



ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

AMS STUDENT COUNCIL HANDBOOK

A GUIDE FOR MEMBERS OF STUDENT COUNCIL (and background for the rest of us)

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CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	3
II. SOME BASICS	4
III. THE AMS EXECUTIVE	8
IV. COMMITTEES, STUDENT SERVICES, ETC.	10
VI. SOME AMS STAFF	14
VII. AMS BUSINESSES AND LESSEES.....	15
VIII. WHAT COUNCIL DOES	16
IX. COUNCILLORS' DUTIES AND LIABILITY (and a Reward)	17
X. MONEY	19
XI. HOW COUNCIL WORKS.....	20
XII. UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE	26
XIII. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.....	27
APPENDIX 1: VOTING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL	28
APPENDIX 2: MOTIONS	29
APPENDIX 3: FUNDS.....	33
APPENDIX 4: ACRONYMS.....	34
APPENDIX 5:	34
APPENDIX 6: HOW TO PRONOUNCE ALMA MATER SOCIETY	38
APPENDIX 7:	39
HOW THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY GOT ITS NAME, or ALMA WHAT?	39
APPENDIX 8:	41
A TREK THROUGH UBC STUDENT HISTORY	41

I. INTRODUCTION

Congratulations. You are now a member of AMS Council, also known as Student Council or just Council, the governing body of the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver, the student society at UBC Vancouver.

To assist you in carrying out your responsibilities as part of Council, this handbook provides information about the Alma Mater Society (usually referred to as the AMS),¹ Council and its committees, and the University. For further information, consult the AMS Code and Bylaws, or see the Clerk of Council.

Note: This Handbook is merely a guide, not a legal document. If a statement in this Handbook conflicts with the Societies Act, the Universities Act, the AMS Constitution, Bylaws, or Code, AMS Policies, or any other AMS governing documents, or any regulations of UBC's Board of Governors or Senate, or the laws of British Columbia, those other laws, bylaws, or regulations shall prevail.

¹ For information on how to pronounce Alma Mater Society, see the poem in Appendix 6. For information on how the Alma Mater Society got its name, see Appendix 7. For a timeline of student history at UBC, see Appendix 8.

II. SOME BASICS

Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver

The official name of the student society at the Vancouver campus of UBC. (But we usually just call ourselves the AMS.)

Legal status. The AMS is an independent non-profit society incorporated under the B.C. Societies Act. It is also governed by the provisions in the University Act concerning student societies. It is not a charity.

Membership. Members include the approximately 60,000 students currently enrolled at UBC's Vancouver campus, along with the thousand or so students at UBC's affiliated colleges (Regent College, St. Mark's, and the Vancouver School of Theology).

Activities. The AMS runs many student services, oversees about 350 student clubs through its Operations Committee, liaises with the student associations in the University's schools and faculties, puts on numerous events throughout the year, and represents student interests in relation to the University and the various levels of government.

It also provides a health and dental plan to the students as well as the inexpensive transit pass (the U-Pass) and a Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC). And it puts on such events as the Block Party and the Welcome Back Barbecue.

The AMS also runs several businesses, employs many full-time staff, and hires hundreds of part-time student staff, mostly to work in the food and beverage outlets that it runs (Blue Chip, the Honour Roll, the Gallery Lounge, the Pit, etc.).

In 2015 the AMS moved from the old Student Union Building (Old SUB, now called the UBC Life Building) into the much larger AMS Student Nest next door.

The Constitution, Bylaws, and Code of Procedure of the AMS

Often referred to as "Code and Bylaws."

Constitution

Lists the general aims of the AMS (to promote and direct student activities, to advance the cause of higher learning, etc.). The Constitution takes precedence over the Bylaws and the Code of Procedure, but in practice it is seldom referred to in most matters that come before Council.

The Constitution is also the place where the Society's name is officially stated. This part of the Constitution was amended in the referendum of March 2008 to add the word "Vancouver" to the AMS name. (This change was made necessary by UBC's expansion into the Okanagan in 2005, creating a second UBC campus, so that there is now both a UBC Vancouver and a UBC Okanagan. The AMS represents only the students at UBC Vancouver.)

Bylaws

The Bylaws set out the basic structure of the AMS (Council, the Executive, etc.). The Bylaws also define AMS membership and prescribe the procedures for general meetings, referendums, and amending the Constitution and Bylaws. The Bylaws take precedence over the Code of Procedure, and can be amended only by a two-thirds vote in a referendum or at a general meeting, meaning that they are fairly hard to change.

Code of Procedure

Usually just called the Code. It elaborates on the Bylaws, prescribing the procedures to be followed by Council, Council committees, etc. The Code is much easier to change than the Bylaws: all that is required is a two-thirds vote by Council. Council can also temporarily suspend individual provisions of the Code by a two-thirds vote.

Strategic Plan

In April 2023 Council approved a five-year strategic plan for the Society, including a Mission, a Vision, and Guiding Principles.

Mission

The AMS Mission, as contained in the Strategic Plan, is to improve the quality of the academic, social, and personal lives of UBC students.

Policies

Council can adopt policies by two-thirds votes.

Council policies set out rules for things under AMS control, such as creating a respectful community within the AMS, appointing members of committees, and setting Executive goals. There is also now an investment policy, along with a privacy policy, a records policy, and a sexualized violence policy.

Council

The governing body of the AMS.

Council includes voting and non-voting members:

Voting members of Council

- 1) the five members of the Executive;
- 2) Constituency representatives from UBC faculties and schools (e.g., Arts, Engineering, Science, Law) and from the Indigenous Constituency;
- 3) a representative for the three Affiliated Institutions.

As of June 2023 there were places for 26 Constituency representatives on Council (see Appendix 1 for a list), making a grand total of 32 seats for voting members of Council (including the Execs and the representative of the Affiliated Colleges).

Council now always begins with a territorial acknowledgement about being on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Musqueam people.

Non-voting members of Council

- 1) the Speaker of Council;
- 2) the AMS Ombudsperson;
- 3) the two Vancouver student representatives on the UBC Board of Governors;
- 4) two of the students elected to the UBC Vancouver Senate;

Council can add non-voting members by a two-thirds resolution.

Constituencies

Students in UBC's various faculties and schools are organized into undergraduate societies and student associations, such as the Arts Undergraduate Society and the Education Students Association. Most of these undergraduate societies and student associations are Constituencies of the AMS, sending representatives to Student Council and conducting activities for its members.

In 2023 an AMS referendum created a new Indigenous Constituency for the Indigenous students on campus.

In practice, the Constituencies have a fair amount of autonomy, but technically they do not exist as legal entities and therefore all their funds and assets belong to the AMS; also, AMS Council has the power to issue directives to the Constituencies and to alter any Constituency's constitution or bylaws, but this rarely happens, and it is usually done at the request of a Constituency when it can't meet its quorum rules for changing its constitution.

Contracts entered into on behalf of Constituencies, such as contracts to rent space in a hotel or more major contracts to do with social space for a Constituency, must be submitted to the AMS for approval and must be signed by AMS signing officers.

Constituencies must do their banking through accounts set up in the AMS Administration Office.

Constituencies get dedicated fees separate from the AMS fee, which they can alter by means of Constituency referendums. The results of such referendums must be sent to AMS Council, which then forwards them to the University's Board of Governors if procedures have been properly followed. (For information on the procedures for Constituency fee referendums, see Appendix 5.)

GSS

Not a Constituency like the undergraduate societies, the GSS (Graduate Student Society) is an independently incorporated society. It is independent of the AMS but at the same time sends representatives to AMS Council, and its members (all of UBC Vancouver's graduate students) are also members of the AMS.

General Meetings

The general student body can exercise power at general meetings and in referendums.

There is an annual general meeting (AGM) of the students held every year in October. The precise date is set by Council.

In 2014 for the first time in decades an AGM reached quorum, thanks to a campaign against increases in tuition and residence fees and because quorum had been lowered to 1% of the student population. (Not so long ago it was 10%.) The quorum requirement must be met for a general meeting to conduct substantive business other than approving the financial statements and confirming the appointment of the auditors.

In 2020, in the midst of COVID, the AMS held a virtual AGM over Zoom and easily made quorum and amended its bylaws. Since then, AGM's have been virtual and in 2022 made quorum again.

Special general meetings can be called by the President upon a resolution of Council or after the delivery of a petition signed by 500 students. The first one in years was called by students in June 2024, but it failed to meet quorum.

Referendums

Referendums can be used to amend the Bylaws, alter AMS fees, sell AMS property, or remove Executives from office. Some referendums, e.g., U-Pass referendums, bring out huge numbers; others less so. For a referendum to pass, at least 8% of the eligible voters (so about 4,800 students) have to vote Yes.

Fees

AMS fees are set by the membership in referendums. Over the years a number of specific, dedicated fees have been introduced in addition to the general membership fee, including ones for sexual assault support services, CITR, the resource groups, athletics, capital projects, the Health and Dental Plan, and the U-Pass program.

There used to be even more dedicated fees in the past, but some have been removed to create greater flexibility.

New fees and changes to fees are usually proposed by the VP Finance and if approved by Council sent to referendum. Sometimes the students at large propose new fees. The bike kitchen fee is an example, as is the Campus Culture and Performance fee.

III. THE AMS EXECUTIVE

The Executive, also referred to as the Executive Committee, consists of the President, the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs, the Vice-President Finance, the Vice-President Administration, and the Vice-President External Affairs. The Executive is to provide leadership and direction for the AMS, but is subject to the authority of Student Council.

The five members of the Executive are elected directly by and from the students every February or March and take office on May 1.

The Executive Committee usually meets weekly. The Managing Director, the Senior Manager of Student Services, and the Clerk of Council also attend.

The individual members of the Executive have the following duties and powers:

President

The President is generally responsible for overseeing the AMS and its activities and for ensuring that the policies enacted by Council are implemented. The President also prepares the agenda for Council meetings and is the official spokesperson of the AMS.

Under the Bylaws, the President chairs Council, but the Bylaws also allow the President or Council to designate another chair. Council passed a Code amendment in April 1998 to create the office of Speaker of Council, the idea being that this Speaker would take over the responsibility of chairing Council meetings, thus freeing the President to participate in debate.

Recent Bylaw changes have made the President the manager of the Vice-Presidents.

Vice-President Academic and University Affairs

The Vice-President Academic and University Affairs (or VP Academic or VPAUA) sits on numerous University committees and liaises with University officials. In recent years their time has been largely taken up with sexual assault policies, health and wellness, affordability, and climate action. They also oversee the AMS's Academic Experience Survey.

Vice-President Finance

The Vice-President Finance (or VP Finance) is responsible for all AMS financial affairs, including the affairs of clubs and constituencies, and is responsible for preparing the budget. They also chair the joint AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan Committee, which oversees the Health and Dental Plan, and they are very involved in the subsidies available to students for the U-Pass, the Health and Dental Plan, and AMS fees generally.

Vice-President Administration

The Vice-President Administration (or VP Admin) has responsibility for the clubs and the Nest. Sustainability and the Hatch Art Gallery are also part of their portfolio, as are renovations and the grad class gift.

Vice-President External Affairs

The Vice-President External Affairs (or VP External) is responsible for relations with student organizations and other organizations outside UBC. The VP External also oversees lobbying of the various levels of government and is the advocacy voice of the AMS on issues such as tuition, financial assistance, funding for post-secondary education, and transit.

During federal, provincial, and municipal elections the VP External works to ensure that post-secondary education issues get discussed and that students get out to vote.

In recent years, the VP External has been active in UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities) and in BC-3 (a coalition of the student societies at UBC, UVic, and SFU).

Interim Executives

In recent years several Executives have stepped down or gone on in leave. In that situation, Council names an Interim Executive. If there has been a resignation, there will usually be a by-election.

IV. COMMITTEES, STUDENT SERVICES, ETC.

Committees

There are eight standing Council committees, each consisting of Council members and in most cases Executives, and Students at Large (that is, ordinary students who are not on Council or serving in other appointed positions within the AMS).

The standing committees are:

- 1) the Agenda Committee,
- 2) the Governance Committee,
- 3) the Advocacy Committee,
- 4) the Student Life Committee,
- 5) the Finance Committee,
- 6) the Human Resources Committee,
- 7) the Operations Committee, and
- 8) the Executive Performance and Accountability Committee (EPA).

There are also some additional AMS bodies and committees:

- 1) the Elections Committee,
- 2) the Advisory Board,
- 3) the Affiliates Committee, and
- 4) the Indigenous Committee.

The Agenda Committee helps the President draw up the Council agenda and also helps committees with their goals and coordinates progress on fulfilling the Strategic Plan.

The Governance Committee reviews the Code of Procedure and recommends changes to it when necessary. It also reviews internal policies and the Bylaws.

The Advocacy Committee helps develop policies on external and University issues.

Student Life works on increasing student engagement, liaises with those in charge of Events, Communications, and Services, and plans orientations and social events for Council.

The Finance Committee helps the VP Finance prepare the budget. It is also involved in administering funds, providing subsidies, and monitoring the financial activities of the clubs.

The Human Resources Committee makes recommendations for appointments of the Speaker of Council, the Elections Administrator, and the Ombudsperson, and reviews job descriptions and pay rates for other positions.

The Operations Committee oversees the clubs and the Nest, is responsible for sustainability and the AMS art collection, and takes part in plans for renovations.

The Elections Committee, which oversees all AMS elections and referendums as well as elections of students to UBC's Board of Governors and Senate, differs from the other committees in not having any Council members on it; its members are supposed to be at arm's length from Council for reasons of impartiality.

The Advisory Board provides the Executive with advice on the goals of the Society and other aspects of the Society. It began life as a body meant to advise on business issues, but now has a broader mandate.

The Indigenous Committee was established to recognize the Indigenous presence and establish Indigenous representation at the University. It is being phased out because of the creation of the Indigenous Constituency.

The Affiliates Committee was created in 2021 to establish stronger ties between the AMS and the students at the Affiliated Institutions (Regent, St. Mark's, and VST).

Council also occasionally creates ad hoc committees, such as the **Governance Review Committee**, which in 2022-23 looked into the rules related to Council and its committees.

There are also committees outside the AMS to which Council appoints members. Mostly these are University committees that seek AMS appointees every year. Council also appoints representatives to the **CiTR** radio station board of directors, to the board of the **Student Legal Fund Society**, and to the joint AMS-GSS Health and Dental Plan Committee.

AVP's and other Student Staff

The Vice-Presidents hire Associate Vice-Presidents, or AVP's, as well as other staff to do research and provide assistance to them. Also to help oversee the clubs, arrange meetings, and make presentations to Council.

The President also hires the equivalent of AVP's (called Leads) as well as other assistants to provide support, draft policies, and pursue projects.

Student Services

AMS departments established by the Code which provide services to the student body. These include the Food Bank (providing food to those in need), Safewalk (helping students cross campus safely at night), Tutoring (providing both group and private tutoring sessions), Peer Support (for students needing someone to reach out to for support), and the Advocacy Office (representing students faced with University disciplinary issues). Each of them is headed by a Coordinator who reports to the Senior Manager of Student Services.

The Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC)

SASC is another AMS Service reporting to the Senior Manager of Student Services. It is intended to provide assistance and information to those affected by sexual assault, and is funded by a dedicated fee first approved in a referendum in 2003.

Ombudsperson

The Ombudsperson is responsible for looking into complaints students have with the AMS and for complaints within and between clubs.

Sustainability

In 2008 Council created the position of Sustainability Coordinator. There is now a whole Sustainability department with several staff members working under the direction of the VP Administration as well as a Sustainability Subcommittee under the Operations Committee.

Student Resource Groups

Organizations funded by the AMS in order to provide information on social issues. The views of these groups do not necessarily reflect the views of the AMS. Though funded by the AMS, they are at arm's length from the rest of the Society and function semi-autonomously.

There are six Resource Groups: the Student Environment Centre; the Social Justice Centre; the Women's Centre; Colour Connected Against Racism; the Disabilities United Collective; and Pride UBC (formerly known as Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals of UBC).

Grad Class Gifts

Gifts to be made to the University on behalf of the graduating class. They are funded by a fee paid by graduating students and administered by the VP Admin's office.

V. THE AMS STUDENT NEST

The AMS Student Nest (or just the Nest) opened on June 1, 2015. It is the third student union building at UBC (the first one is now Brock Hall, and the second is now the UBC Life Building).

The AMS continues to control certain parts of the UBC Life Building: most notably the Norm Theatre, used for film showings and other events, and also areas in the basement of the Life Building, where certain clubs (Pottery Club etc.) have space. The Thrift Store is also there.

The Life Building is connected to the Nest by a hallway at the basement level which serves as a Sustainability Corridor.

VI. SOME AMS STAFF

In addition to elected and appointed student officials, the AMS also has a permanent staff to assist Council and the Executive. Staff positions include the following:

Managing Director (Justin Lieu): Oversees all the AMS businesses and services, the Events and Communications departments, and AMS financial and administrative affairs.

Senior Manager of Student Services (Kathleen Simpson): Oversees SASC and the other Services.

Administrative Assistant (Joanne Pickford): The go-to person for new Council members. She can provide information, name placards, etc. Works with the Clerk of Council on Council minutes. Distributes Council agendas and documents. Maintains an address and phone list of Council members. Takes care of the annual Just Desserts awards.

Archivist & Clerk of Council/Privacy Officer (Sheldon Goldfarb): The person to ask if you have questions about Code or Bylaws or about AMS history. As Privacy Officer, ensures compliance with PIPA, the BC privacy law. Wrote *The Hundred-Year Trek*, a history of the AMS.

Human Resources Manager: The Manager is currently on maternity leave, but the Department continues to help with job postings and recruiting. It also provides advice on employee issues under the Employment Standards Act, WorkSafe, etc. and helps organize Orientations.

Marketing and Communications Manager (Eric Lowe): Coordinates all aspects of AMS media relations, oversees the AMS website and social media sites, and assists with communications and marketing strategies for various AMS projects.

Events Manager (Nadeem Kajani): Produces and promotes concerts and various other events, such as the annual Welcome Back BBQ and the AMS Block Party.

SASC Manager (Ophelia Kehila): Oversees the Sexual Assault Support Centre.

Chief Technology Manager (Hong Lok Li): Oversees the AMS IT Department. IT can help your Constituency if you need web space or want to set up a database.

Design Office Manager (Michael Kingsmill): Carries out renovations to the Nest and other student facilities on campus. Was involved in designing such Constituency spaces as the Ladha Centre, the Engineering Student Centre, and the Arts Student Centre.

Other staff can be found in the main AMS office area on the third floor of the Nest.

VII. AMS BUSINESSES AND LESSEES

Council is ultimately responsible for the management of the various AMS businesses, but the actual day-to-day running of the businesses is carried out by managers reporting to the Managing Director. Since moving to the Nest, the AMS has focused on food and beverage outlets, including the Blue Chip Cafe (for coffee, cookies, and sandwiches) and the Honour Roll (for sushi). There is also the popular Gallery Lounge on the top floor of the Nest.

Some AMS clubs run outlets, e.g., Aquasoc, which runs a dive shop, the Natural Food Co-op, which runs the Sprouts cafe and food store, and the Bike Co-op, which runs the Bike Kitchen.

The AMS also leases space in the Nest to various business tenants, including the Delly (for sandwiches and other food items) and a hair salon. Other tenants include Grocery Checkout and Campus Vision (optometrists). Coming soon are some new food outlets, including Freshslice Pizza.

VIII. WHAT COUNCIL DOES

Council carries out various types of business, including the following:

- 1) It approves the AMS budget and administers several of the AMS Funds.
- 2) It makes appointments to committees.
- 3) It can amend the AMS Code to alter the procedures used by Council, committees, etc., and also to alter the procedures used in AMS elections.
- 4) It sets AMS policy on external issues such as tuition fees and affordability, education funding, UBC and government policies, and so on.
- 5) It approves AMS policies on such matters as communications, committee appointments, respectful community, records, and sexualized violence.
- 6) It approves major AMS contracts.
- 7) It approves funding for renovations and other projects, including software purchases.
- 8) It can direct the AMS President to call a referendum.
- 9) It can create new Services and Resource Groups.
- 10) It receives presentations from AMS and UBC officials on sustainability, tuition fees, athletics, etc.
- 11) It approves the minutes of committees.

IX. COUNCILLORS' DUTIES AND LIABILITY (AND A REWARD)

Legal Liability

For the purposes of the Societies Act, the voting members of Council constitute the Board of Directors of the AMS. As directors of the society, voting members of Council have the duty to act "honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the society"; they also must exercise "the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise" (see the Societies Act, s. 53:

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/15018_01).

When you become a Council member, you will be asked to sign a Declaration to this effect and also to list any outside interests that might produce a conflict of interest.

If Council, on behalf of the AMS, commits a legal offence or violates the Code or Bylaws, then the voting members of Council, as directors of the AMS, may be individually liable. One way to avoid such liability is to have voted against the illegal action of Council and to have that dissenting vote noted in the minutes.

Conflict of Interest

The voting members of Council have a duty to inform Council if there is a possibility that they will benefit personally, either financially or otherwise, from a motion passed by Council. Generally speaking, in this situation the Council member would abstain from all discussion and voting on the motion in question. If the Council member does not abstain, a contract or other transaction approved by the motion could be voided by the courts.

The AMS Code further requires the voting members of Council not to disclose confidential information they acquire on Council (for instance, during closed *in camera* sessions) and not to use such information for personal benefit. They also must not put their personal interests ahead of the interests of the AMS; nor may they accept costly gifts presented to them because they are Council members.

To avoid conflict of interest, Council members cannot be employees of the AMS.

General Responsibilities

Constituency representatives on Council are expected to attend all Council meetings during the school year (September through March). Constituency representatives will lose their seats on Council if they miss five regular meetings of Council during the school year.

Constituency representatives must seek to be appointed to at least one committee.

Speaking in Public

Only the AMS President can act as spokesperson for the AMS. If approached by the media in your capacity as an AMS Councillor, you should consult the Communications Manager or the President.

Some Further Tips

Keep your contact information up to date with the Administrative Assistant.

Councillor of the Year

In 2006, the Executive introduced the Councillor of the Year award to honour a Council member for their contributions to the AMS. A plaque and a bottle of wine are sometimes involved.

Past recipients have been:

2006	Patricia Lau (Science)
2007	Ryan Corbett (Arts)
2008	Conor Topley (Commerce)
2009	Rory Green (Arts), Clare Benton (Law)
2010	Andrew Carne (Engineering) and Matthew Naylor (Arts)
2011	Allen Chen (GSS)
2012	Eric Gauf (Law)
2013	Hans Seidemann (Engineering)
2014	Phaidra Ruck (Education)
2015	Veronica Knott (Engineering)
2016	Daniel Lam (Science)
2017	Jakob Gattinger (Engineering)
2018	Cameron England (Arts) and Julian Villafuerte Diaz (Land & Food)
2019	Jeanie Malone (Board of Governors)
2020	Katherine Westerlund (Engineering)
2021	Katherine Feng (Science)
2022	Kamil Kanji (Arts)
2023	Rachel Kim (Commerce)
2024	Rowan Bapty (Engineering)

X. MONEY

No, sorry, non-Executive Council members do not get paid, unless they chair committees. But Council members do get to make decisions affecting the large amounts of money handled by the AMS. Most notably, it is up to Council to approve the annual AMS budget.

The system in place for the budget means that there is first of all a preliminary budget presented to Council in April, and then a more detailed budget in June containing a breakdown of expected expenditures for the individual departments of the AMS.

Council also administers many of the AMS Funds, which means that Council must pass a two-thirds resolution before money can be spent from those Funds. For a list of some of the major AMS Funds, see Appendix 3.

XI. HOW COUNCIL WORKS

Time and Place

During the school year Council usually meets every second Wednesday at 6 pm in the Michael Kingsmill Forum on the fourth floor of the Nest. During the summer, Council usually meets every third Wednesday. There is no rule requiring meetings to take place on Wednesday, but it is a longstanding tradition.

Special meetings of Student Council may take place at the President's discretion, or upon a resolution of Council, or upon receipt by the VP Academic of a petition signed by ten voting members of Council. Special Council meetings are usually held to discuss specific issues of an urgent nature.

Seating

Seating is fairly informal, but the Speaker, the Clerk of Council, and the Administrative Assistant sit in the central area at the front. The President and the Managing Director also sit at the front.

Behaviour

Council members are encouraged to cultivate unity and goodwill, to encourage free and open debate, and to respect differing views. Smoking and alcohol consumption are not allowed.

Quorum

For a Council meeting to proceed, quorum must be present. Quorum is 45% of the total number of voting Council members. Since the number of places on Council for voting members is currently 32, quorum is 15 if all places are filled. If there are vacancies, quorum can be as low as 12.

Proxies

Constituency members of Council used to be allowed to name a proxy to attend and vote in their place, but recent amendments to the Societies Act banned this practice.

Councillors may still name proxies to attend committee meetings in their place as long as the proxy is an AMS member (i.e., a student).

Robert's Rules of Order

Procedural matters at Council meetings are governed by Robert's Rules of Order, unless there is a specific provision on the matter in Code.

Voting

Voting at Council meetings is done electronically, which has allowed Council to require that all votes be roll call votes to provide transparency. The minutes will thus record how each member voted on all motions.

Agendas and Documents

The agenda for Council meetings, along with supporting material, is supposed to be circulated three business days or five calendar days before the meeting. This means Friday for a Wednesday Council meeting.

Supporting materials will include such things as the actual text of Code amendments, minutes to be approved, and reports.

Material is circulated by means of the online platform OnBoard.

Putting a Motion on the Agenda

Some motions come to Council from the Executive Committee. Others come from the committees.

Individual Council members can have a motion put on the agenda by getting a second member of Council to support it and getting it to the President at least three business days before the meeting. But it is usually more effective to get a committee or the Executive Committee to bring the motion forward.

At the President's discretion, time-sensitive motions may be added to the agenda, even after it has gone out to Council.

It is also possible to amend the agenda at a Council meeting in order to add a motion to it at the meeting itself ("from the floor"). And it is possible to change the order of items on the agenda, something that is often done if guests are in attendance who cannot stay for the whole meeting.

Adding motions or otherwise altering the agenda from the floor requires the approval of Council. This is sometimes granted simply by unanimous consent (i.e., if there are no objections to adding or changing), but sometimes there is an actual vote.

***In Camera* Sessions**

Portions of a Council meeting can be held *in camera*; that is, these portions are closed to the public, and only Council members (voting and non-voting), certain AMS staff members, and individuals invited by Council are allowed to be present. *In camera* sessions have been held in recent years to discuss personnel matters, commercial contracts, negotiations with third parties, and so forth.

In 2022 Council also began holding *in camera* sessions for evaluating Executive performance.

Council will provisionally go *in camera* at the request of three Council members. The three requesting members must then explain their reasons for requesting the *in camera* session. After hearing the reasons, Council votes to decide whether to remain *in camera* for the discussion. Council cannot pass substantive motions *in camera*, except for motions to appoint the Speaker, the Elections Administrator, the Ombudsperson, and Interim Executives.

Information revealed *in camera* must not be divulged to those not allowed to attend the *in camera* session.

Photography and Recordings

Photographs are permitted at Council.

Audio recordings are permitted as long as the audio recording equipment is in plain sight and as long as the recording process does not disrupt the functioning of Council.

Video recording is not allowed unless Council approves by a two-thirds motion.

Order of Business

A typical Council meeting proceeds in the following manner.

a) Call to Order

b) **Territorial Acknowledgement:** An acknowledgement that the meeting is taking place on ancestral, traditional, and unceded Musqueam territory.

c) **Adoption of the agenda.** This portion of the meeting is the most appropriate time to seek to change the agenda.

d) **Membership and Attendance.** New members introduce themselves. Vacancies are announced.

e) **Speaker's Business and Remarks.** The Speaker may discuss procedural issues.

f) **Statements from Students At Large.** A time when students at large can make brief statements to Council.

g) **Approval of Minutes.** Council approves its own minutes and minutes of its committees.

h) **Consent Items.** Matters that don't require debate can be approved here.

i) **Presentations and Accompanying Motions.** AMS Execs or staff may present to Council about policies, the budget, the Nest, election results, sustainability, the Services, etc. UBC administrators also sometimes make presentations about new initiatives at the University.

Council members are free to ask questions of those making presentations in a question period after the presentation. As with speaking to a motion, raise your hand and the Speaker will add you to the list of those wishing to ask something.

Presentations are added to the agenda by the President. The number is limited to three, unless the President decides additional ones are necessary.

j) **Executive and Committee Motions.** Motions from the Executive and from Committees.

k) **Constituency and Affiliates' Motions.** Motions originating with a Constituency or with one of the Affiliated Institutions (Regent, VST, etc.).

l) **Discussion and Consultation.** A time to discuss issues brought by the Executive or you.

m) **President's Business and Remarks.** The President reports to Council on current issues, activities, etc. Councillors may ask questions.

n) **Executive Business and Remarks.** The Vice-Presidents report on their activities. Councillors may ask questions. The Senior Manager of Student Services and the Managing Director also make reports at this time.

p) **Committee Reports.** The chairs of the committees report on their activities. Councillors may ask questions.

q) **Board of Governors, Senate, and Ombudsperson Reports** The student Board of Governors reps and the student Senators on Council submit reports which Councillors can ask them about. The Ombudsperson may also submit a report.

r) **Historical Update.** The Clerk of Council (who is also the Archivist) reports on interesting historical issues.

p) **Other Business, including In Camera Discussions.** If there are motions from individual Councillors, they appear here. This is also the time set aside for evaluation of Executive performance.

The Speaker

The Speaker presides over Council meetings with a view to making them run smoothly and efficiently while respecting the rights of Council members. The Speaker enforces the rules of order for a meeting, but individual members are free to bring points of order to the Speaker's attention and to appeal the Speaker's rulings on such points of order.

To preserve impartiality, the Speaker does not vote and also does not participate in debate, except to provide factual information or to justify a ruling.

If you are uncertain how to do something at a Council meeting, feel free to ask the Speaker, who will usually be able to explain the best way to amend, divide, refer, or otherwise deal with a motion.

Speaking at Council

Council meetings are formal, at least to a certain degree. Members are not to speak at will, but must wait to be recognized by the Speaker.

To be recognized, members raise their hands. The Speaker then adds them to the speakers' list and lets them know when it is their turn to speak. Members may speak no more than twice on any one motion or discussion topic.

Interrupting

In general, members must not interrupt each other. Once someone has the floor, they must be allowed to finish. When they are finished, the Speaker will give the floor to the next speaker on the speakers' list.

Interruptions and speaking out of turn are allowed only in the following exceptional circumstances:

a) to raise a “point of order”: It is permissible to interrupt (by calling out, “Point of order”) if the rules of debate are not being followed – for instance, if the mover of a motion has begun to speak on it before it has been seconded, or if an amendment is proposed that is not relevant to a motion, or if the agenda is not being followed.

b) to raise a “question of privilege”: It is permissible to interrupt to bring up an urgent question affecting the “privileges” of Council or its members – for instance, if it is too noisy to hear the debate, or if a sensitive matter is raised that should be discussed *in camera*. Often this is called “a point of personal privilege,” especially if it affects an individual member.

c) to raise a “point of information”: It is permissible to interrupt to ask for information – for instance, in a debate on whether to spend money, a member could interrupt by requesting the Chair to ask the VP Finance to tell Council whether the money is available.

NOTE: It is improper to interrupt debate in order to *provide* information; it is only proper to interrupt in order to *request* information.

Also, points of information should be directed to the Speaker, who will then decide who is best to provide the information requested.

d) to make a “parliamentary inquiry”: It is permissible to interrupt to ask the Speaker whether it is possible to carry out a certain action. If members wish to do something (refer a motion to committee, call for a vote, etc.) and are not sure how, they should feel free to ask the Speaker for advice in this way.

Order of Speaking

The mover of a motion has the right to speak first on it during debate in order to “motivate” it. After someone has spoken in favour of the motion in this way, the Speaker will ask if there is anyone who would like to speak against the motion. After that, the Speaker will maintain a speakers' list of all those wishing to speak for or against the motion in the order that they raise their hands.

Moving and Seconding

Only members of Council (including non-voting members, but not including the Speaker) can move or second motions.

Amendments

Amendments may be introduced during debate on motions to alter parts of a motion.

Dividing a Question

It is possible to divide a proposed motion into separate parts, with each part to be considered separately. For instance, a motion to oppose a government policy and to contribute money to a campaign against that policy could be divided to discuss the proposed financial contribution separately.

Motion to Reconsider

During the course of a meeting, it is permissible for a member who voted on the winning side on a motion at that meeting to ask that Council reconsider that motion in order to change the result.

Motion to Rescind

Any member can move that Council rescind a motion it passed at a previous meeting; the motion to rescind requires a two-thirds majority to succeed unless notice has been given.

Actions that cannot be undone cannot be rescinded — for instance, it is not possible to rescind a motion to spend money if the money has already been spent.

Calling the Question

A member who wishes debate to end may “call the question.” Calling the question halts debate immediately and forces a vote unless there is opposition to calling the question. In that case, a vote is held on whether to call the question; it requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

For a detailed guide to some of the basic motions and questions that can be proposed or raised at a meeting, according to Robert’s Rules, see Appendix 2.

Speaking Up

Councillors have the right to raise questions or voice opposition as long as they do so in accordance with the procedures outlined above. You don’t have to keep silent just because the matter has been discussed previously at Council or at consultation sessions.

Staying Late but still Getting Home

If Council goes late (i.e., to midnight or later) Council can vote to authorize cab fare reimbursement for Council members who cannot get home by public transit or car pool.

XII. UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

UBC is governed by a multitude of bodies and officers. Here are some of the key ones.

The UBC Board of Governors, or BoG (<http://www.bog.ubc.ca>)

The highest governing body at the University. In charge of administering the property, revenue, business, and other affairs of the University. The Board sets tuition fees and must also approve changes to the AMS fee and the various Constituency fees.

The Board has 21 members, two of whom are students elected by the student body at the Vancouver campus and one of whom is a student elected by the student body at the Okanagan campus.

The two students elected at the Vancouver campus sit on Council as non-voting members. They used to sit as voting members and thus were directors of both the AMS and the University, but as non-voting members they are no longer AMS directors.

Senate (<http://www.senate.ubc.ca/vancouver>)

With the creation of the Okanagan campus, UBC now has two Senates, one for each campus, coordinated by a Council of Senates.

The Senates have power over academic matters, departmental structure, new programs, new courses, and so forth.

The Vancouver Senate has 87 members, including 18 elected students. There are also 34 professors on it. The student Senators name two of their members to sit as non-voting members of AMS Council.

The UBC President (<http://president.ubc.ca/>): The Chief Executive Officer of the University.

The Vice-President Students (Ainsley Carry, <http://www.vpstudents.ubc.ca>): Responsible for UBC Student Services, UBC Athletics, and liaison with the AMS and the student Constituencies.

XIII. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

THE UBYSSEY

Formerly an organ of the AMS, the *Ubysssey* student newspaper is now an independent entity, separately incorporated.

CiTR

The student radio station on campus. Also an independent entity, but with close ties to the AMS through a funding agreement and also because the AMS appoints several members to the station's board of directors.

STUDENT LEGAL FUND SOCIETY (SLFS)

Established as a result of a referendum, the SLFS supports parties to lawsuits in which issues relevant to students are at stake. The AMS appoints one member of its board of directors.

IMAGINE

The University program for introducing students to UBC. Works with AMS Firstweek.

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

The AMS works closely with this University Department, which oversees Intramurals, fitness, and varsity athletics. The AMS contributes funding to the department through the \$21 AMS Athletics and Intramurals fee and is also contributing to building the new Recreation Centre.

UCRU

Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities. An association of student societies at the major Canadian universities. The AMS has been working with it for several years.

APPENDIX 1: VOTING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The voting members are (as of Jun3 2023):

- 1) President
- 2) Vice-President Academic and University Affairs
- 3) Vice-President Finance
- 4) Vice-President Administration
- 5) Vice-President External Affairs

and the following Constituency representatives:

- 6) Architecture/Landscape Architecture
- 7-9) Arts (3 reps)
- 10-11) Commerce (2 reps)
- 12) Dentistry
- 13) Economics
- 14) Education
- 15-16) Engineering (2 reps)
- 17) Forestry
- 18-20) Graduate Studies (3 reps)
- 21) Kinesiology
- 22) Land and Food Systems (formerly Agriculture)
- 23) Law
- 24) Medicine
- 25) Music
- 26) Nursing
- 27) Pharmacy
- 28-30) Science (3 reps)
- 31) the Indigenous representative

and

- 32) one representative for the Affiliated Institutions

NOTE: Each constituency listed here is entitled to at least one representative. Constituencies with large numbers of members get additional representatives: one more if they have 4,000 members and two more if they have 9,000.

APPENDIX 2: MOTIONS

The following chart is meant as a guide to some of the basic motions and questions that can be proposed or raised at a meeting, according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Motions	May you interrupt speaker?	Secunder needed?	Can it be debated?	Can it be amended?	What is needed to approve it?
Privileged Motions:					
Raise a question of privilege ("Point of privilege")	Yes, if necessary	No, unless it becomes a motion	No, unless it becomes a motion	No, unless it becomes a motion	Ruling by Chair, unless moved as a motion
Fix a time at which to adjourn	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority vote
Adjourn (immediately)	No	Yes	No	No	Majority vote
Recess (take a short break)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority vote
Subsidiary Motions:					
Table a motion	No	Yes	No	No	Majority vote
Limit or extend debate on pending motion	No	Yes	No	Yes	Two-thirds vote
Postpone a motion to a specified time	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority vote
Call the question (also known as moving the previous question; it means asking for a vote)	No	Yes	No	No	Two-thirds vote

Motions	May you interrupt speaker?	Secunder Needed?	Can it be debated?	Can it be amended ?	What is needed to approve it?
Subsidiary Motions (Cont):					
Refer pending motion to Committee	No	Yes	Yes on whether to refer or not	Yes	Majority vote
Amend a motion	No	Yes	Yes, if the motion is debatable	Yes	Majority vote
Amend an amendment to a motion	No	Yes	Yes, if amendment debatable	No	Majority vote
Postpone a motion indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes on both main motion and motion to postpone	No	Majority vote
Incidental Motions:					
Raise a point of order	Yes	No	No, unless the Chair asks Council to decide	No	Ruling by Chair, or majority if Council decides
Appeal a decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority vote
Raise a point of information	Yes, if speaker consents	No	No	No	No vote is taken
Request leave to withdraw a motion	Yes	No	No	No	Majority vote
Divide a motion	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority vote
Consider a motion in parts	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority vote
Main Motions:					
Move a motion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority vote

The following chart is meant as a guide to some of the basic motions and questions that can be proposed or raised at a meeting, according to Robert's Rules of Order.

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Motions	May you interrupt speaker?	Secunder Needed?	Can it be debated?	Can it be amended ?	What is needed to approve it?
Subsidiary Motions (Cont):					
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Amend a motion	No	Yes	Yes, if the motion is debatable	Yes	Majority vote
Amend an amendment to a motion	No	Yes	Yes, if amendment debatable	No	Majority vote
Postpone a motion indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes on both main motion and motion to postpone	No	Majority vote
Incidental Motions:					
Raise a point of order	Yes	No	No, unless the Chair asks Council to decide	No	Ruling by Chair, or majority if Council decides
Appeal a decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority vote
Raise a point of information	Yes, if speaker consents	No	No	No	No vote is taken
Request leave to withdraw a motion	Yes	No	No	No	Majority vote
Divide a motion	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority vote
Consider a motion in parts	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority vote
Main Motions:					
Move a motion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority vote

APPENDIX 3: FUNDS

Major AMS funds:

Name	Administering Body	Advisory Body
1) Capital Projects Fund	Council	Finance, Exec
2) SUB Repairs & Replacement	Council	Operations, Finance, Exec
3) Sustainability Projects Fund	Finance Committee	
4) SUB Art Fund	Operations Committee	
5) Health & Dental Fund	AMS-GSS committee	
6) Constituency Aid Fund	Finance Committee	
7) Clubs Benefit Fund	Finance Committee	
8) Student Initiatives Fund	Finance Committee	

APPENDIX 4: ACRONYMS

ABCS: Alliance of BC Students, a provincial lobby group the AMS works with
 Advocom: the Advocacy Committee
 AGM: Annual General Meeting
 AMS: Alma Mater Society
 Aquasoc: the Aquatic Society, an AMS club which runs the scuba shop
 ASAP: AMS Sustainability Action Plan
 AUS: Arts Undergraduate Society
 AVP: Associate Vice-President

BCFS: BC Federation of Students, a provincial lobby group the AMS works with
 BoG: Board of Governors

CASA: Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (federal student association AMS
 used to belong to)
 C&C: Conferences and Catering (an AMS Department)
 C&CP: Campus and Community Planning (UBC Department)
 CFS: Canadian Federation of Students (a federal student association)
 CiTR: the student radio station
 Comms: the AMS Communications Department, also known as Marketing &
 Communications or Marcom
 CPF: Capital Projects Fund
 CUS: Commerce Undergraduate Society
 CVC: Chinese Varsity Club

DAP: Diploma in Accounting program

EA: Elections Administrator (in charge of AMS elections)
 EPA: Executive Performance and Accountability Committee
 EUS: Engineering Undergraduate Society

F&B: AMS Food and Beverage Department (the Pit, Honour Roll, etc.)
 Filmsoc: AMS Film Society (a club that shows films in the Norm)
 Fincom: the Finance Committee

GSS: Graduate Students Society

IPF: Innovative Projects Fund (joint AMS-UBC project funded by AMS)
 ISA: International Students Association (AMS club)

LEAP: Learning Enhancement Academic Partnership Program (UBC program)
 LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (rating system for green
 buildings: the AMS Nest is a LEED Platinum building)
 LFS: Land and Food Studies (the former Agriculture Undergraduate Society)

Marcom: the AMS Marketing and Communications Department
 MOA: Museum of Anthropology
 MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
 MUG leader: My University Group leader (guiding first years through orientations)

OCP: Official Community Plan (Metro Vancouver plan for campus development)
 Opscom: the Operations Committee

Photosoc: Photo Society (AMS club)

SALA: School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
 SASC: Sexual Assault Support Centre
 SEC: Student Environment Centre (an AMS student resource group)
 SEEDS: Social Ecological Economic Development Studies (UBC sustainability program)
 SFU: Simon Fraser University
 SLC: Student Leadership Conference (annual UBC-AMS conference) or the AMS Student Life Committee
 SLFS: Student Legal Fund Society
 SOL: Special Occasion Licence (for alcohol functions)
 SUDS: Student Union Development Summit (annual conference at UBC, formerly the Student Union Development Symposium)
 SUS: Science Undergraduate Society

TLEF: Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, a UBC fund
 ToR: Terms of Reference

UAC: The old University Athletics Council or the current U-Pass Advisory Committee
 UBC: University of British Columbia
 UBCO: the Okanagan campus of UBC
 UBCSUO: UBC Student Union – Okanagan (the student society at UBCO)
 UCRU: Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities (an association that the AMS works with)
 UEL: University Endowment Lands
 UNA: University Neighbourhoods Association (non-student residents of campus area)
 U-Pass: the universal transit pass for UBC students
 UVic: University of Victoria

VOC: Varsity Outdoors Club (AMS club)
 VPAUA: Vice-President Academic and University Affairs
 VST: Vancouver School of Theology, a college affiliated with UBC

WUSC: World University Services of Canada (its UBC branch is an AMS club)

**APPENDIX 5:
HOW TO INCREASE YOUR
CONSTITUENCY FEE**

- 1) To increase the fee paid by students in your Constituency, you must hold a referendum in your Constituency, and the question put to your Constituents in the referendum should state the current Constituency fee and what the new fee will be after the increase.
- 2) The referendum must take place during the School Year as defined in the AMS Bylaws (i.e., September-November, January-March) and early enough for the UBC Board of Governors to implement the fee increase for the following September.
- 3) The referendum vote must be by secret ballot.
- 4) Notice of the referendum must be posted in the Constituency and advertised in the Constituency newspaper or some other campus publication at least 7 days before the vote. NOTE: You must get AMS Council approval for the publication you want to use.
- 5) The referendum must be conducted in accordance with the procedures for Constituency Referendums prescribed in the AMS Code [Section IX A, Article 9].
- 6) To pass, a majority of those voting must vote in favour of the increase.
- 7) In Constituencies with less than 1,000 students, the number of voters must be at least 15% of the students in the Constituency or 100 students, whichever is less.
- 8) In Constituencies with 1,000 students or more, the number of voters must be at least 10% of the students in the Constituency.
- 9) After the referendum, you must publicize the results in your Constituency and also publish them in a campus publication.
- 10) After the referendum, you must also give the AMS President a copy of the ballot used and a declaration of the results signed by your Constituency's Treasurer.
- 11) The President will then take the fee increase to AMS Council. NOTE: There is a three-week waiting period from the time the results of the referendum are first published before Council can move forward with the fee increase.
- 12) If all the documentation has been received and the three-week waiting period has passed, then Council can pass a motion directing the UBC Board of Governors to increase the fee for your Constituency. After Council approves the motion, the AMS Vice-President Finance will send a formal notification to the Board of Governors.

13) Note that you must get the documentation to the AMS no more than a month after you have the final results of your referendum.

Full details can be found in AMS Bylaw 14(6) and in the AMS Code of Procedure, Section XIII, Article 6, and Section IX A, Article 9.

APPENDIX 6: HOW TO PRONOUNCE ALMA MATER SOCIETY

A poem by the Archivist & Clerk of Council

Does It Mater?

Now, would you say that Alma Mater
Rhymes with "Later, alligator"?
Or should we seek a rhyme with otter
When pronouncing Alma Mater?
Or maybe choose a rhyme with chatter
For our dear old Alma Mater?
Chatter, otter, otter, 'gator--
Which one rhymes with Alma Mater?
And is it "Al-muh" we should say?
Or maybe "Awl-muh" is the way.
The whole thing seems like quite a mess--
We'll have to stick to A-M-S.

--Sheldon Goldfarb

APPENDIX 7: HOW THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY GOT ITS NAME, OR ALMA WHAT?

In which the Archivist of the Alma Mater Society tries to explain the origin of the unusual name of UBC's student society.

Inquiring student: Why is the student society here called the Alma Mater Society?

Archivist: Good question. It's certainly confusing at times. People say, The Alma What Society? The Elevator Society? Or they think we're the Alumni Association, a reasonable idea because the phrase "Alma Mater" is usually associated with the alumni. It actually means "nourishing mother" or "fostering mother" (in Latin) and was used by the ancient Romans to refer to some of their goddesses; but it came to be used by graduates to refer to the university they had attended. That is its most common use today, and thus it is quite unusual for a student society, a society of students not yet graduated, to use the term.

Indeed, as far as I know, only one other student society currently uses the name: the Alma Mater Society at Queen's University in Ontario. It's true that the University of Victoria's student society, which got the name from us, used to call themselves the Alma Mater Society, but they don't anymore.

Also, and this is significant for us, there used to be one other Alma Mater Society, at McGill University. From 1901 through 1908, McGill's student organization was called the Alma Mater Society, but at that point the society was found to be ineffective – possibly because of its name, one commentator said (!) – and it was dissolved and replaced by a new organization called the Students' Society of McGill University.

Now, it may very well be that we are called the Alma Mater Society precisely because McGill's student society originally bore that name. This is because our Alma Mater Society at UBC developed out of the Alma Mater Society at the McGill University College of British Columbia, a Vancouver college affiliated with McGill in Montreal before there was an independent university in British Columbia. In 1907, the students at this McGill affiliate formed an association, and it must have seemed natural to name it after the Alma Mater Society at the parent institution in Montreal – even though, less than a year later, that Alma Mater Society was to disappear forever. And when UBC replaced the old McGill BC college (in 1915), the students at the new university retained the name Alma Mater Society for the university student association.

So we get our name, most probably, from the short-lived Alma Mater Society at McGill in Montreal. But the question then is, Why did McGill's students choose that name? To which the answer may be that they were imitating the Alma Mater Society at Queen's, which had been formed some decades earlier, in 1858.

But then the question is, Why did the Queen's association get this name? And in this case an explanation finally begins to emerge, for the original Queen's Alma Mater

Society was not exclusively or even primarily an association of current students. It contained graduates and professors as well as current students, and its focus was not on the current students but on the graduates; indeed, in its early days its constitution provided that its president had to be a graduate or a professor.

In other words, the Queen's Alma Mater Society was in some ways more an alumni association than a student society, and thus it must have seemed quite appropriate to use the phrase "Alma Mater" in naming it.

And so it seems that the reason we have a name that makes people think we are the alumni association is that we are indirectly named after an organization that originally was an alumni association.

APPENDIX 8: A TREK THROUGH UBC STUDENT HISTORY

Compiled by
Sheldon Goldfarb, AMS Archivist

Pre-History

1899-1900: Vancouver College, primarily a high school, begins offering post-secondary courses accredited by Montreal's McGill University. Six students enroll in the post-secondary program (enrollment reaches 30 in 1905-06).

Fall 1906: McGill University College of British Columbia (McGill BC) opens, replacing the post-secondary program at Vancouver College and offering university-level instruction to 48 students (enrollment in later years rises to about 300).

Fall 1907: McGill BC's students organize a student society known as the Alma Mater Society. First president: F.J. Shearer.

Early Days, Fairview Campus

September 27-30, 1915: Opening of UBC, first true university in the province, temporarily housed in McGill BC's old buildings (called the "Fairview Shacks") at 12th and Oak. McGill BC closes; many of its professors and students continue at UBC (though some go overseas to fight in World War I). Registration and meeting of faculty members: September 27. First lectures: September 30.

October 15, 1915: Birthday of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC; students meet and adopt constitution for new student society; Sherwood Lett elected first AMS President later that month.

1915-16: First student clubs at UBC: two debating clubs (the Men's Literary Society and the Women's Literary Society); the Players' Club (putting on theatrical productions); the Glee Club (later the Musical Club, then the Musical Society or Mussoc).

December 1916: First UBC student publication, a monthly magazine called the *Anonymous* (later renamed *Ubicee*).

1916-17: Mountaineering Club formed (later renamed the Varsity Outdoors Club).

1916-17: Predecessor of SAC formed to oversee the clubs: first called the Literary Department, then the Literary and Scientific Department (LSD), 1917-27; then the Literary and Scientific Executive (LSE), 1927-54; then the University Clubs Committee (UCC), 1954-72. It became SAC in 1975.

October 17, 1918: First issue of new student newspaper called the *Ubysey*.

October 28, 1922: The Great Trek. All 1200 UBC students march from the Fairview campus to the site of the still unbuilt campus in Point Grey (the current Vancouver campus), demanding that the government provide the money needed for construction. (The government agrees.)

Point Grey: The First 40 Years

September 1925: First classes at the new Point Grey campus.

February 17, 1928: An AMS general meeting votes to oppose the revival of a Canadian Officers Training Corps (COTC) contingent on campus; but the University Senate approves the revival, and the COTC contingent begins functioning in 1928-29.

April 27, 1928: The students incorporate their Alma Mater Society as an independent non-profit society in order to raise money for campus building.

November 9, 1929: Official opening of UBC's first gymnasium, built with money raised by the AMS: first of many campus building projects initiated by students through the AMS.

1936-37: Film Society founded; first year's film presentations include *Thunder over Mexico*, *Fra Diavolo*, and *Ali Baba*.

September 1937: Distant origin of CiTR. AMS begins weekly half-hour radio broadcasts on local radio station (directed by a new club, the Radio Society).

January 31, 1940: Official opening of Brock Hall, the first UBC student union building, paid for largely by funds raised by the AMS.

January 1949: The Dance Club (constituted the previous year) begins functioning, advertising classes in the tango, the rumba, and the fox trot.

October 25, 1954: Fire at Brock Hall; roof falls in; students launch fund-raising campaign to pay for restoration.

December 1956: The Second Trek. A student petition campaign convinces the government to increase funding for the University.

March 1963: The Third Trek (the "Back Mac" Campaign). Students march, boycott classes, and petition in support of UBC President John B. Macdonald's request for increased funding and greater access to higher education.

Point Grey: Since 1965

October 18, 1967: Students elected to the University Senate for the first time.

September 26, 1968: Opening of the second Student Union Building (the SUB), paid for largely by AMS funds.

October 24, 1968: Urged on by U.S. radical leader Jerry Rubin, thousands of UBC students occupy the Faculty Club. The AMS Student Council condemns the occupation, but helps organize a teach-in the following week on university reform.

November 28, 1968: Opening of The Pit, the first student pub on campus, temporarily located on the second floor of the SUB until a permanent home could be made for it in the SUB basement. The Pit's name, which was probably given to it because of the plans to move it to the basement, was suggested by David Suzuki, the noted environmentalist and at the time a UBC faculty member.

January 1969: The Radio Society begins broadcasting as CYVR (becomes CITR in 1974; begins broadcasting off-campus on cable in 1975 and on FM in 1982).

September 24, 1971: About 2000 students heed an AMS call to block the U.S. border to protest nuclear testing on Amchitka Island in Alaska.

November 19, 1973: The Pit opens in its new location, in the SUB basement. Beer goes on sale for 40 cents a bottle.

December 1974: Students elected to the University Board of Governors for the first time (one is Svend Robinson, later an NDP MP).

November 1975: Referendum revamps AMS structure, creating the Student Administrative Commission (SAC), the body responsible for overseeing clubs.

April 1, 1977: AMS Student Court orders the AMS to pay compensation to the Varsity Outdoors Club (VOC) in a dispute over ownership of the Whistler cabin (built for the AMS and the VOC in 1965). AMS Student Council refuses to approve the Court ruling. A compromise is later reached.

February 4, 1986: Bowing to protests, the Engineers replace their annual Lady Godiva ride with a mock funeral procession, but then stage a strip show in the Hebb Theatre. (The rides subsequently resumed for a few more years, but were discontinued after 1989.)

January 1987: Students vote against banning the sale of South African products in the SUB in a referendum aimed at protesting against apartheid. (The No side argued that the products were only tenuously connected to South Africa.)

September 1989: Students vote against paying a \$30 AMS fee to build the Student Recreation Centre, reversing a vote from the year before. (The Administration then introduces its own \$40 student fee to pay for the Centre.)

1994-95: The *Ubyyssey*, until then an AMS publication, does not publish all year, following conflicts with the AMS Executive sparked by controversial articles in 1993-94. In 1995-96, the *Ubyyssey* is reborn as an independent publication (no longer published by the AMS).

February 14, 1996: The AMS officially announces its new Child Care Bursary Fund, named after Mrs. Evelyn Lett, a member of the first AMS Student Council in 1915-16. Mrs. Lett, aged 99, attends the ceremony and makes a short speech.

November 25, 1997: The summit of leaders from member nations of APEC (the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation organization) turns violent as protesters on campus are sprayed by police with pepper spray. The incident leads to widespread condemnation of the police, lawsuits, and a public inquiry.

January 22, 1998: A successful lawsuit by four UBC students forces UBC to refund \$1 million in fees that it collected in violation of a provincial tuition freeze.

March 26, 1999: Death at the age of 102 of Mrs. Evelyn Lett, member of UBC's first Student Council in 1915-16; co-author of the first AMS constitution; widow of Sherwood Lett, the first AMS President.

February-March 2002: BC Liberal government lifts six-year-old tuition freeze; UBC raises fees for first time since mid-1990's.

February 2003: In the largest turnout ever for a referendum, students vote to introduce the U-Pass, an inexpensive bus pass for students.

February-March 2003: UBC teaching assistants go on strike until legislated back to work.

February 2004: Council bans slates in AMS elections.

March 2004: UBC and the provincial government announce the creation of a new UBC campus in the Okanagan, to open in 2005 on the grounds of the old Okanagan University College.

December 2004: AMS Executive fires the General Manager, Bernie Peets, but Council overturns the dismissal, brings back the General Manager, and votes to censure the Executive.

February 2005: In a vote surpassing even the first U-Pass referendum, over 19,000 students vote in favour of continuing the U-Pass at a slightly higher price.

March 2008: Another referendum approves U-Pass at a slightly higher rate and also approves spending on a new Student Union Building. Also the bylaws are amended for the first time in decades, and the AMS name is changed to AMS Vancouver.

November 2009: Controversy erupts when the AMS President and VP External lodge a complaint at the UN over tuition fees in BC. A referendum to remove them from office barely fails.

February 2010: Security breach discovered in AMS electronic election system: 731 illegal votes cast, but results of Executive elections not affected.

April 30, 2010: The AMS and the University sign an agreement to build a new Student Union Building.

February 29, 2012: Ceremonial groundbreaking for the New SUB.

January 2013: Another successful U-Pass referendum, with the highest turnout ever. Also successful amendment of AMS Bylaws to change Executive turnover date to May 1.

March 2015: The AMS sells Whistler Lodge for \$1.45 million.

June 1, 2015: Opening of the New SUB, officially called the AMS Student Nest.

March 2020: COVID forces Council meetings online.

March 2020: Indigenous seat created on Council.