senate elections.
- These are UBC elections; we just run them, and UBC wants the central AMS to do it.
- UBC only trusts the AMS, because the Constituencies did not run them properly in the past.
- The problem is with Faculties that have multiple Constituencies: the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Applied Science, etc.
 - The AUS was not including Economics students; the EUS was not including Nursing students.
- UBC says it's either AMS Elections or UBC that runs these elections.
- In any case, it's a lot of work for Constituency volunteers.
- We're trying to help the Constituencies out.
- We still need to improve the Faculty Senator elections.

Ad-Hoc Governance Review Recommendations Update – Eshana Bhangu [SCD361-23]

- All the Bylaw changes passed!
- Now Code changes:

Changes to the Council Structure

- One representative for all the Affiliate Institutions.
- Removing double representation for graduate Constituencies that are already represented through the GSS: Library, Archival and Information Studies, Planning, Journalism, Social Work, Population and Public Health, and Audiology.
- Arts, Science and the GSS will be reduced to three reps on Council as of May 1.

EPA Committee

- Executive Performance and Accountability Committee.
- Replaces Ethics and Accountability Committee.
- Standing Committee
- Chaired by Councillor, vice chaired by Speaker, or maybe the other way around.
- Seven members including non-exec committee chairs, other members of Council, and the Speaker.

- Collecting and presenting feedback on the Executive.
- A place for large Executive performance concerns.
- Chair of the committee will communicate the feedback to the Executive.
- Committee can make recommendations to Council re Exec performance, discipline, etc.

Exec Feedback and Management

- HR to facilitate the gathering of feedback on Execs to provide it to the EPA committee on a quarterly basis.
- Deadline for this feedback will be strictly adhered to.
- Feedback from all areas of the AMS.
- Each VP gets a one-on-one with Council in camera to discuss performance and give feedback on the President.
- Then the President has a one-on-one.
- Then the President leaves for Council to have their own in camera session.

Exec Goals

- More targeted timeline tied to action items.
- Summarized versions of their goals.
- Updates on goals once a month.
- We need a mechanism if the goals are not approved.

Removal of Executives

- Secret ballot unless otherwise voted on by Council with a special resolution.
- No Exec shall vote on the removal of another Executive.
- Things to trigger a vote of removal: significant violations of Code, Bylaws, or Policies, calls from the Society's membership, lack of confidence in their ability to complete their goals.

Exec updates

- Execs will speak and provide a written update.
- Non-voting Council members: allowed to be in the in camera sessions; new confidentiality agreement for non-voting members.
- Agenda timelines and restrictions: Hard time limits on what goes on the agenda.

Questions

Kaysan Adriyanto:

- If an Executive's goals are not approved multiple times, could this be an item for removal?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Yes, it would be for the Committee to determine.

Anisha Sandhu:

- It would be nice to hear about the onboarding for this committee.

Koda Tootosis:

- What actions can the EPA take?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Nothing on their own.
- They can recommend to Council.

Salva Sherif:

- If feedback is gathered quarterly would there then be a quarterly presentation?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Yes, every three months: July, October, January, April.

Max Holmes:

- Have to figure out how consultation will work.
- Build straw polls or informal votes into the procedure, so it's not just a couple of people saying something.

Eshana Bhangu:

- I totally agree.
- The feedback would be gathered through formal processes.

Mathew Ho:

- Having Executive updates be oral is good; will add an interactive component.

The Speaker

- How do you hold the EPA to account?

Eshana Bhangu:

- We will think about this.

J) Executive Committee Motions

K) Constituency and Affiliate Motions

L) Discussion and Consultation

M) President's Business and Remarks – Eshana Bhangu

[SCD362-23]

- Code changes next week.
- Creating a Constituency repository to support incoming Constituency executives.
- One more event for Interfaculty Cup, then Pit celebration.
- Revising the Equity Action Plan.
- Pride Parade: UBC has been excluded in the past; the AMS wants to be part of the parade next year.
- Report on Indigenous Culture Month coming.
- Hiring an equity specialist.

- Just Desserts April 6.
- Making cuts across Executive portfolios; getting rid of bloat; creating efficiency.
 - Reducing staff and hours.
- Block Party ticket sales with AMS Events.

Questions

Mathew Ho:

- Re the application to join the Pride Parade:
- Other than showing we support the community, are there other objectives we are pursuing?

Eshana Bhangu:

- We want UBC students represented.
- This year we couldn't take part because it was full.
- Students go every year, but it's important that the AMS be there as an institution.

Mathew Ho:

- Was the Presidents Council consulted about the repository for Constituency executives?
- Will it be for all Constituency executives to access?

Eshana Bhangu:

- We're going to consult and see what fits the needs best.
- We also want to run a conference for incoming Constituency executives.

N) Executive Business and Remarks

VP Academic & University Affairs – Anisha Sandhu

[SCD363-23]

Cynara Onyemordi:

- What will be done to promote the Academic Experience Survey?
- I've not seen anything on it.

Anisha Sandhu:

- Email blasts, tent cards, social media posts.
- Relying on constituency reps to relay the message.
- Classroom announcements.
- Prizes this year.

Thomas Dunsmore:

- When does the survey close?
- Is there any Campus Vision progress on housing?

Anisha Sandhu:

- The AES is scheduled to close March 31, but we will extend it.

- On Campus Vision 2050, we are advocating but have not received official confirmation that they'll meet the target we're suggesting.

VP Administration – Ben Du

[SCD364-23]

Cynara Onyemordi:

- Room booking process:
- What are the new things you are doing?

Ben Du:

- We see areas for improvement and have proposed additions.

Audrey Chow:

- Timeline?

Ben Du:

- We want to implement it by the end of next week.
- It will go to Operations tomorrow.
- Relevant staff will be consulted.
- Final changes will go to Ops Comm next week.
- We want this in place for an April pilot project.

Kaysan Adriyanto:

- Can you tell us more about the Nest Safety and Inclusive Spaces Survey?

Ben Du:

- This is the first review since we've been in the Nest.
- We did one in the old building.
- It will cover lighting, security cameras, signage, cleaning practices.
- Wide in scope.

4. MOVED CYNARA ONYEMORDI, SECONDED AUDREY CHOW:

“That Council suspend Section III, Article 1(13)(c) of Code to allow for more questions.”

... No objections

Cynara Onyemordi:

- The survey will go out next week.
- How will you promote it?

Ben Du:

- We will notify through the clubs' newsletter, social media, broadcast emails.
- Maybe in person engagement: roadshow format.

Mathew Ho:

- When the safety and inclusivity survey is completed, when will the recommendations come?
- Will they be transitioned to the new VP Admin?

Ben Du:

- The information will be passed on.
- This is the first step.
- Looking forward to communicating to next year's team.
- The public engagement for 10 days will lead to a report, which will lead to recommendations for next year.

VP External Affairs – Erin Co

[SCD365-23]

Mathew Ho:

- Your report mentioned follow-ups after Provincial Lobby Week.
- What will you do?

Erin Co:

- We will send data to back for our asks.
- Hoping for statements in the House.
- Meetings.
- Getting to know new staff after cabinet shuffle.

VP Finance – Lawrence Liu

[SCD366-23]

Mathew Ho:

- What was discussed re gender affirming care in the Health & Dental Committee now that the referendum has passed?

Lawrence Liu:

- We will see what Green Shield's package will look like.
- We want to finalize the package for September.

Interim Managing Director – Celia Chung

[SCD367-23]

Sr. Student Services Manager – Kathleen Simpson

[SCD368-23]

O) Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee – Anisha Sandhu

- Reviewing survey policy.

Steering Committee – Eshana Bhangu

- No report.

Finance Committee – Lawrence Liu

- Having managers come in to discuss their departmental contributions, budgets.

Operations Committee – Ben Du

- Microwave addition project:
 - Line-ups at the microwaves.
 - Engaged during Clubs Days, asking if the Nest needs more microwaves.
 - The students do want more microwaves: 450 said yes, to only 30 no.
 - Happy to announce that Ops Comm has approved tripling the number of microwaves in the building, from six to 18.
 - They will be spread around the building.
- Event Venue Benefit:
 - The Great Hall, the only place for big crowds, is overbooked.
 - No more availability in March and April.
 - We are turning away clubs.
 - Alternative venues outside the Nest are expensive (about \$2,000).
 - So we've proposed this Event Venue Benefit for clubs to help cover booking costs.
 - Retroactive to March 1.
 - We want clubs to be able to hold successful year end events; we want to end on a high.
 - This will help with club membership retention.

Rhiannon Terpstra:

- Will the benefit be available to Constituencies?

Ben Du:

- The money is coming from the Clubs Benefit Fund, so no.
- But Constituencies seeking relief can apply to the Constituency Aid Fund.

Mathew Ho:

- How about toasters?

Ben Du:

- We didn't ask about toasters.
- But if there is demand, we can look at that.
- We want to give students what they want to create a more convenient experience.

Governance Committee – Audrey Chow

[SCD369-23]

HR Committee – Cynara Onyemordi

[SCD370-23]

Student Life Committee – Christian Kyle

- Interfaculty cup.
- First Year Formal.

Eshana Bhangu:

- When did you last meet?

Christian Kyle:

- Our subcommittees meet.

Advisory Board – Eshana Bhangu

- No report.

P) Report from President's Council – Eshana Bhangu

- No report.

Q) Board of Governors, Senate and Ombudsperson (10 minutes each)

Board of Governors – Max Holmes

Eshana Bhangu

- What's your update?

Max Holmes:

- The Board committee cycle has finished.
- Campus vision 2050 engagement.
- Discussed alumni portfolio.
- Finance Committee.
 - Budget not approved.
 - Budget will come back.
- Trek endowment spend rate.
- Statement on responsible investing
- Student Affordability Task Force.
- Dissolved climate action committees.
- New committee on how to appoint people.
- Enrollment targets.
- Beatty addition.

Cynara Onyemordi yielded to Kamil Kanji.

Kamil Kanji:

- What is happening with the idea of having a committee to make appointments to committees?

Max Holmes:

- The idea has been discussed.
- The student governors are in favour of a nominating committee.
- The Board Chair currently holds this power, but I think this committee will be created; it's a matter of time.

Katherine Feng:

- Can you provide more details about the Affordability Task Force?

Max Holmes:

- Funding food security out of cash reserves: spending not yet decided.
- Money for needs-based rather than merit-based aid.
- Matching dollars with donors.
- There is also implementation of ideas without new funding.

Senate – Eshana Bhangu

- Senate passed a policy to cap the cost of digital assessment tools.

Mathew Ho:

- Re UBC and Affiliates, can you provide more details?

Eshana Bhangu:

- It was covered in the Ubyyssey Senate recap article.

Mathew Ho:

- Do you think there should be more follow-up to make sure UBC fulfills its commitments?

Eshana Bhangu:

- Yes, I encourage you to take that on.

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

Ethical Integrity at UBC

[SCD371-23]

5. MOVED THOMAS DUNSMORE, SECONDED MATHEW HO, THIRDED RACHEL KIM:

“That the meeting go in camera.”

The meeting entered an in camera session at 8:00 pm.

S) Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of Council is March 29, 2023.

Votes and Attendance

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

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