

COUNCIL SUMMARY – January 10, 2024

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **January 10, 2024**:

Speaker gone, but EA still here: Max Holmes was gone as Speaker (Diego Altamirano, former EUS Speaker, chaired the meeting), but the former Speaker was still present in his role as Elections Administrator to give a presentation on the upcoming AMS elections.

Elections: They will take place March 1-8.

Election Rules: The Elections Administrator announced some rule changes, including a controversial one barring any Councillor who is planning to run in the elections from debating or voting on election rule changes.

Elections CRO: Council approved the reappointment of Sansian Tan as Chief Returning Officer.

Athletics & Recreation: Kavie Toor, Managing Director of UBC Athletics & Recreation, talked about latest achievements and challenges, including a \$1 million shortfall in funding which may result in a cutback of services. Councillors expressed concern about this. EUS rep Karisma Jutla asked if there is anything Constituencies can do. President Ben Du asked if there are alternative sources of funding. BoG rep Eshana Bhangu said students are already paying a lot.

The new Nursing rep, Alex Stolz, asked why user fees have gone up for recreation facilities. Kavie Toor said it is to cover operational costs.

Services: Kathleen Simpson, the Senior Manager of Student Services, reported on first-term activities, noting an “explosion” of usage of Safewalk. Food Bank remains the largest Service, with 12,463 interactions and 2006 unique users in the May-November period.

New Interim President: Ben Du, in his first Council update as Interim President, emphasized the importance of collaboration and the productive handling of disagreements. He said the way we talk is more important than the content of our talk.

Blue Chip: BoG rep Eshana Bhangu expressed concern about the continuing delays in completing the new Blue Chip Cafe outlet. VP Administration Ian Caguiat said there had been unexpected damage during construction, resulting in delays to wait for parts. He said the new location should be ready in 2024.

Bus strike: Law Councillor Aki Kamoshida asked about the effect on students of the current strike. VP External Joshua Kim said the situation is being monitored.

Next meeting:

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 in the Michael Kingsmill Forum in the Nest at 6 pm.

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Sheldon Goldfarb
Archivist & Clerk of Council