Date of Meeting: July 4th 2017
Location: Abdul Ladha Science Student Center

ATTENDANCE

Antony Tsui - Outgoing VP Finance Proxy (Chair)
Ryan Lou - VP Finance
Michelle Tse - VP Administration
Caroline Sutton - Councillor
Kashish - Psychology Representative Proxy
Ed - Cognitive Systems Representative Proxy
Kim Vu - AVP Administration

REGRETS

Lakshmi - Geography Representative

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 5:47 PM.

Introductions

Those present at the meeting engaged in a round of introductions.

Discussion

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy:

Background:

Previously, not many checks were being done and we weren’t being fiscally responsible, we were basically just handing out free money so they made a eligibility criterium. That in effect impacted a few clubs. We didn’t work into getting the clubs into the mindset of meeting these eligibilities. However, reminders were given out during clubs orientation in August 2016, given at least twice in council, posted on the SUS website and SUS Facebook pages so a few reminders were given out. At no time were Ryan or Sheila, former VP Finance, alerted of questions. At that time where the grants were announced at clubs orientation to the time the grant applications were closed, there was no email or meeting time required. Nobody got the idea that it was a problem from the clubs. It became a problem for GSA, PSA and CSS where you all seemed to have faced a deficit. That was brought up afterwards at AGM. There we had a motion to have an ad-hoc committee that would examine the allocation process and would try to see how we can fix and move forward. The motion stated that there would be the outgoing and incoming VP Finance, incoming VP Administration, councillor from the grants committee, and representatives from
CSS, GSA and PSA. One thing we agreed on was that any discussion on changes to the grants from the 2016-2017 year would not be entertained because that was already discussed at the AGM; all grant applications were voted on by Grants Committee and SUS Council; and AMS’ fiscal year has ended.

VP Finance:
Currently 60%+ is the eligibility for the full amount of the grants. Under the current model, you must have 60% science membership and that relates to the membership mark of the operation grant. Right now the interdisciplinary clubs, GSA, PSA, and CSS and CSSS (depending on the year) have less than 60% science student membership. We would like to propose a prorated grant approach which would be related to 60% of science student membership. This would give them a fraction of the full grant amount if their student membership is less than 60%.

Psychology Representative Proxy:
What is the full grant amount?

VP Finance:
It’s a standard amount of $1200.

Psychology Representative Proxy:
So, it would be based on the percentage of science students we have in our clubs (interdisciplinary) next year?

VP Finance:
Yes it would be a percentage of the max amount of grants you can get.

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy:
Basically, what happened was that we became really strict with the 60% eligibility criterion. In your clubs, there are more arts students than there are science students. In hindsight, we realize that’s unfair, that those students are still science students and we don’t want to disregard them. So, Ryan came up with the new formula which was suggested by one of the incoming presidents for GSA. We will prorate and give them that amount based on how many science students are in their club.

Councillor:
Let’s say one student in the club will change the percentage drastically, under this new formula are you saying the grant given is just whatever percent?

VP Finance:
It would still be a percentage of the full grant so it wouldn’t change too drastically.

Psychology Representative Proxy:
What do you mean a percentage of the max?

VP Finance:
It is what the grants committee will assess.

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy:
We should motion to have this reintroduced during clubs orientation so that Ryan can explain this in detail.

Councillor: 
At the AGM we said we don’t contact the AUS in terms of funding but I think it’s something that we should address. We should talk to the AUS to figure out properly how they should get funding because I don’t want science students in interdisciplinary clubs to miss out on anything. Every student deserves a good funding basis.

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy: 
Moving forward we can look towards defining interdisciplinary. It is safe to say it’s interdisciplinary between faculties. I couldn’t think of a case where there are more science students and less arts students. I think we should work on defining interdisciplinary clubs in science.

VP Administration: 
I brought it up with clubs commissioners as well. If there are any suggestions please let me know.

Psychology Representative Proxy: 
I think the right definition for it is a club that spans between two faculties. If it was interdisciplinary within science it would make the 60% so it should be the clubs that are both within arts and science.

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy: 
So we are in agreeance that it is between science and arts or another faculty. How are you doing financially?

VP Administration: 
Just based on our conversation last time you said it was feasible that you didn’t get a grant this year?

Psychology Representative Proxy: 
I had to pay $200 for last year so we actually ran a deficit.

Cognitive Systems Representative Proxy: 
The president of our club was wondering if there would be a reparation for last year’s lack of funding.

VP Finance: 
We cannot go into the funding from last year.

Cognitive Systems Representative Proxy: 
Is there any non-monetary ways that SUS can help our clubs?

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy: 
You all are recognized as science clubs so you get to book ALSSC for free and we also help with promotions. ALSSC’s free bookings could save you a lot of money because you can book it for free whereas other external clubs would have to pay several thousand dollars.
Cognitive Systems Representative Proxy:
   However, that’s not anything different from last year.

VP Administration:
   So, you’re looking for something new?

Cognitive Systems Representative Proxy:
   Yes, to make up for the lack of funding.

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy:
   It was difficult because Vesta was the incoming president and whoever was president or rep never had a conversation with us. Reminders were given throughout the year and we never hid anything. It was actually GSA who first brought it up and then they got representatives from PSA and CSS to join them. We didn’t know it was an issue till then.

VP Administration:
   We are planning on having the clubs commissioners put more emphasis this year on important topics like finance and grants during presentations. We had a lot of communication between SUS and clubs. I want to incorporate more in person meetings as well this year.

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy:
   Let Vesta know that if she ever has a concern, she can contact us right away. She doesn’t need to wait for the rep. As you know from other places like the AMS, no means no if you miss the deadline. We have done our due diligence and if you aren’t doing it on your end then it’s hard for us. We will try our best and Ryan will try to give you as much of the full grant as possible. It is also up to the other councillors as well but we also don’t have full power. That’s why it’s hard to go back to review those grant applications especially after they’ve been approved. Could I trouble you guys to get your clubs to contact the VP Finance of the AUS? Find out a bit more about how their system works and then contact us. Let us know how you will be supported by the AUS and we can work it out.

Councillor:
   Would it be more efficient to just meet up with the AUS to talk about it?

VP Administration:
   I think it’s good if SUS inquires about how the AUS does their funding but it’s good for your clubs to find out how you’re getting funding as well.

Psychology Representative Proxy:
   I don’t know if it would be the best thing to talk to the AUS because when Bowen told me that he went to talk to the AUS to ask about our funding and mentioned how we are supported by SUS as well, they actually cut down our funding because of that. When they know they we are being supported by SUS it makes them think that they can automatically give us less funding. Not only did we not get funding from SUS last year, we also got less funding from the AUS. I don’t know what will happen when you communicate with them but just make sure it doesn’t affect us.
Outgoing VP Finance Proxy:

Because of the discussion that was had, AUS actually came up to us to force us to pay for our portion and we felt unhappy because it is our business because it is science students’ money. We are responsible for protecting science students’ money and they are responsible for arts students’ money so both sides should be fiscally responsible. As PSA, GSA and CSS have a majority of arts students, it is up to arts to give the majority of funding. Moving forward, we’re not going to disregard science students we are going to make sure that they get their fair share. We will contact the AUS to make sure they provide fair funding, not reduced funding for those three clubs and we will make sure we provide funding for the science students of your clubs as well.

Councillor:
I think we should have a formula where SUS gives based on the percentage of science students and AUS gives based on the percentage of arts students so that there is fair funding from both.

Outgoing VP Finance Proxy: Should we motion to adopt this new formula?

VP Finance: Not until the finance committee is formed.

MOTIONS

Moved by Caroline, Seconded by Ed.

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT that this committee and council recognizes Arts-Science interdisciplinary clubs to include only Psychology Students’ Association (PSA), Geography Students’ Association (GSA), and Cognitive Students’ Society (CSS).”

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this committee adopts the ‘SUS Interdisciplinary Clubs - Club Operations Grant Ad Hoc Committee Report’ with a future review of the report once Council is in session and Grants Committee can re-address AUS funding.”

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the Arts-Science Interdisciplinary Clubs and the SUS VP Finance approach the AUS VP Finance to determine their club funding structure and to include all correspondents by the end of July 2017.”

Motivation: Review of report to ensure that funding is proportional and representative so that each interdisciplinary club gets enough funding based on how many Science to Arts students there are.

...MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Antony, Seconded by Ryan.

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SUS Interdisciplinary Clubs - Club Operations Grant Ad-Hoc Committee adjourn the meeting at 6:37 PM.”

...MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.
The Science Undergraduate Society of UBC

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