

Presidents Council Meeting

Date: August 15, 2023

Time: 7:00-8:00PM PST

Present: Esme (AMS President) Amelia (Music), Karisma (Engineering), Emma (Arts), Abhi (AMS VP Finance), Miucci (Design/Architecture), Kelly (Land and Food Systems), Thomas (Commerce), Ryan (Law Students Society), Yik Khai (Vancouver School of Economics), CK (AMS Constituency Relations Lead)

Late:

Regrets: Jasper (Dentistry), Emmett (Education), Sophy (Forestry), Sam (Grad Students Society), Koda (Indigenous Students Society), Victor (Kinesiology), Allison (Library and Archival Studies), Charles (Medicine), Aileen (Nursing), Allan (Pharmacy), Willow (Planning), Eunice (Regent College), Jessica (St. Mark's/Corpus Christi), Brandon (Science), Sandy (Vancouver School of Theology), Kamil (AMS VP Academic), Ian (AMS VP Admin), Tina (AMS VP External)

Minutes taken by: CK

I. Call to Order

Meeting is called to order at 7:12 PST.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of minutes of July 18 as presented

Approved by Consent

III. Discussion on Constituency Harassment Policies

Some Constituencies have their own harassment policies or their own HR Departments while others defer to the AMS's PC-1 and PC-2 policies. What does your constituency do and how has that been going?

Esme (AMS): In the drafts that myself and Josh are working on they say the AMS Policies handle AMS things and we are strongly considering making the policy defer to constituencies in the case they want to handle their own

Emma (AUS): We were going to create an HR Committee as part of our council so that issues were not taken to VP Internal. We've put that on hold to see how all this plays into it. There was a back and forth as to what applies (ex: events issue vs internal argument regarding VPs, etc). When it comes to serious harassment and bullying we defer to the AMS and that's the viewpoint of both myself and my GovComm as well as VP Internal and HR.

Karisma (EUS): We're finishing a policy rewrite right now. With that we have had informal harassment procedures that are not codified in policy. The written policy is pretty intense and says it is reported automatically (over the victim's head) and we're looking to make it more voluntary

Amelia (MUSA): We defer to AMS, we haven't actually had to use it in recent history. :We don't have an explicit policy, as a smaller group but we do take training and are looking at a session addressing these issues

Kelly (LFSUS): Last year they approved a respectful behaviour and environment policy (we didn't know we were supposed to defer to AMS) that talks about having an inclusive

environment and makes sure council goes through SVPRO training and establishes a report form. Looking to improve each year

Thomas (CUS): CUS has our own HR Department and Equity Department which deal with separate issues - proactive and reactive measures. We are working on making our ombudsperson & those departments significantly more approachable & visible

Ryan (LSS): We have an ombudsperson for this sort of thing

Miucci (DESUS): We also defer to AMS for these sorts of things, as a smaller constituency we don't have an HR or Equity department

CK (AMS): The goal would be to allow Constituencies to make their own choices so that they are not forced to take everything to AMS

Esme (AMS): Looking at adding a provision to allow constituencies to defer if they want to but not forced to. They are long documents so wanted to open space if people had any comments or questions.

IV. PC-1 and PC-2 Policy Update

The AMS is finishing its multi-year review of Policies regarding bullying, harrassment, and sexual violence. The final drafts are attached here

📄 AMS Policy PC1 Draft - August 2023.pdf **📄 AMS Policy PC2 Draft - August 2023.pdf**

and we are looking for feedback. A key change to both policies is changing the review window to be every year. We will circle back later this year for more comprehensive revisions in how the policies impact constituencies based on this feedback!

V. AMS Elections Update

A brief one-pager from our AMS Elections Administrator regarding constituency elections! The tldr is: email elections@ams.ubc.ca with your Elections Administrator's Contact Info, EA training sessions are on August 29th, September 11th, and September 18th. Attendance is mandatory for your election to happen! To get a rough idea here, which constituencies are running fall elections and in what contexts? (ex: First year councils, by-elections)

📄 *AMS Fall Elections Guide.pdf*

Emma (AUS): Year reps happen in the fall, 2 first year reps, 2nd+3rd+4th

Karisma (EUS): First year council

Amelia (MUSA): Year reps + AMS Rep

Yik Khai (VSEUS): Department/Degree reps for VSEUS Council

Kelly (LFSUS): First year reps (2) + By-Elections for a couple VPs

Thomas (CUS): First year reps (2) and a 4th year rep

Miucci (DEUS): First year rep

Ryan (LSS): Just one rep

Misc Questions

How do you define your constituency membership?

Emma (AUS): Bachelor of Fine Arts, Media Studies, Arts (no Econ/Music/International Econ), Double Majors that include Arts

Amelia (MUSA): Looked at constitution, we are supposed to cover all BA (Music) but BA Music students can't participate in MUSA Elections, same with Music Education

VSEUS: Not sure if BA Econ can vote in AUS or not

Emma (AUS): I remember an issue where the ballot opened early and econ students could vote and it was a pretty big issue so that means they aren't supposed to vote

VSEUS: Student fees are split between VSEUS

<Protracted discussion of everyone staring at their Constituency Constitutions>

Karisma (EUS): Engineers

Ryan (LSS): JD Students - does not include Masters students

Kelly (LFSUS): Everyone in LFS, includes double major with Education

Thomas (CUS): All Bachelor of Commerce students

Miucci (DESUS): All Bachelor of Design students

VI. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at PST.

VII. Next Meeting Locations

September - Allard Law School

October - Engineering Student Centre

November - Sauder