



2nd Petitioned Referendum Notice Letter

February 21, 2024

Sent Via Email: president@ams.ubc.ca

Dear AMS Council & President,

This letter is to notify the President and Council that a petitioned referendum has met the required 1000 valid student signatures to be put on the 2024 AMS General Elections Ballot.

For context, a student contacted the Elections Administrator on January 29th with a drafted referendum question for petition. In accordance with Code, the Elections Administrator, with staff assistance, provided impartial and confidential advice when requested on the drafted question to the petitioner. The petitioner was informed that due to the expedited nature of their request to publish a petition and the complexity of their question, the Elections Administrator and staff were limited in the advice they could provide on the question, including because legal advice could not be sought before petitioning. Despite any advice provided by the Elections Administrator and staff, only Council can decide whether a referendum question meets the requirements of Bylaw 4(2), and the petitioner was informed of that.

The referendum petition titled “AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan Fee Increase for Pharmaceutical Coverage” has received over 1000 valid student signatures. In accordance with AMS Bylaw 4(1)(b), the Elections Administrator has manually verified using student records provided by UBC Enrolment Services that at least 1000 of the signatures are accompanied by accurate student numbers and student names. Since the petition met this requirement before the end of the day on February 20th, it met the required threshold to be included on the 2024 AMS General Elections ballot.

The Elections Committee will now consider this a referendum question on the 2024 AMS General Elections ballot unless Council decides that the question does not meet the requirements of Bylaw 4(2) and, by resolution, rejects the question. This decision is the sole discretion of Council, and the Elections Committee will follow their decision. The Elections Committee must remain impartial so they will not participate in any debate about whether a referendum question meets the requirements of Bylaw 4(2).

In accordance with Code, the Elections Committee will hold a referendum meeting for this and any other referendums on February 23rd and until such time, no campaigning is allowed to occur. At this meeting, the rules governing referendums will be shared with any interested parties, and the Yes and No Committees for referendums are encouraged to attend.

I have attached the wording of the referendum question as an appendix to this letter.

Sincerely,

Max Holmes

AMS Elections Administrator



Appendix 1: The Referendum Question

“Do you support that the AMS increase the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan Fee by \$6.35 per student per year to provide new pharmaceutical coverage for drugs which are currently conditionally eligible or fully ineligible for coverage through Regular Benefit and/or Special Authority, disproportionately impacting systemically marginalized UBC students, which may include additional coverage for hormone-based drugs and contraceptives. The specific drugs covered by this fee increase will be determined by the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan Committee with consultation from the Resource Groups and the plan provider, for a September 2024 rollout. Dependent on feasibility, this exceptional \$6.35 fee may be increased by up to five percent annually without a referendum, by approval of the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan Committee, and with consultation from the Resource Groups and the plan provider.”