

2023 Student Council Summaries

COUNCIL SUMMARY – January 11, 2023

Show Me the Money! Council amended Code to require the Finance Committee and other committees to report on expenditures they authorize that don't go to Council for approval.

Election Appeals Committees: Council discussed a revised version of a proposal to amend the composition of the appeal committees, but for the second time sent the proposal back to the Governance Committee for further discussion.

Elections Committee Appointments: Council appointed a Communications Officer (Shayan Jahangiri) and two Polling Officers.

Elections Administrator: Council appointed Max Holmes, a former Elections Administrator, to take over from Ashley Haines, who is resigning.

Governance Review: Council appointed President Eshana Bhangu to chair the Governance Review Committee, replacing Max Holmes, who resigned to become the Elections Administrator. Council also appointed Councillor Thomas Dunsmore to fill the vacated spot on the committee.

Services Review: Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager for Student Services, presented the triennial review of the Services, recommending the elimination of two Services and the integration of the Sexual Assault Support Centre with the other Services. She also noted the large growth in usage at the Food Bank, adding that she is working to increase its funding from the University.

Housing Service: As recommended, Council voted to eliminate the Housing Service, but a transformed version of it is meant to be incorporated into an expanded Advocacy Service. The AMS will no longer help with finding housing, but instead will focus on supporting students having disputes with landlords or other housing issues.

eHub: Council also ended the Entrepreneurship service on the advice of the Senior Manager of Student Services, who noted that there are other resources for entrepreneurs on campus, and eHub is not as much needed as the other Services.

Financial fix: President Eshana Bhangu reported that an external firm has been brought in to do an audit of the problems with the financial system, especially concerning reimbursements, and hopefully steps will be taken next week to fix things.

VP Academic & University Affairs: President Bhangu announced that the VPAUA, Dana Turdy, has gone on an extended leave of absence and a job posting for her replacement has gone up.

Nest open during exams: President Bhangu noted that with the libraries not staying open for extended hours during exams, the AMS Nest stepped in and stayed open 24/7. She recommended this be continued in future exam periods.

Flooding: VP Administration Ben Du reported on the flooding that occurred in the Life Building, which affected several clubs. The damage was contained and the clubs will be reimbursed.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be on Wednesday, January 25 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – January 16 and 25, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meetings of **January 16 and January 25, 2023**:

January 16 was a special meeting at which Anisha Sandhu was appointed Interim Vice-President Academic and University Affairs, replacing Dana Turdy.

The rest of the items are from January 25.

Fixing Reimbursements: Council heard a presentation from Peter Guo of MNP, the consultants providing advice on how to fix the problem with reimbursements, and then approved an expenditure of up to \$120,000 to deal with the problem.

Elections: Elections Administrator Max Holmes presented the dates for the upcoming elections and said he would like to bring back postering to increase turnout. He also wants to eliminate unnecessary rules and would like to modify the recent Code change banning non-students from participating in election campaigns: he would like to allow non-student AMS staff and staff in clubs to take part.

Advocacy Committee: Council appointed Anisha Sandhu as Chair of the Committee.

Budget Amendment: Council learned that the Finance Committee has approved funding for a new laptop charging station in the Nest.

Pocket Lounges and Microwaves: VP Admin Ben Du said he ran two roadshows to gather in-person feedback concerning development of the Nest's pocket lounges and increasing the number of microwaves.

Rent Increases: In response to a question from Science rep Salva Sherif, AMS President Eshana Bhangu said the rent increases of up to 8% in UBC student housing are to help recover from a deficit caused by a rent freeze during the pandemic. She said the AMS has voiced opposition to the increase, but if it has to happen it should be for no more than inflation and there should be bursaries to help students affected.

Bylaw changes: President Bhangu presented a draft of proposed changes coming out of the governance review process, including a plan to reduce the size of Council.

Action Items: A presentation on Campus Vision 2050 was announced.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – February 1, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **February 1, 2023**:

Gender affirming care: Council heard a statement from a member of the Pride Collective urging the AMS to increase the Health & Dental Plan fee to include coverage for gender affirming care. AMS President Eshana Bhangu said unfortunately the plan is in deficit. She said there will already have to be a large increase in the fee to deal with that.

Health & Dental Plan: Sophia Haque of Studentcare, the Plan administrator, informed Council that because of a dramatic increase in mental health claims, the Plan is in a difficult financial position, requiring either an increase in the fee, a decrease in benefits, or both. She noted that gender affirming care has been identified as a priority for students, and students do not want to reduce benefits. At the same time affordability is an issue for students, and if a fee request is defeated in a student referendum, then there may have to be benefit reductions.

AMS President Bhangu said increased costs have resulted in a draining of reserves. She said the Health & Dental Plan Committee is looking at the issue and it will make a recommendation to Council on what question to pose to the students in a referendum.

Campus Vision: Representatives from UBC's Campus & Community Planning department made a presentation to Council on the Campus Vision 2050 process, including the role of the Musqueam and such issues as affordability, the climate emergency, growth and green space, and financing.

Election Rules: Council approved a series of changes to the election rules to allow postering and to switch from the Condorcet method of ballot counting to Instant Runoff. But Council declined to approve a proposal to ease the limitations on who can take part in referendum campaigning, sending it back to committee.

Indigenous Constituency: President Bhangu told Council of a proposed bylaw amendment that will transform the Indigenous Committee into a Constituency like Arts or Science.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – February 13, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **February 13, 2023**:

Referendum questions: Council approved four questions to go to referendum in March, asking students to approve the following:

1. an increase in the Health & Dental Plan fee of \$52.50 per student
2. a new \$8 fee for gender-affirming care
3. Bylaw amendments to create an Indigenous Constituency and to shrink the size of Council
4. a \$3 increase in the Bike Kitchen fee.

Members of the Trans Coalition made statements to Council asking that the \$8 increase for gender-affirming care be combined with the general \$52.50 increase for the Health & Dental Plan, but Council decided to keep the questions separate. Council also made passage of the \$8 increase dependent on approval of the \$52.50 increase, despite objections from the Trans Coalition.

Election appeals: Council amended the composition of the election appeal committees and named six Councillors to serve on them.

Election spending: Council passed a motion to allow an increase in the spending limit for candidates in the upcoming AMS elections from \$450 to \$750.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – March 1, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **March 1, 2023**:

Deficit reduced: AMS President Eshana Bhangu told Council that the projected deficit has been reduced by \$700,000 thanks to the performance of the businesses. VP Finance Lawrence Liu added that he was pretty confident the AMS was returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Bike Kitchen question: Council approved an amendment to the Bike Kitchen referendum question to add some explanatory notes.

Chairs: Council approved an expenditure of \$44,850 from the SUB Repairs & Replacement Fund to pay for new chairs in the Nest.

Strategic Plan: In response to a question from Councillor Katherine Feng, President Bhangu said it is her intention to have the plan finished by the end of her term.

New Restaurant: In response to a question from Councillor Cynara Onyemordi, Acting Managing Director Celia Chung said everything is still on track for an opening in April or May.

Vandalism: President Bhangu informed Council that one evening last month an individual went around the Nest smashing things, including a window, a Council composite, and a television.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

COUNCIL SUMMARY – March 22, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **March 22, 2023**:

Born to fish: Student at Large Kai Rogers puzzled Council by talking about the importance of fishing.

Election Results: Elections Administrator Max Holmes presented the results of the 2023 elections, making them official, which means the following will be the 2023/24 Executive:

President: Esmé Decker (Remy the Rat)

VP Academic & University Affairs: Kamil Kanji

VP Finance: Abhi Mishra

VP Administration: Ian Caguiat

VP External: Tina Tong

Election Turnout: The Elections Administrator noted that the 22.9% turnout was the second highest in recent history, and the total number of votes for President was the highest ever. He added that there were no mistakes on the ballot and all Affiliate students were able to vote.

Election Numbers Breakdown: There were high turnouts in Arts (29.2%), Science (29.1%), and Engineering (27%). A lower percentage of grad students (16.9%) voted, but that was still relatively high.

Candidates Withdrawing: The Elections Administrator noted that many candidates dropped out before the voting and suggested better information be provided earlier on so that potential candidates will better understand the positions they are thinking of running for.

Referendums: The Elections Administrator also presented the results of the four referendum questions, which all passed:

1. Amendments to the Bylaws
2. General Health & Dental Plan fee increase of \$52.50
3. New \$8 Health & Dental fee for gender-affirming care
4. Increase in the Bike Kitchen fee to \$4.17

Governance Review: AMS President Eshana Bhangu updated Council on plans now that the Bylaw amendments have passed, noting that as of May 1 Arts, Science, and Grad Studies will

have three representatives each on Council (down from four or five) and there will be one combined rep for the three Affiliated Colleges.

Other plans include:

1. A new committee on Executive Performance and Accountability
2. Monthly updates on Executive Goals
3. Returning to oral Executive updates at each Council meeting
4. Time limits for items on the Council agenda
5. Reversing the Code change that barred non-voting Councillors from in camera sessions.

Pride Parade: President Bhangu said the AMS is working to participate.

Trimming: The President also said that the Executive offices are being made more efficient by reducing the number of staff and hours.

Constituency Repository: The President said a resource page is in the works for the Constituencies.

Room Bookings: VP Administration Ben Du said a plan is underway to improve the bookings process in the Nest.

Safety and Inclusive Spaces: The VP Administration said a survey is being launched about safety and inclusive spaces in the Nest.

More Microwaves: The VP Administration said the Operations Committee has approved tripling the number of microwaves in the Nest

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be on Wednesday, March 29 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – March 29, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **March 29, 2023**:

Stop the Deportation! Students at Large representing the Filipino group Sulong UBC asked Council for support for their campaign against the deportation of Danilo de Leon, head of a Filipino migrant workers organization. VP External Erin Co invited the representatives to come speak to her.

Governance Changes: Council approved Code amendments to create a new committee on Executive Performance and Accountability and to return to oral Executive updates at each Council meeting; also to allow non-voting Councillors to stay for in camera sessions.

Executive Goals: Council approved amendments to the policy on Executive goals to require timelines and monthly updates.

Food Bank: AMS President Eshana Bhangu said she is continuing to advocate to the Board of Governors for more funding for the AMS Food Bank. Councillor Katherine Feng asked about collaboration with a new food hub being planned by the Arts Undergraduate Society. President Bhangu said she was not sure how effective an individual Constituency could be, but said the AMS is willing to collaborate.

Academic Experience Survey: Anisha Sandhu, the VP Academic & University Affairs, said the number of responses to the AES has now surpassed 3,000, which is much higher than last year.

VP Admin News: VP Administration Ben Du announced an Art Fair, an event subsidy for clubs, and new HTMI cables for every bookable room in the Nest.

Transit: VP External Erin Co told Council about the SkyTrain to UBC campaign and about winning UBC approval for transit subsidies for students who are not going to school in the summer.

Federal budget: VP Co said the budget increased the student loan limit and the student grant; it also allocated \$197 million for a work placement program.

Reimbursements: VP Finance Lawrence Liu said the reimbursement issue is under control now; there is a good flow. President Bhangu said it would be Paradise in two weeks. VP Liu said he did not foresee major backlogs developing again.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting will be on Wednesday, April 12 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – April 12, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **April 12, 2023**:

Strategic Plan at last! Council approved a five-year (“quinquennial”) strategic plan for the AMS that has been two years in the works. It includes an updated Mission Statement and set of Values (now called Guiding Principles and Values) and also a Vision. AMS President Eshana Bhangu said the plan is broad but not vague: it should easily lead to action items and will be used in evaluating performance. She added that it is hard to imagine future Executives disagreeing with the plan’s strategic priorities:

1. Exceptional Programming
2. Delivering Results
3. Cultivating a Sense of Belonging
4. Operational Excellence
5. Collaborative Leadership

Governance Changes: Council approved several Code amendments to do the following:

1. Replacing the old Student Services Manager position with the Senior Manager of Student Services
2. Transferring the duty of handling referendum petitions from the VP Academic & University Affairs to the President or their designate
3. Adding new grounds for removing an Executive
4. Allowing the positions of Elections Administrator and Speaker of Council to be held by the same person
5. Specifying time limits for items at Council meetings
6. Making the Steering Committee the Agenda Committee
7. Giving approval powers for Events and Services to the Student Life Committee
8. Transferring responsibility for the grad class gift to the VP Administration
9. Requiring that all Code changes go through the Governance Committee
10. Requiring more frequent meetings of the Presidents Council

Committee chairs: One proposed change that Council did not accept would have allowed non-voting Councillors to chair Council meetings.

Food Bank funding: President Bhangu said she is using her last few weeks in office to seek additional funding for Food Bank from the University and also from alternative sources.

Academic Experience Survey: Anisha Sandhu, the VP Academic & University Affairs, said over 3,000 responses have been received, which she thinks is the highest ever.

The Businesses: In response to a question from Councillor Katherine Feng, Acting Managing Director Celia Chung said the businesses are doing well and will be amending their budgets to account for the upcoming minimum wage increases.

HDMI: VP Admin Ben Du announced that every bookable room in the Nest now has an HDMI cable to increase convenience for students.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 17 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

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Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – April 28, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **April 28, 2023**:

Policies postponed: The meeting began with several students at large objecting to planned revisions to the policies on sexualized violence and respectful community, and later in the meeting Council voted to send these back to committee.

Policy revised: VP Academic Anisha Sandhu presented revisions to the survey policy, which Council approved.

Policy introduced: Council approved a policy to reduce air travel.

Budget! VP Finance Lawrence Liu presented the 2023-24 preliminary budget, forecasting a deficit of \$271,000 resulting from lower contributions from the businesses, higher expenses for Food Bank, and the creation of a new equity department. This is a lower deficit than last year. Council voted unanimously to approve the budget.

Looking back: The Executive reported on the past year's accomplishments, including:

1. governance review
2. cutting the deficit
3. raising fees for the Health and Dental Plan
4. moving Blue Chip Café
5. fixing the reimbursement system
6. garnering 3359 responses to the Academic Experience Survey
7. amending the survey policy
8. introducing a new financial system
9. getting improvements in federal student loan and grant programs
10. getting provincial funding for student housing
11. installing laptop charging stations in the Nest
12. having a full calendar of exhibits at the Hatch Art Gallery
13. putting on a successful Clubs Fair
14. addressing the club storage crisis
15. looking at the booking process in the Nest.

Appointments: Council appointed Alec Lee to serve a second year as Ombudsperson and Max Holmes to serve as both Elections Administrator and Speaker of Council.

Code changes: Council tweaked an earlier Code change about the Executive Performance and Accountability Committee and adjusted the composition of the Advocacy Committee.

Councillor of the Year! Rachel Kim of Commerce took the honours this year.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 5 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – May 5, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **May 5, 2023**:

Welcome! The first meeting of the new slimmed-down Council and the new Executive took place, with almost complete attendance and a welcome from new President Esmé Decker; also a poem from the Clerk of Council, along with information about committees, Council, bylaws, and governance documents.

Governance Review: Having done its job, producing Code and Bylaw changes, the Governance Review Committee was dissolved.

Committee Appointments: Council passed a motion to delay committee appointments till its May 17 meeting.

CiTR: Council appointed Arts Councillor Anna Shubina to a spot on the board of CiTR, the campus radio station.

Executive Commitments: Council approved the outside commitments of the various Executives.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – May 17, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **May 17, 2023**:

New Committees! Council spent three hours filling its committees, from Finance to Governance and Operations to Advocacy, not to mention Human Resources and Student Life. It also filled the new Executive Performance and Accountability Committee (EPA) and named representatives to sit on the University's Ombuds Advisory Committee and the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan Committee.

Chairs! Council also named chairs for the committees. They are:

Advocacy Committee: Kamil Kanji

Operations Committee: Ian Caguiat

Finance Committee: Lawrence Liu

HR Committee: Lawrence Liu

Governance Committee: Ayesha Irfan

Student Life Committee: Karisma Jutla

Students at Large: President Esmé Decker noted the high number of students at large applying to sit on committees (81), and Koda Tootoosis, the Indigenous representative, asked if there would be other opportunities for those who did not get appointed. It would be good to honour their passion, said the President.

PC1 and PC2: President Decker said work is being done on the policies on sexualized violence and respectful community. In response to a question from Arts Councillor Anna Shubina, she said the work includes checking out similar policies at other postsecondary institutions and also listening closely to voices at UBC who have expressed concerns.

BC Budget: VP External Tina Tong said the AMS submission to the BC budget process has been drafted and will call for more student financial aid, more funding for sexualized violence prevention, and more funding for food security.

Food Bank: Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager of Student Services, said usage at the Food Bank has dropped, which will relieve the strain on the Food Bank team.

Acronyms: After a serious meeting filling committees, the AMS Archivist injected some humour into the proceedings by talking of past committees named Unecorn, ABBA, Robocom, and LSD.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – May 31, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **May 31, 2023**:

Full House! Max Holmes, the new Speaker of Council, noted that for the first time in living memory every seat on Council is filled (though he noted that this is in part because we removed the seats that are always vacant).

Order, Order, Order! The Speaker made a presentation to explain Robert's Rules of Order. The Clerk of Council later explained that the rules are named after General Henry Robert, who when he wasn't inventing rules was involved in the Pig War of 1859 right near British Columbia.

Plans and Presentations: AMS President Esmé Decker went through the new Strategic Plan and also talked about the AMS Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP) and the Equity Action Plan, both of which are up for review.

More Presentations: Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager of Student Services, told Council about AMS Services, noting that there were over 23,000 user interactions last year: she said the Services have a significant impact on students. Food Bank remains the Service with the most interactions, reflecting issues of food insecurity. Peer Support has shown a large increase in usage and also in seriousness: 42% of those seeking help spoke of suicidality.

Academic Experience Survey: VP Academic Kamil Kanji reported on the Academic Experience Survey, which garnered over 3,400 responses, and showed that students are unhappy about tuition levels and don't think UBC cares what they think about those levels. Also, 38% of respondents said they had experienced food insecurity at some point during the year, which connects to the high use of Food Bank. 41% said they had experienced mental health issues, and 57% said they had faced housing hardships, a large increase probably connected to the end of the Covid rent freeze.

In response to a question from student Board of Governors rep Kareem Hassib, VP Kanji said the data is used thoroughly in AMS advocacy.

PC1 and PC2: In response to a question from Science Councillor Salva Sherif, President Decker said it is hoped that revised versions of the sexualized violence and respectful community policies will come back to Council by September in time to be in place for the School Year.

Drinkfill: VP Admin Ian Caguiat said he is looking at possible locations for a beverage filling station that would dispense kombucha and other healthy beverages, along with soda – but no alcohol (though there may be mocktails).

Budget Consultation: VP External Tina Tong said the AMS submission to the BC budget consultation process has been presented.

Bring Back the 480: VP Tong said she is talking to a student who wants to launch a campaign to bring back the 480 bus.

We Are Not Alone! VP Finance Abhi Mishra said it was good to learn at the stakeholders meeting in Montreal with Studentcare that other schools are facing funding challenges with their health and dental plans that are similar to ours.

A Committee Meets! Karisma Jutla, Chair of the Student Life Committee, was the first chair able to announce that her committee has met.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb

Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – June 21, 2023

Here are notes from the AMS Council meeting of **June 21, 2023**:

Ukrainian students: Representatives of the Ukrainian Student Union thanked the AMS for its support and asked for continued support while the war in Ukraine continues.

Financial Situation: Justin Lieu, the new AMS Managing Director, informed Council that there continues to be a deficit, owing to rising costs, wage increases, and adding a new Equity position. VP Finance Abhi Mishra said the AMS needs a financial strategic plan and a financial analyst to help reduce expenses and optimize revenues. He also spoke of seeking partnerships and sponsorships.

Financial Questions: Councillors asked where costs might be cut, what sponsorships might be sought, and whether the new Mediterranean restaurant will produce revenue this year. Justin Lieu said all areas will be looked at for cuts, including labour expenses and wastage in the businesses; also there are plans to strategize a new approach for Events. As to the new restaurant, he said it is not clear when it will open, so there is no projection for it yet.

VP Mishra said he will provide more detail about sponsorships when he presents his goals next week.

Budget Approved: After the presentation and questions, Council unanimously approved the 2023-24 budget.

Appointments: VP Finance Abhi Mishra was appointed as the AMS representative on the board of the Student Legal Fund Society. Commerce rep Thomas Dunsmore was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Governance Committee.

Health & Dental Plan: In response to a question from Law rep Aki Kamoshida, AMS President Esmé Decker said she and the VP Finance have been meeting with Studentcare and the health plan co-consultant to explore options to stabilize the plan.

Indigenous Constituency: In response to a question from Council Senator Mathew Ho, President Decker said talks are underway on getting the new Indigenous Constituency going.

Art Sale: VP Administration Ian Caguiat said two of the three art pieces Council authorized to be sold have been sold.

SUDS: VP External Tina Tong announced that the annual AMS Student Union Development Summit will take place August 18-21.

The 480 bus: VP Tong said the AMS has issued a statement of support for the campaign to bring back the 480 bus.

Safewalk vehicle: Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager of Student Services, said parts have finally come in for the damaged Safewalk vehicle, and repairs will begin soon.

Food Bank renovation: VP Admin Ian Caguiat announced that the Operations Committee, which he chairs, has approved \$2500 for the first stage of a renovation of the Food Bank.

Presidents Council: President Decker said the Council of Constituency Presidents had its first meeting and the Presidents are using Messenger Chat to create a collaborative space for themselves.

Next meeting:

There will be a special Council meeting on Tuesday, June 27 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – June 27, 2023

Here are notes from the special AMS Council meeting of **June 27, 2023**:

Food Bank: Representatives of Sulong UBC, an organization of Filipino students at UBC, called on the AMS to reverse its decision to restrict usage of the AMS Food Bank to students, excluding UBC faculty and staff.

Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager of Student Services, said the decision had been an incredibly difficult one, but the role of the AMS was to support students and with costs rising exponentially, continuing to serve faculty and staff would have meant a cost of \$700,000 or a reduction in the amount of food given out overall.

Executive Goal Debates: AMS President Esmé Decker and the rest of the AMS Executive presented their goals to Council. There was debate over the President's goals, which some Councillors did not think were ambitious enough, but they passed.

There was also debate over the goals from Ian Caguiat, the VP Administration. Councillors wanted more details on how they would be paid for, and then voted for them to be sent back to the Executive Committee.

The rest of the goals passed.

Major Goals: The goals approved by Council include:

- 1) Strengthening connections and community.
- 2) Implementing the Strategic Plan.
- 3) Reducing the deficit.
- 4) Improving food security on campus.
- 5) Opposing tuition increases.
- 6) Securing University funding for mental health coverage.
- 7) Lobbying for more government grants for students.
- 8) Lobbying for housing affordability.
- 9) Campaigning to restore the 480 bus route.
- 10) Lobbying for an amendment to the BC law on sexual violence.
- 11) Lobbying for a cap on tuition increases for international students.
- 12) Achieving financial stability in the Health and Dental Plan.
- 13) Creating a program of workshops on financial literacy.

Food Bank Renovation: Councillors heard from Senior Student Services Manager Kathleen Simpson and AMS Design Office Manager Michael Kingsmill about plans to expand the space for the Food Bank and put in a sink.

Goal History: The Archivist explained the history of Executive goals, including their temporary association with a bonus system administered by the old Oversight Committee.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – July 12, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **July 12, 2023**:

PC1 and PC2: Student at large and AMS employee Brandyn Marx spoke to Council about the review of the policies on respectful community and sexualized violence, saying there should be input from hourly employees and unionized staff.

AMS President Esmé Decker noted that she and Brandyn had spoken privately, adding that those doing the review will be looking to see where they can incorporate Brandyn's feedback.

Sulong: Representatives of Sulong UBC, an organization of Filipino students at UBC, came to Council a second time to ask that UBC staff have their access to the AMS Food Bank restored.

President Decker responded by referring to the financial expense involved, but added that she and Kathleen Simpson (the Senior Manager of Student Services) are meeting with the University administration to see what can be done.

VP Admin's goals: The Executive Goals of Ian Caguiat, the VP Administration, which had been sent back to the Executive Committee for further work on how they would be paid for, came back in revised form and were approved by Council, to the delight of the VP Administration.

Sustainability Priorities: The VP Administration and his staff presented sustainability priorities for the year, which the VP Administration noted are an extension of his goals. The priorities include a Return-It Program (for container refunds), textbook recycling via a new Little Free Library, Plant-Based September (to encourage plant-based meal options), support for Climate Justice UBC, and a review of the AMS Sustainability Action Plan.

Council voted to approve the priorities.

CASA redux? VP External Tina Tong talked about the pros and cons of rejoining CASA, the federal student organization the AMS left in 2011 (after helping found it in the 90's). The pros include the fact that CASA is a formalized organization with an office and permanent staff, unlike UCRU, the organization the AMS is currently working with.

The cons include the high cost and the one-school, one-vote model CASA uses, meaning the AMS would have no more say than small schools that pay much less.

One possibility is joining the CASA observership program, which would cost little, but some Councillors thought it might be better to focus on fixing UCRU or on working at the municipal and provincial level.

Food Bank Renovation: Council approved \$36,600 for Phase One of the Food Bank renovation, which will involve expanding the Food Bank space, installing a walk-in fridge, and removing the carpet. Phase Two (installing a sink) will come at a later date.

Communicating with the Musqueam: In response to a question from Arts Councillor Anna Shubina, President Decker said the policy on communicating with the Musqueam

is being reviewed, and one change being considered is to switch the liaison person from the Policy Advisor to the Communications Manager.

Communicating with the Fraternities: In response to a question from Arts Councillor Lawrence Liu, President Decker said she had met with someone from the fraternities to discuss relations, adding that it would be good to reconnect the fraternities with Safewalk.

Undergraduate Research: The VP Academic and University Affairs, Kamil Kanji, said he is in discussions with the University about a new program on undergraduate research.

The 480 bus: VP External Tina Tong said advocacy is continuing to restore the 480 bus. She said TransLink's explanation for cutting the 480 had to do with finances, but she said there were numbers to support the case for restoration.

BoG and Senate reports: Ayesha Irfan, the chair of the Governance Committee, said the committee plans to recommend a Code change to restore oral updates from the BoG reps and Senators on Council (in addition to the written reports they are currently doing) so Council will know what's going on at the Board of Governors and Senate.

First Year Committee: Karisma Jutla, the chair of the Student Life Committee, said there are plans to continue and formalize a First Year Committee.

Death and Resignation: Responding to a question from Council Senator Mathew Ho, the Archivist talked of how many AMS Executives have died in office (none), but noted that the very first UBC President (Frank Wesbrook) died while President. Also, the AMS has lost Executives through resignation, and several UBC Presidents have also resigned.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – August 2, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **August 2, 2023**:

Food Bank: After hearing from AMS President Esmé Decker about the importance of maintaining the stability of the AMS Food Bank, given the increasing number of students using it, Council unanimously passed a motion affirming its support for the prioritization of students and “limiting access to the Food Bank to active AMS members” (i.e., students at UBC and its affiliated colleges).

Meanwhile Council heard that the construction work to expand the Food Bank space is underway.

No Oral Reports from BoG and Senate: Council defeated a Code amendment that would have required the student Senators and Board of Governors representatives to make oral reports in addition to written submissions. Current BoG rep Eshana Bhangu said there was no need for both written and oral reports, and VP Academic Kamil Kanji said it was bad practice to reverse the recent change to do away with oral reports.

No More Campus Safety Vision Statement: Council voted to rescind this very old policy from 2009 on safety and fostering a respectful environment after hearing from President Decker that such issues are covered in the recently approved Strategic Plan and in the policy on respectful community.

Committee appointments: President Decker said the online form for committee appointments is being updated to be clearer and to ensure that applicants describe their experience and explain why they want to serve on the committees they apply for.

AGM: President Decker said the current plan is to hold the AMS Annual General Meeting virtually on Thursday, October 19.

IFC: President Decker said there was a good meeting with the Inter-Fraternity Council in an attempt to revive an MoU between them and the AMS and to connect Safewalk and the fraternities.

Hawaii, anyone? VP Administration Ian Caguiat said that the newly approved clubs include the “very cool” Hawaiian Club.

Health & Dental: VP Finance Abhi Mishra told Council that he is waiting for data to help decide whether to change the accounting model for the Health & Dental Plan, adding that he is also working on communication about the new gender-affirming care program.

AMS Agenda: Managing Director Justin Lieu said the annual AMS Agenda is being finalized.

Welcome Back BBQ: The Managing Director also said plans are underway for the Welcome Back Barbecue, which will be a low cost event this year, with an actual barbecue.

Blue Chip: Also from the Managing Director: the opening time for the new, relocated Blue Chip Cafe will be in October.

Code of Conduct: President Decker said plans are underway for a new Code of Conduct for Councillors to deal with conflict of interest.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – August 23 and 29, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **August 23, 2023** and the special meeting of **August 29, 2023**:

PC1 and PC2: Heated debate on the proposed revised versions of the policies on sexualized violence and respectful community resulted in the early adjournment of the regular meeting August 23. The discussion resumed at a special online meeting on August 29. Many guests were present on both occasions, voicing their opposition to the revised versions, and in the end Council voted to postpone them indefinitely.

CM4: A policy that did pass was the revised version of CM4 on communication with the Musqueam. Revisions included changing the liaison person from the Policy Advisor to the Communications Manager.

Code changes: Council approved changes to eliminate external policies, since these are not used anymore, and to specify that the Speaker is a non-voting member on the Agenda Committee and the committee for Executive Performance and Accountability (EPA).

Senate appointments: Council recommended that Samuel Kenston be appointed as the student senator representing the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and that David Qi be appointed as the student senator representing the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Budget amendment: Council approved a \$10,000 budget amendment to cover the cost of hiring a Campaigns and Community Outreach Commissioner reporting to the VP Academic & University Affairs.

Health & Dental Plan: At the August 23 meeting a long discussion took place concerning revisions to the Health & Dental Plan necessitated by continuing financial difficulties. AMS President Esmé Decker reported that the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee had decided to decrease coverage for dental work, eyeglasses, and psychological counselling sessions. Discussion focused on the decrease in coverage for counselling sessions from 100% to 80%. There were suggestions that it might be better to retain the 100% coverage per session and instead reduce the overall benefit from \$1250 to \$1,000. The AMS President said she would take the feedback back to the Health & Dental Committee.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – September 13, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **September 13, 2023**:

Full House: All 32 voting Councillors and a roomful of guests showed up for another discussion of PC1 and PC2, the policies on respectful community and sexualized violence.

Compromise reached: After extensive discussion, Council approved a compromise resolution to establish a working group to produce new versions of PC1 and PC2 by January 2024.

Committee appointments: Council refilled its committees for the School Year, appointing the following chairs:

Advocacy Committee: Kamil Kanji

HR Committee: Erin Co

Finance Committee: Abhi Mishra

Operations Committee: Ian Caguiat

Student Life Committee: Karisma Jutla

Governance Committee: Ayesha Irfan

Running for election: Councillor Mathew Ho made a dramatic entrance to the Council chambers, running and out of breath, just in time to give his speech to ask to be appointed to the HR Committee, which he was.

Fraternities agreement: AMS President Esmé Decker announced an agreement with the Inter-Fraternity Council that will connect them with Safewalk and give them discounts on bookings in the Nest.

Mental Health Coverage Restored: VP Academic & University Affairs Kamil Kanji announced that the University has agreed to pay \$500,000 to restore full coverage of mental health counselling sessions. Coverage was going to be dropped to 80% per visit, but will now go back to 100%.

Fee opt-outs: VP Finance Abhi Mishra announced that there have been 3,500 opt-outs from opt-outable AMS fees, returning \$70,000 to students' pockets.

Free barbecue: Managing Director Justin Lieu announced that this year's Welcome Back Barbecue will be an actual barbecue and free.

Edibles, Coke, and Dave: The Archivist entertained Council with tales of Edibles (the old snack bar in the Education building), the Coke deal (the exclusivity agreement with Coca-Cola that lasted from 1995 to 2007), and Dave Tompkins, the Councillor who wore the same outfit every year for thirteen years for the annual Council photo-taking.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – September 27, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **September 27, 2023**:

Short and Sweet: With a very light agenda and some Executives away or under the weather, Council moved online for a quick, one-hour Zoom meeting, filling a vacancy on the EPA Committee and listening to a presentation from the Ubysey about how the newspaper works. Council also welcomed a new Education Councillor, Lisa Ni. Councillor Mathew Ho asked the Ubysey if they are going to start covering elections in the undergraduate societies, but editor Annabella McElroy said the paper doesn't have the resources to do that.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – October 11, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **October 11, 2023**:

Interim VP External: After a lengthy discussion, which included objections from a guest representing the Social Justice Centre and the Pride Collective, Council appointed Joshua Kim, Strategy and Governance Lead in the AMS President's Office, to be the Interim VP External until January 5 while Tina Tong is away.

Affiliated Colleges: A motion to give non-voting seats to the Affiliated Colleges (St. Mark's, Regent, and the Vancouver School of Theology) met opposition and was referred to the Governance Committee.

Privacy Policy: Council amended the privacy policy to acknowledge the collection of cookies and to forbid the use of non-AMS file-sharing services (Google Drive etc.) for personal information.

Updating the Code: Council approved amendments to the Code to remove Covid-related provisions, to allow permanent residents to be appointed to the CiTR board, and to remove Councillor status from the Senior Manager of Student Services.

Services Update: Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager of Student Services, reported on the goals of the Services, such as improving data collection to understand how students are using AMS Services. She noted that promotion has led to a 70% increase in Safewalk usage.

Campus Vision 2050 Update: Council heard from UBC's Director of Community Planning, Joanne Proft, about UBC's plans for land use and housing. She said the plan now is to keep all student family housing in the Acadia area of campus rather than moving part of it as was previously planned.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – October 25, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **October 25, 2023**:

Israel-Palestine: Council heard from the two sides in the conflict at a meeting attended by a great many guests. Speakers talked of feeling unsafe on campus. AMS President Esmé Decker thanked those who attended and said the AMS wants all students to feel safe. She added that the AMS Peer Support Service is available to listen, and the whole AMS team is here to mediate and de-escalate.

Robert's Rules and Decorum: Speaker Max Holmes explained the ins and outs of Robert's Rules, the rulebook for Council meetings, and also stressed the need to cultivate unity and goodwill, in accordance with the AMS Mission.

ASAP: VP Administration Ian Caguiat talked of the work being done to review the AMS Sustainability Action Plan.

PC1 and PC2: President Decker said a consultant has been confirmed to work on PC1 and PC2, the policies on respectful community and sexualized violence.

AGM: The President said she is going to meet with past presidents to discuss returning to in-person general meetings, to see if that would bring back more energy.

Textbook Broke: VPAUA Kamil Kanji said the Textbook Broke campaign is underway and that an award for professors using open education resources will be presented at an AMS event in March.

24/7 Nest: VP Admin Caguiat said preparation work is underway so that the Nest can open 24/7 during final exam season.

Lobby Week: Interim VP External Joshua Kim said his team will be following up after meeting 35 MLA's and ministers during Lobby Week.

Nest Closure: Managing Director Justin Lieu announced that the Nest will be closed between December 24 and January 2.

Mediterranean Restaurant: The Managing Director also announced that after further analysis it has been decided not to go forward with an AMS-run Mediterranean food outlet in the old Blue Chip space. Instead a tenant will be sought for the space, preferably one specializing in Mediterranean cuisine.

Bunny Event: Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager of Student Services, reported that Peer Support had held a bunny event for wellness.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – November 8, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **November 8, 2023**:

Code Changes: Council passed Code amendments to allow certain appointment motions to be approved in camera, to tighten the rules for in camera sessions to preserve confidentiality, and to extend the rule on not speaking more than twice on any motion to apply to any discussion topic even if not connected to a motion.

PC1 and PC2: AMS President Esmé Decker said the working group looking into amending Policies PC1 and PC2 (on sexualized violence and respectful community) had its first meeting.

Textbook Broke: VPAUA Kamil Kanji said the Textbook Broke campaign had been very successful, with over 150,000 interactions with students in person or over social media.

Lawsuit: Managing Director Justin Lieu said the AMS is working with its legal counsel in response to a class action lawsuit received by the AMS.

New SASC Manager: Council was informed that the new manager of the Sexual Assault Support Centre is Ophelia Kehila.

Affiliates: Ayesha Irfan, the chair of the Governance Committee, said the proposal to give additional seats on Council to the Affiliated Colleges has been referred to the Affiliates Committee.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 22 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – November 22, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **November 22, 2023**:

The Old Order Changeth: Council Speaker Max Holmes announced his resignation. This just two weeks after AMS President Esmé Decker went on leave and two months after VP External Tina Tong also went on leave.

Leaves of Absence: Student at Large Brandyn Marx asked Council to amend Code to put limits on the length of leaves of absence so that instead of appointees serving as interim Executives students would be able to vote for new Executives in a by-election.

AMS and the UBC budget: VPAUA (and acting president) Kamil Kanji told Council that the AMS had submitted its asks to the University for the new University budget. These include increased funding for graduate students, international students, the University's Centre for Accessibility, food security, career support, an exam database, undergraduate research, and mental health.

Elections Committee: Council approved a Code change to reduce the size of the Elections Committee by removing the Communications Officer and the Events Officer. Max Holmes, who is staying on as Elections Administrator, said the Elections Administrator and the Chief Returning Officer can handle the duties formerly performed by the discontinued positions.

Speaker's Powers: After much debate, Council approved a Code change to give the Speaker the power to bar individuals from multiple meetings for reasons of safety or if there is a fear that an individual will disrupt the proceedings of Council.

All Staff: Managing Director Justin Lieu said a staff Town Hall was well attended (60 staff members showed up), and there were fruitful conversations on a number of topics, the most popular one being food offerings in the Nest.

Study Tables: VP Admin Ian Caguiat said tables will be available on the lower level of the Nest during the exam period until December 22.

EPA: Karisma Jutla, vice-chair of the EPA Committee (on Executive Performance and Accountability), said an investigations subcommittee has been set up.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council

COUNCIL SUMMARY – December 6, 2023

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **December 6, 2023**:

Interim President: Council named Ben Du to be Interim AMS President, effective December 19 until April 30. Ben was VP Administration last year and was runner-up to Esmé Decker for president in the March elections.

Interim VP External: Council extended the term of Interim Vice-President Joshua Kim until April 30 after hearing that VP External Tina Tong, who went on leave in October, is extending her leave indefinitely.

ASAP: Council approved the new AMS Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP), after hearing a presentation from Emily Wong-Abdul and Ryan Chiu of the AMS Sustainability Team.

BIPOC position: Council approved the creation of a new BIPOC Engagement Coordinator position to assist the Equity and Inclusion Specialist.

Election changes: Council approved a change in the timing of nominations, so they will end a week earlier in February, and also approved several other minor election changes.

Meeting the Premier: Interim VP External Josh Kim reported on a meeting with BC Premier David Eby. There were also meetings with federal MP Joyce Murray and various city councillors.

Bev Teh: Managing Director Justin Lieu announced that Bev Teh, a long-time employee in Blue Chip Cafe, passed away in November.

Blue Chip move: The Managing Director said that the move of Blue Chip to its new location is now scheduled for January.

Auditorium/Norm Theatre: The Managing Director announced renovations to the Auditorium (aka the Norm Theatre) which will keep it closed until late January.

Appreciating Art: In response to a question from Engineering rep Rowan Bapty, VP Finance Abhi Mishra said that the reason for holding onto the art collection in a time of deficit is that art appreciates in value more than the market does.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council