

Affiliates Committee
Meeting Minutes for September 15th, 2023

Meeting Link (Hybrid)

<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/68507644489?pwd=WkRodHhzQy9NcUVqa2FHWjJSWjVQdz09>

Attendance

Present

- Ian Caguiat (VP Administration, Chair)
- Priscilla Ng (Recording Secretary)
- Clayton Cullaton (Regent's College)
- Jessica Sangalang (St. Mark's College/Corpus Christi)
- Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council, non-voting)
- Sandy Hwang (VST President)
- Kamil Kanji (VP Academic & University)

Regrets

- Tina Tong (VP External)
- Esmé Decker (President, ex officio)

Guests

- N/A

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **2:06 PM PDT**.

Territorial Acknowledgement - Tina

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) People.

Next Meeting: Sandy

Moved: Sandy

Seconded: Clayton

“**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the agenda is adopted as presented.”

This motion passes unanimously

Approval of the Minutes

Moved: Jessica

Seconded: Clayton

“**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following minutes be accepted as presented:
July 27th Affiliates Committee Minutes.”

Important Links: [July 27th Affiliates Committee Minutes.pdf](#)

This motion passes unanimously

Agenda Items

1. **Affiliates Representative in Council (Follow-Up)**
 - Jessica
 - Corpus and St.Marks wants to go ahead with the referendum, Clayton also wants the same movement - more so boiling it down to the ended to recognize affiliate schools as separate constituencies bcus they have distinct student bodies (in their case, they have grad and undergrad students)
 - What do you want to do moving forward?
 - Kamil
 - We can do this sooner, we could do it at the AGM - for October, as long as AGM hits quorum
 - Clayton
 - That would be my thought

- There's complexity of getting on the same page, by and large, anyone who sits on council has fiduciary responsibility to the society
- We each are in some way connected to 3 distinct board of governors, so we have a weird situation where we have fiduciary duty to our student and board of governors.
- Especially around PC1 and PC2, each institution has different separate codes of conduct and it's quite complicated legally to figure out what happens based on those. But I sit there in council having to think through the implications of PC1+2 on 3 different student codes of conduct, and each has their own legal counsel etc.
- So it really doesn't compute - institutionally we can't extend that much accountability
- Our desire is to go to referendum at the AGM, if we as affiliates gathered our constituencies to vote, we would be well on our way
- Kamil
 - Just to give context, there's the conversation of representation, and now the representative represents about a similar amount of people as an arts rep for example. You only represent about 200 students
- Sheldon
 - October 19th AGM by sep 29 we have to publish notice giving agenda, and esp if we are making bylaw change, we have to announce the bylaw proposal by then, which means the Sep 27th council meeting is crucial - because that's the one that votes yes on this bylaw amendment proposal.
- Sandy
 - I feel caught in between because I see arguments from both ends. In council we are 1/32 but we are a very very small population of overall ubc students, but also we are different from each other. Of course its nice to have our own representation, but looking at the bigger picture it makes sense why this change is made.
- Clayton
 - On the other hand, 100% of arts students get to select who they want on council, where as VST students didn't get to choose
- Kamil
 - Is there a way we can make affiliates select their rep?
- Clayton

- How outpaced our student unions are, as enrollment changes every year. Technically they can vote, but also can opt out of the services so its complicated.
- Ian
 - When it comes to getting someone elected it doesn't really make sense. What if there are 500 students in Regnet, 200 in others, then the Regent rep could always just win that election
 - Something to consider
- Clayton
 - The affiliates at some point were non-voting members but had a seat on council. I wonder (just being creative) what would happen if we could split the votes
 - There's something about getting to be in the room that could get things moving in the other direction. I feel a lot of pressure adequately representing the diversity of our student body collectively
- Kamil
 - Non-voting members do provide a voice to council and add to the conversations
- Ian
 - That is a potential solution, if we are unlucky in getting it passed
 - Ensuring that affiliates can have non voting seat, and then Clayton or rotate, could be the voting member
- Sheldon
 - That would require council to pass a motion - council has power under code to create non-voting seats
 - They could assign non-voting seats to the affiliates that don't have seats.
 - Not sure about rotating though
- Clayton
 - Could we split the vote in thirds?
- Kamil
 - Is this an annual rotation?
- Clayton
 - That still runs into the complexity of the fact that how do you give 3 separate institutions 1 seat. There's a charter with the provincial gov of BC that has created each of our institutions, and we are bound by that. It feels very different.

- I get confused when it comes to the relationship different between the constituencies vs affiliates relation to UBC
- Sandy
 - The way I see it is that we have a lot of distance students who can opt out, if I take a whole seat at council, a quarter/half of our students might not even be paying the fees so I don't want my interests to overpower the interest of other thousands of students who are actually on campus.
- Clayton
 - All things equal, if the student body at an AGM would be willing to get offered seats, if we don't pass that then that's part of our answer
- Kamil
 - To see that best reflected, referendum would make the most sense
- Ian
 - Should we do referendum or AGM?
- Kamil
 - I don't know haha
- Jessica
 - What would the referendum mean? Is that after the AGM?
- Sheldon
 - Referendum can be held anytime during school year, but recently we wait til the election period in March, we could also try it in the fall or at the AGM and then go to referendum.
 - 8% of eligible voters need to vote yes (5000 students)
 - At AGM, 600 ppl attending you need 2/3rds majority so about 400-500 ppl voting yes as opposed to 5000.
- Kamil
 - Last year we did it during election period bcus we wanted as much of the student body to vote as possible, that was part of the rationale
- Clayton
 - One of the other things we haven't discussed is for example how each of our presidents are a part of the faculty senate, so if I do something crazy, i have implicated 2 other institutions - which could be the situation for any of us.
 - Either we have to trust 1 shared representative to represent 3 different bodies or we have 2 non voting members and 1 fiduciary to the whole AMS that we share
- Sheldon



- Non voting members are included in the in camera
- Clayton
 - Or we have 3 separate fiduciaries to the whole AMS who help lend voice from the perspectives of our various institutions
 - I think the 1 is rather complicated and bears risk that none of us feel comfortable with. We can't predict the years to come
- Sandy
 - Can we try the non voting seats for a few months for us to observe whether the decisions you have made are the ones we would make and then go from there?
 - My recommendation is not to push through for the AGM but try the non voting seats and then further discuss this down the road
- Sheldon
 - Council will have to amend code to create 2 non voting seats
- Jessica
 - Any AMS member can sit in a council meeting but they are just non voting member
- Sheldon
 - Yes but they are required to leave during in camera sessions. Non voting members have other rights, move motions and sit on committees and are a part of council. There's a slightly higher status and more responsibility if you rae a non voting member compared to a guest
- Ian
 - We can propose this in our next council meeting to add the 2 non voting seats?
- Sandy
 - That would be my first choice, to give that a try first
- Sheldon
 - Referendum questions don't need to be decided til sometime in February if we are holding it during elections
- Clayton
 - I don't share the concern for representation for this reason. I think the council is already balanced to favor undergrad students. Trying to advocate for grad students is a main concern for me, and the impact of policies that govern graduate students.
 - There are issues we share as affiliates that speak on behalf of grad student experience which is way underrepresented on council. In

some ways when we advocate for access to some things, it pans out.

- So give the kind of drama that's happening in drama, I feel uneasy about trying to represent 2 different boards, it's already complicated enough trying to navigate Regents.
- So it doesn't seem that big of an ask for all affiliates to have a vote
- Kamil
 - AMS has strong relationship with the GSS
- Ian
 - Let's do a quick raise of hands on this one and see what the majority thinks
 - I feel like doing those things at the same time would show that you are bound to get that motion rejected in AGM, feels like you are preparing for a loss because you want 2 things at the same time
 - We will also still have this committee regardless!
- Sandy
 - It feels a bit rushed but I also don't know the drama, I'm missing information so I can't make an informed decision
- Clayton
 - Being able to raise a placard makes a difference in the room especially is council meetings are contentious
- Jessica
 - I am totally in agreement with the first step of nonvoting councilors just for Sandy and I to dip our feet in and get used to council first
- Sandy
 - That gets us in consensus then!
- Ian
 - If council says no, just as a backup, is to have our affiliates comm bi-weekly and also before council so we can have a conversation about the topics before, and Clayton can represent those interests!
- Everyone
 - That's a good idea!
- Clayton
 - We could even draft a motion together asynchronously and add it to the agenda. You could also still come to council too.
- Sheldon
 - I can draft it and send it back to Ian next week, and then the committee could look it over by email.



- Ian
 - Do we need to get it through gov comm
- Sheldon
 - You have to consult!

2. Affiliate Student Benefits and Concerns

- Clubs
- Rec facilities and intramural sports
- U-Pass Bus Pass
- Advising
- Counselling
- Writing Centre
- Libraries and computer services
- Centre for Accessibility
- Employment opportunities
- AMS Health and Dental Plan
- Affiliate Student ID

- Ian
 - Aside from those, are there other things students get access to?
- Sandy
 - I think for rec facilities, affiliates students have to pay more, \$40/term vs \$40/month
 - We also want ubc email address that allows us access to Microsoft
 - We just want equal benefits considering that we are paying equal fees
 - Some U-Pass isn't going through for us either
- Ian
 - For Rec facilities and ID, that is more on Kamil's side
- Kamil
 - I will reach out for you to discuss these issues
- Clayton
 - There's a strange relationship where we have to send over in batches, its a different process because we have a different enrollment apparatus



- Its a convoluted process, that would be easier if it could be wrapped into the same infrastructure.
- The rec fee is confusing because there's a recreation fee that is 100s of dollars that we aren't paying. But we do pay the athletics and intramural fee.
 - We reached out asking if we could have a basketball team and they said we weren't listed
- Access to some of these benefits are encumbered. Someone was refused from the aquatics center too.
- Sandy
 - We also want our students to have access to International Student Advising
- Jessica
 - Some of our student have difficulty accessing clubs so I will make a list of students names and student numbers and send it over to you
- Ian
 - Yes that is for Campusbase access
- Kamil
 - They are figuring out the library access as well
- Clayton
 - Our library reserved period is shorter, and will only extend so far based on registration so they are sorting that out.
- Ian
 - We are open to doing a presentation on services and resources your students have access to as well!
- Sandy
 - Thank you for that! It was very engaging!
- Clayton
 - One good things to put on your radar: it would benefit us a lot to have a tax clinic, a tax office before it gets too busy. Next year it would be great to have a scheduled Studentcare rep to come to each institution and present to give clarity for the process (eg. what is covered, etc.).
 - Before tax season comes that would be helpful - we could even have a shared event, just to help those from overseas to access services or file on their own
- Ian



- Is that an issue that would only be specific to affiliate students or all UBC students?
- Sandy
 - Probably all, but small sessions so its not too overwhelming.
- Clayton
 - There's some specificity to grad students who have families, spouses, and collecting income and support for our degrees from overseas.
 - As an American who is being payed through a US non profit, it was really complicated - I am almost certain we paid way more than we should've paid
- Ian
 - We have some clubs that organize tax clinics so we could get in touch with them
- Kamil
 - We could do a joint thing with Abhi on financial literacy clinics.

3. **New Student Orientations**

4. **Council Update (Clayton)**

- Clayton
 - Nothing else to share besides what I shared earlier.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will take place between **2 pm to 3 pm on October 6th.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **3:09 PM PDT.**