

## COUNCIL SUMMARY – MARCH 23, 2022

Here are notes from the regular AMS Council meeting of **March 23, 2022** (held in person):

**Condemning Israel and Divesting from Companies:** After much debate, including participation from student groups representing both sides, Council passed a motion urging UBC to divest from nine companies involved in developing Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory or otherwise violating Palestinian rights. The motion also condemned “the Israeli state’s system of apartheid and its occupation of Palestine.”

**Elections:** Shania Muthu, the Chief Electoral Officer, reported the results of the AMS elections and referendums, making them official. The new President will be Eshana Bhangu. The Vice- Presidents will be Dana Turdy (Academic & University Affairs), Ben Du (Administration), Rita Jin (Finance), and Erin Co (External). Max Holmes and Georgia Yee were re-elected as student representatives on the Board of Governors. The new Senators are: Eshana Bhangu, Romina Hajizadeh, Georgia Yee, Dana Turdy, and Anisha Sandhu.

Turnout was 17.4%, the highest in three years.

The St. Mark’s rep, Jonathan De Souza noted that St. Mark’s students had not been able to vote because of a systems error.

**Referendums:** Three of the four referendums passed: the referendum to raise the sexual assault support service fee to \$16, the referendum to abolish or lower three fees (and to allow digital opt-outs from all opt-outable fees), and the referendum to amend the bylaws and constitution. The referendum to increase the Bike Kitchen fee failed for lack of quorum.

**Gallery Lounge:** Council approved \$209,274 from the Capital Projects Fund to go towards the renovations to the Gallery Lounge.

**Pharmacy fee:** Council approved PhUS Announcements as the media source in which to publicize the results of the recent referendum to increase the fee for Pharmacy students.

**Sustainability Report:** AVP Sustainability Jason Pang reported that the AMS had achieved net zero carbon emissions and noted other projects and collaborations. He also objected to the decrease in the fee for the Sustainability Projects Fund, one of the fees lowered in the referendum.

**Health & Dental fee:** Council approved an increase of 4.86% in the Health & Dental fee, in part to cover the recent increase in the mental health benefit.

**Budget Report:** VP Finance Mary Gan report that she had produced a reformatted version of the budget to offer greater transparency.

**Data collection:** Senior Student Services Manager Lorris Leung informed Council of a new data collection system, costing \$18,000, that Services is hoping to introduce.