

## COUNCIL SUMMARY – APRIL 6, 2022

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **April 6, 2022** (held in person):

**Sororities:** Because of conflicts between AMS policies and UBC Sororities' bylaws, the Operations Committee has determined that UBC Sororities should no longer be recognized as an AMS club. When a club is deconstituted in this way, their funds normally revert to the AMS, but Council passed a motion saying the funds in this case (amounting to over \$160,000) should be transferred to UBC Sororities. Council also accepted a memorandum of understanding under which the AMS and the Sororities will seek to maintain a working relationship.

**Former CEO:** The former Chief Electoral Officer, Olivia Yu, made a statement criticizing Council for how it had handled the situation involving them.

**Carbon offsets:** Council heard a report from Ostrom Climate (formerly Carbon Offsetters) about the next steps to reduce emissions at the AMS and maintain carbon net zero status. This will involve purchasing offsets and fulfilling other tasks, such as switching to renewable natural gas and electric ovens and vehicles.

**Data collection:** Council approved \$18,500 from the Capital Projects Fund for a new data collection system for Services.

**Banners:** Council approved \$10,500 from the SUB Management Fund for banners on the Nest exterior to better advertise the Nest as place to eat and study so as to attract more people to the building.

**Replacing speakers:** Council approved \$22,430 from the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund to replace six worn out speakers in the Pit.

**Election reports:** Two reports from the Elections Committee (on their pre-election event and on Senate nominations) were postponed to a later meeting. Jonathan De Souza, the representative from St. Mark's, asked if the inability of St. Mark's students to vote would be addressed. AMS President Cole Evans said Council has indicated that it wants a larger conversation on elections which should address that.

**Business reopenings:** In response to a question from representative Max Holmes, Managing Director Keith Hester said there are two AMS businesses still to reopen: the new Flavour Lab (scheduled for May) and Pie R Squared pizza (which will probably reopen in the fall). In response to a further question from Max Holmes about recruiting and retaining staff, the Managing Director said a wage review is underway.

**Tuition and Affordability:** VP Academic Eshana Bhangu expressed disappointment that the Board of Governors had increased tuition again despite strong student opposition, but noted that the Board did approve a new Affordability Plan. Representative Kamil Kanji noted that the tuition increase received more support at the Board than last year. Max Holmes, one of the students on the Board, explained that this was in part because of inflation: some Board members felt they had no choice but to vote for the increase. He said the real solution is to get more government funding.

**UNA:** Council heard about the filling of a vacancy on the University Neighbourhoods Association. It went to a non-student. VP External Saad Shoaib said he couldn't

comment on the process, but said he did note that whoever was appointed should be willing to work with the AMS.

**Israel statement:** Council heard that the Policy Advisor is working on the Council-directed statement on Israel, along with a letter to the Board of Governors.

**Student Life Committee:** Council asked the Chair of the Student Life Committee how often it met this year (Answer: only once with quorum). Council also expressed concern about this year's grad class gift and voted to transfer responsibility for it from Student Life to the Finance Committee.

**Brewery:** Council heard ideas about restarting the brewery project. Perhaps it could be attached to the Pit, but there would have to be a business plan first and possibly a new referendum.

**UBC Budget:** VP Academic Eshana Bhangu said all AMS priorities were accepted by the University in its budget, though not all the dollar amounts.

**Farewell to Cole:** The meeting was preceded by a celebration of Cole Evans' time at the AMS; there were balloons and cake, and during the meeting itself the Archivist did a presentation on Cole's accomplishments.