

Affiliates Committee

Meeting Minutes for November 15th, 2023

Meeting Link (Hybrid)

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

Attendance

Present

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

Regrets

- N/A

Guests

- N/A

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **12:36 PM PDT**.

Territorial Acknowledgement - Jessica

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

Next Meeting: Joshua

The minutes for September 15th and October 6th will be distributed by email and we will be holding an e-vote for approval.

Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

Moved: Sandy

Seconded: Jessica

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

This motion passes unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. **Non-Voting Affiliates Seat**

- Kamil: Governance committee recommended talking about it more before coming to a conclusion
- Sheldon:: Finding alternative ways to represent needs of affiliate students
- Sandy: What problem do they have with non-voting seats? Could you explain?
- Ian: Main point - would set a big precedent for other seats removed in council - not best governance practice - to be changing up everything we just did a couple of months ago.
- Kamil: Smaller school - Arch and Planning - have unique needs but still are consolidated into individual seats.
- Clayton: Are those other constituencies institutions? Or just departments of UBC.
- Kamil: Just other departments
- Josh: School of arc and Journalism was under engineering and grad school - so just gave it to GSS.
- Clayton: People need to understand that affiliate schools are separate institutions, boards, mandates, charters, funding.
 - Not the same thing to say arch and social work can be shared rep as 2 diff departments within same institutions vs separate institutions
 - Faculties versus different institutions that are funded by donors that wouldn't get along with each other and if something comes up where we

vote a certain way on one it could piss off one of our major donors down the line, and that would deeply affect the existential reality of our institution just because we're voting on a policy. You know one way or another for the best interest of the AMS with the fiduciary responsibility, and without any kind of representation to like stand in for a different institution with different charters in the relationship to the provincial, it's not just like oh, we have different we think about things different and it's like we actually have different mandates and like relationship to it. If the province of BC wants to shut down Regent that doesn't affect VST it doesn't affect Corpus Christi but like that could happen you know something like that so you know I do think there's there's other way around, trying to like manage the current reality based on governance practises and going back-and-forth on decisions, but somebody didn't think that through last year and if it was the affiliates that didn't say that then that's on our previous like our predecessors but that reality is true and it is not the same for other constituencies so I know I wish I could be there in person to say that in this way to them but it's just it's a misnomer.

- Ian: I think that's definitely a concern - I remember Sheldon also talking about that point in the governance committee and I think that's also why they are not dismissing this as a Code change and that they are only asking us to look into other options as well.

- Clayton: Of items I think in the meantime, one thing that could be helpful and I thought about how forward given the complexities of the situation. For those in voting seat if we have, if we know that that each institution would have is wonder you to vote before Council or approval or agreement with a vote before council on major things like committee appointments and stuff like that or they don't they don't carry the same weight but if there are items that are consensus, then we vote given whatever direction that we are, and if they if there's not consensus, then we just hold the policy of abstaining and not for any reason based on the policy itself but just because we can't adequately represent three different institutions with the boat that we're not in unison. Obviously we want to fund the food bank. Obviously we want access and things like that but if there's hot topic issues that would create tension between institutions or divergence then we just abstain for lack of representation.

- Sandy: For hot topic items if we can bring that into this committee so we can still have our meetings and have right here that means our voice are still represented and that way we don't mess with the governance structure with AMS, but at the



same time we achieve our purpose of having our voices hurt. I really like that thank you.

- Kamil: I don't for at least a month there will be much, besides PC1/PC2 properly until April, so yeah, I think you're pretty well set.
- Clayton: You know, student shows up for conversation about Israel, Palestine and somebody calls Councillors calls for a vote on an initiative to divest from something nature of affiliate schools being theological schools, and the differences that exist between the bodies of people that we represent that's a pretty hot topic issue, and if somebody caught wind that one of us or that we voted in a certain way either direction I could see it pissing someone off and regent on either end of that scale it's just like I would I would rather say let's abstain until we have a conversation about that so that we can confirm that we're all on the same page you know, and in silence is better than getting it wrong on behalf of each other because it's there's a lot at stake when a lot of our financial viability is based on support from alumni and donors and things like that that really care about how we represent certain.
- Sheldon: Nothing prevents the representatives from Saint Marks and VST from attending as guests to council meetings, and so if the colleges have different views on an item, the other views could be expressed by people speaking though I know it's not quite the same as being a member,
- Jessica: When I sat in on Octobers meeting, I think I agree with Sandy if not to take away the nature of the community, having affiliates be able to do concerns or anything, but if part of the agenda would be discussing hot topic items, so that if we were to attend can or not kinda like chatting on the side what are you gonna do? We have an idea of what we want to put forth to avoid differences within our structures at school.
- Ian: I think our back up is to do that is if the affiliates were you know in some case not to be approved then we should be having biweekly meetings before counsel so that some whoever can discuss about whoever can present about it we can have some discussion on hot topic council items that we have on the agenda.
- Kamil: For future scheduling we wanna aim for Monday, Tuesday, or Friday.
- Ian: I think that would also you know it would also give us opportunity to have people invited here in the in the meeting in the committee whoever is relevant for the item that we're gonna be that you're gonna be discussing, so yeah, we can have that as our plan for now I'll have that set up for our meeting covered before council and the next one that's happening is November 22.
- Kamil: Figure this out after this meeting - I don't even know if there are any motions.



- Ian: So we have a plan for now that's great but I'm gonna be moving onto the next item.

2. **Regent Council Updates (Clayton)**

- Clayton: Now for the regent council updates, all of that to say we are kind of having to get some transitions on our team here at Regent. We have one of our executives having to change their status. and having to step down and we are in a process of trying to figure out how to cover their portfolio, so I'm anticipating that it's gonna affect me probably the most in terms of my availability - there's details that I can't say exactly yet but we as a committee or as affiliates there's there's change that has to take place. I I don't think that I'll be able to maintain the seat with all that being said all of a sudden it came up. This is a part of the wisdom that you shared with Sandy like we may not be able to fill 3 seats and that might be true so figuring out how to navigate. I just wanted to bring that before you and we're trying to navigate what it will look like to cover representation to AMS given the changes that are coming and it may be me it may be someone else, but yeah, so some of that changing and I know pretty confidently that every other Wednesday night it's gonna be impossible for me to be at those meetings, so yeah, that's the update and that's another problem for us to start to solve and it was just one of our one of our main executives had to change course here unexpectedly
- Ian: I am just wondering does that mean that you might not be the Regent rep for the rest of the year or is that something that's not gonna change?
- Clayton: Nothing would be effective until end of November, but would be yeah we're trying to discern who's going to take over the responsibilities of this role that I said, I feel for some of it you know whatever I may be able to come to this committee I may need to only do health and dental. I may need to pass both off or one the other.
- Ian: What does the bylaw say on how the rep is chosen?
- Sheldon: Chosen from all the affiliate colleges. It was confusing when Clayton took the role. Our bylaw says elected from the students.
- Sandy: Clayton and I met at the start of our term so there was not an official vote. VST is growing, and will be having new executives. I have more resources at my disposal. I wonder if we want to rotate if one school cannot consistently go to the meetings?



- Sheldon: No, because the voting rep is a director of the AMS and they are recorded on the list of directors we send to the government.
- Jessica: I discussed this with the Student Life team and they shared the same concern: no matter how we choose, we want that to be the set precedent for the upcoming reps. What would it look like to have an election?
- Kamil: We take all of this feedback and let CK come up with potential proposals for this committee.
- Clayton: There's balance in three representatives being sent to this Committee, and for this Committee to decide who has the availability and bandwidth to represent. "Elected from" is a miscalculation of the student population. The other thing about rotating: code change to allow for proxies for the affiliate seat.
- Sheldon: Society Act prohibits that. We can't put proxies on the council anymore.
- Sandy: We are voted in the three. There was a general election within our respective schools as part of it is the president responsibility to attend the AMS any kind of meetings, unless we're not able to proxy, but I think we have to align it with the AMS policies in terms of what meetings were allowed, especially with this Seat representing all three schools with elected members already opened restricted to people on each of our schools council.
- Kamil: I was thinking I could take that like these are elected students to serve the roles and articulate council obligation and attendance so I would think that if it was just decided amongst the presidents of affiliates that fulfills the requirement of needing to be elected students
- Ian: I think this is what Jessica is about to say, but Jessica is not elected student rep from. I don't know if that's a concern for us as of this moment.
- Jessica: Since pandemic, no council, pandemic the last three years all appointed by Student Life team. Rep works with the Student Life team and reports back to AMS. It's not an actual student council - like faculty.
- Kamil: In the past there's been convo around rep in council that's not elected by students. Opens up end for faculties to pick students who are not necessarily elected. - concern raised in the past. It's getting more complicated.
- Ian: Yeah I think Jessica if you and I would maybe we should set up a meeting determining you know the state of that also that student council type of thing for Saint Mark, so that we can take that on ourselves and you and I and maybe that's part of your life team as well, but seeing that, we probably will have a situation at hand when Clayton determines his scheduling for the rest of the year, then we might have to do some sort of a band aid solution for our affiliates seat on council whether that will be determining another representative from regent or another representative from VST then we can do that but that's probably not gonna be



someone from Saint Mark since we don't really have association to work with. if we're having our next meeting before we have one we have two council meetings left for term and Clayton asking for December 6 will that mean that you're not able to be there anymore?

- Clayton: I don't know yet/
- Kamil: Important - voting to appoint interim president.
- Ian: Let's do some thinking on this one. I'll try to bring it back if we have it if you have a suggestion that can be used for something quick, but yeah thanks for the update Clayton for opening up that conversation.

3. **AMS Seat for Affiliates: Voting Procedure (Clayton)**

Already discussed in previous item.

4. **Other Concerns from Affiliates**

- Sandy: Updates on UBC emails?
- Kamil: I've reached out, they should be reaching out to your registrar
- Clayton: Questions about recreation - We pay the recreation fee and are told by staff at recreation that we don't have access to that and on the website it explicitly names, Regent College, and says that we don't pay the fee, so it would be great to reconcile those two pieces of data or give us a refund .
- Kamil: That is on my list of things I apologize
- Jessica: This is not so much of a concern before organizing the Dental presentation. But thank you to Sandy.
- Sandy: There were talks with our new support person that perhaps next year will also do that during the orientation week people have that information a little bit earlier. We had a general AMS presentation, but it wasn't specifically about the details about the plans, so perhaps next year we can do it in September.
- Clayton: Could do a similar thing around taxes particularly for international students if there's if we can get somebody from the tax office to post something very similar that would be great. I'm not sure what pathway exist for that
- Kamil: Do you have access to UBC advising?
- Sandy: I am very interested in international student advising too if you can also find out I know there are advisors that have expertise and relation to, etc. etc. I would love to run together?
- Ian: We need to talk to Abhi about it if that's something that's on their radar to organize such as similar to that or workshops because I know they're holding their



own workshops when it comes to finance as well and with like budgeting, as I'm not sure if I'm saying things that are wrong, but I'll ask about it

5. Council Updates (Clayton)

- Clayton: I wasn't able to attend the last meeting. I'm interested in an update as well. Sounds like some major things are breaking.
- Sheldon: Now council is not allowed to pass motions in Camera we tweak so now council can vote to make appointments like appointment Executive appointment or other appointments in Camera, stricter rules - make sure things are kept confidential when I'm meeting in Camera, and some limitations on the number of times people can speak. There is a limitation you can only speak twice on any actual motion, but there is no such limitation on how many times you can speak in a general discussion, and we thought we should restrict that too so people can only speak twice.
- Ian: As you know, Esme is on her leave and so that was the biggest thing on the agenda that we talked about in Camera but can't really say much on it.
- Kamil: I am acting interim pres until interim is selected by December they are appointed and then they will start either as early as possible or January 1 and come back if she wants any questions from the rest of the team/

6. Spiritual Care for Councillors (Sandy)

- Sandy: Back in September I heard about all the issues with the sexual harassment. There's a lot of stress with the council members at the AMS and I think Kamil was going out I was saying, I think you're the AMS team needs to hire somebody who is able to just be there to listen to each of the council members on a spiritual care trying to fix not trying to cancel but the person who's there to listen. Talking about work life school balance as well and I think when I saw Esme's email I realized how important that is because you learn to take care of things like this will continue to happen. I know the council members are there to serve but at my age I've learned the importance of needing to know where my limits and boundaries are and I'm 38 so it took me a few years to realize quite a few burnt out and so I'm just wondering if there is some money within the budget to hire such a person doesn't have to be full-time, but to provide this kind of care of the council members so that you really wanna be thinking about how do we take care of the



people council so that you can be more effective of your job is not taking care of yourself, physically mentally and spiritually think about not trying to force.

- Clayton: Yeah, I mean I don't know what else is available on campus but yeah, it would be interesting to think to consider the role of like a Chaplain in the Nest in general for all of the student services that are happening things that are going on all the time, even just beyond the council members themselves, and the food bank and there's like high stress, high anxiety, and somebody who is just trained in clinical pastoral work can just be a non-anxious presence in a room and have a have an objective like yeah way of being helpful resource, ik budgets are tight but if there are people who would benefit from something.
- Kamil: We can look into this for sure, especially given the unprecedented nature of this year. We're all sort of feeling the effects of how this year is going and I think I will consider this more seriously.
- Sheldon: We do have a peer support service which is open to counsellors and executives. I suppose as well as the general student I don't know if that's
- Kamil : Yeah, we have coverage, but I think we should focus on counseling and some more as we move forward this year.
- Sandy: I personally would love to talk more about it as well. More expertise I just think that the AMS council needs to be sustainable for the people there and you're ready to work a few months later and that's not sustainable for you to think about not wanting to change anything right now every year anymore.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will take place between **12 pm to 1 pm on Dec 4.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **1:32 PM PDT.**