

SUO of UBC

11/23/2023

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Audio Recording Transcription

We're just going to get started here for our 2023 Annual General Meeting. I know you guys are all in line, really excited for the exciting meeting that we're about to have. I know you guys are looking forward to it, and you're not here just for the pizza.

So I am going to start this meeting, and I'm going to call the order at 6:35pm or 6:36pm, we're calling the order. Thank you very much for everyone coming in tonight. Please still wait in line if you're waiting for pizza. We'll make sure you get some food. I'm going to begin tonight's meeting with a land acknowledgment.

We'd like to acknowledge that we're on the traditional ancestral territory of the Okanagan Nation. And we'd like to recognize that learning is happening in this place long before this institution was established. It's important to understand the privilege we hold to be living, working, and learning on Silk's territory. I think it's important to take a moment before any meeting that we have to recognize the just the general line acknowledgment that we do, so that we avoid kind of the performative part that comes with line acknowledgments and really making it meaningful. So take a moment to recognize that we're on beautiful Syilx territory and we're very lucky to be here.

Before we get into the real business, I'm just going to start and say, if you want a prize tonight and you're going to wait for the draw, you have to wait till the end of the meeting. You can't leave early. I'm sorry, we're holding you hostage. No, you're not. Anyways, um, the last piece is also just be respectful, uh, respect your peers. If they're speaking, please let them speak. Listen to them, uh, respectfully, kindly, um, and we'll try and give you the best answers that we can. Uh, we're really excited to have you here and really glad, um, to see the good turnout. So thank you very much for coming.

Starting with number two, Adoption of Agenda and Review of Membership. Before we adopt the agenda, we have a guest chair tonight. So I'm seeking a motion that be resolved that Michael Gauld serve as meeting chair.

Can I get a mover and a seconder? So moved by (1). Basically what you do, Michael will explain this after, but just raise your number to move or second. Seconded by (41). Thank you.

Um, so Michael Gould is a guest chair. He is from the BCFS, the BC Federation of Students. Um, he's been involved in Student Unions for years, um, and is really deeply involved in the student

movement throughout British Columbia. Um, it's, uh, absolute pleasure to have him here tonight, and I'd be very, very glad to have him sit in as our meeting chair. Um, discussion. Is there any questions, opposition, um, to Michael being the chairperson tonight? Um, anything you want to know about him? Favourite colour, favourite flavoured ice cream. If not, then we will move on to vote.

Seeing none, all those in favour of appointing Michael Gauld as chair of our Annual General Meeting, please raise your shiny green number. Is it yellow or green?

OK, all those opposed? seeing none, carries. Michael is our chair.

You don't have to clap, I'm just a pulling your chain. OK, Michael, take it away.

All right. Hi, everyone. My name is Michael Gauld. He/Him pronouns, I'm from the British Columbia Federation of Students, and my position there is the Director of Membership Development. Uh, I'm a UBC Okanagan alum. I graduated in 2020, where I was also a Director-at-Large, and a Faculty of Arts Representative at the Students' Union Okanagan. So, glad to be back here for another round of chairing in this great meeting of this amazing society. Uh, so with that being said, we're just going to walk through the agenda briefly so everyone kind of understands what we're talking about throughout the day, throughout the night, sorry.

First, we will adopt the minutes of the previous meeting, so all the motions and the different bylaw changes of any of the last meeting held November 24, 2022 will be approved from the membership. We will have the presentation of the annual audit report, followed by the approval of the audit report, very fun. And then we will walk up to the appointment of auditors. So you have to appoint, as per the Societies Act, you must appoint your next year's auditor. Following that, we will have a presentation of the 2023-2024 budget by Osho, by the VP Finance and Administration, a presentation of the bylaws, and that has been circulated to you from the Special Resolution Package. Number nine on the agenda will be adoption of the new bylaws, So, essentially, voting on the package that was explained by Shreyansh for you, and then we'll move into a report from the Executive Committee and the committees of Campus Life, Campaigns, Graduate Students Committee, Oversight Committee, and Policy Committee. And then after that, we'll have number 12 on the agenda is question period, any general questions that you have of the Society of the Students Union Okanagan of UBC, and then following that, my favorite time of the agenda, adjournment. So with that being said, I would like to seek a motion for the agenda to be adopted as presented. Looking for a a mover. Moved by (72), Okay, seconder? Seconded by (69). Any discussion?

We have, yeah, could you please come to the mic? Thank you. Oh, yes, I'm sure that's where it goes. If you come to the mic if you have any questions or not, if you have an accessibility need, we do have a roaming mic, but please use the microphone.

OK, I would like to propose an amendment to the agenda, stated as be it resolved that the agenda be amended, such that item eight, presentation of bylaws, and item nine, adoption of new bylaws, be moved ahead in the agenda, to appear immediately after item three, the adoption of minutes from the previous meeting, and they be renumbered as items four and five.

Seconded.

All right, so on the floor we have that motion. That is in order, so we'll have discussion. Sorry, I can't see your number. or do you have a point of order? 169, can you come to the microphone if you have anything? So yeah, if you have any discussion on this point, can you come to the microphone for (169)? No, anyone? Okay. Give me one second, I'll have to just check with our auditor to see if he will still be available.

All right, yep, that is the first order. We have an external auditor just making sure there's time to that. Okay, so any further discussion on the amendment?

So I think these items are the ones where we get to vote, where we get to actually influence what's happening. Everything else afterwards are just presentations. We just get to hear what the budget is, what the auditor said. We can't really change anything, so I think if we want to make any change, these have to happen first. And while the most number of students are here, I don't know if the day passes or if the night passes, a lot of students will want to head out. So I think it's best if we get through these first, the new bylaws and whatever those points are.

Awesome, so yeah, this is in order. So any further discussion?

(86)?

Should I talk there?

Yes, if you have any discussion, you can just come to the microphone. If you're behind the microphone, I will accept that as you're wanting to discuss or put into a few questions.

I would firstly state that it's really discouraging to see that the SUO has regressed in terms of accessibility by not offering Zoom, and it's in the agenda package that the meeting is also on Zoom,

so that should be corrected. I agree with what Naveer has said from past experience. A lot of the members have their pizza and leave. This is the opportunity to actually change what the SUO is doing and enact real change, so I think this should be on top of the agenda so with that we ensure most number of members can participate.

Thank you member.

And noted for next year. Any further discussion?

Okay, seeing no further discussion, I would like to, all those in favor, please raise your placard.

All those opposed?

Motion carries. All right. Thank you. So, with that amendment passing, now we would like to seek a motion for the agenda to be adopted as amended.

Point of order. Is there no more time for other discussions?

There is.

I would like to also propose an amendment to the agenda that reads as such, be it resolved that the agenda be amended such that a new item titled Divestment from Nine Recognized Companies Invested in Israeli Settlements in Palestine is added after the item Adoption of New Bylaws.

Seconded.

Moved by (150), seconded by (86). Discussion? And

please, let's get, yeah, discussion, line up behind the microphone just so we can do it. thank you.

So, motivation for this, we believe that investments that are made on behalf of students should not be in companies that are complicit in war and ongoing occupation. We believe that investments made with student money should reflect our student bodies interest in equity and justice.

Once again, please line up if you have anything for discussion, and for that, we will need, if it would be appropriate, you can maybe meet with Cecily later to, you did list off (11), so we can get those actually written out. But I think we understand the motion in general. But, yeah, so if you want the details, we could.

We have it printed out. We have it printed out. Should I bring that now?

Sure, yeah, that'd be great. Yeah, or actually, you know, you can read it out fully, so everyone understands exactly what we're speaking about, if they do have any further discussion.

To read out the actual motion? That'd be great. Can I invite someone else to come and read it for me?

Yeah, if someone would like to, if a member would like to motivate on behalf. Absolutely. As long as they are a member.

I get a bit of a shaky voice and I'm speaking as best as I can.

Take your time.

So the title, as Dave said, I'm not sure what the number was, is divestment from nine recognized companies invested in Israeli settlements in Palestine. The statement reads as follows, whereas the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, that's 2 - 3 - 3 - 4, has declared that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories are a "flagrant violation of international law" and they violate Palestinian human rights whereas the United Nations has produced a database of companies which are wrongly contributing to the development of these illegal settlements and whereas this UN database includes six companies six companies, shares of which are held by our University, the University of British Columbia. These companies are Motorola Solutions, Inc., General Mills, Inc., Partner Communications Ltd., Bezeq, the Israeli Telecommunications Corporation, Cellcom, Israel Ltd., and the bank Hapoalim BM whereas UBC also holds shares in three other companies that have been cited and documented by Investigate, (produced by the American Friends of Service Committee) and Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East to be violating Palestinian human rights. These companies are Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Lockheed Martin. And whereas UBC has a responsible investment policy and has signed onto the United Nations responsible investment program, therefore be it resolved that the SUO will pen a letter to UBC and the Board of [Governors] to direct the UBC Endowment Fund to divest from the nine companies mentioned above, no later than a week after the 2023 AGM today. Thank you.

If you could pass over any notes to Cecily so we can add those to the official minutes and such. All right, so could we, any further discussion at this time? I will restate the motion. (172), would you like, oh, you can come, yeah, thank you. Yeah, once again, just line up if you feel like you want, this

may, oh, once again, accessibility, if you have a broken mic. No, it's okay, (122) (122), but it's, it's fine.

Thank you. Okay, so 72 percent (72%) of the population is domestic students, but they only make up \$400 million of the revenue that UBC receives. 28 percent (28%) are international students, and they make up \$657 million of the revenue UBC receives, the very same money that they'll use to invest in this very same company. Whether we like it or not, we're international students and so many of us come from countries that the same thing that's happening in Palestine has either happened to us before or is bound to happen to us and it's unacceptable that given the how much money we contribute to this school they're using the very same money to hurt people who look like us, who come from the same countries of us who just maybe don't have the same privileges as we have so enjoy [in audible]

And we're not in any discussion, just wanted to make sure we're on the same page as the motion will read be resolved that the SUO will pen a letter to the UBC and the Board of Governors to direct the UBC Endowment Fund to divest from the nine companies mentioned above no later than a week after 2023 Annual General Meeting, that's on the floor.

I'm here, I'm thankful for the motion, I'll speak in favor of the amendment, and I'm sure we'll have more discussion come when we put it in the agenda. But I'm excited you guys brought that forward. So thank you very much. I'll get it done within three (3) days after the AGM.

And once again, right now we are just discussing adding this to the agenda. So if you want to talk about it and advocate for it or against for any reason, we will have that time in agenda. But right now we are just adding to the agenda. So seeing no other discussion about the validity of adding to the agenda, I'm going to call the question. All those in favor of the amendment, thank you. Now, all those opposed. All right, that carries.

[inaudible]. Sorry members, just clarification, when we like, in the agenda package, when was that going to fall? I would appreciate if it fell after the audits, just because we do have someone on the line to present the audit? I forgot exactly when it was.

After the adoption of new bylaws.

Could we move it up to after the audit, just because we do have an external the auditor is online. It should only take... the audit report should take 20 minutes and then we'll...

Point of order.

I'm just wondering. I was wondering by the time it was presented, sorry.

Point of order, since we have already voted on this, are you moving the new amendment?

I never said that. I'm just seeking clarification from the... I am the Chair, and I'm seeking clarification exactly when it was. Thank you.

So following the amended agenda to be in front of the audit, thank you.

Okay, so those are both amended, additions. So now we are back to the primary clause of adoption of the agenda. As moved and seconded already, any discussion? Further amendments, essentially?

Seeing none, all those in favour of the adoption of the new agenda?

Thank you. All those opposed?

Okay, that carries.

All right, moving on to section 3 of the agenda, adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting. Once again, the meeting minutes from November 24, 2022 were circulated with the notice package. I would like to seek a mover for the adoption of the minutes.

Moved by (196), seconded by (35). Thank you. Any discussion on the adoption of the 2022 meeting minutes?

All those in favor of the adoption? Adoption of the meeting minutes. Essentially, so the meeting minutes from the previous meeting.

Opposed? That carries regardless. Thank you. All right. Moving on now to the updated number four of the agenda. Presentation, no, sorry.

Presentation of Bylaws. Thank you. Past it to over to Shreyansh.

Hello, everyone. First of all, I would like to thank you all for taking the time to attend AGM this year. I would also like to thank the Policy committee and the Board of Directors to recommend these changes. I would like to start with a preface for the recommended Bylaw changes. Over the last few years, the SUO of UBC has been internally reorganizing itself to better serve the needs of our

students. Our aim is to continue to revisit and improve our policies to reinforce structures of accountability and transparency. As our membership continues to grow, we as your Student's Union must develop and improve our model of representation. As was the case last year, the Board of Directors recommends the following offline Bylaw amendments be ratified to better align the internal guiding principles with the future development of the organization. Many of these changes reflect the continued efforts of SUO to maintain good governance, as well as attempt to better align our organization with important relevant local law, such as the Societies Act and the BC Labor Law.

Moving ahead to the first motion, I would like to give some context before I read out the bylaw change. This change was essentially made so that the wording better reflects administration needs to vet petition signatures and prepare referendum questions prior to the beginning of providing two weeks notice. So, be it resolved that [Bylaw V:9] a referendum shall be called without delay by the President of the Students' Union upon A, a resolution of Board of Directors, or B, receipt of a petition duly signed by 10 percent (10%) of the members delivered to the President of the Students' Union requisitioning a referendum on a particular question be amended by adding a new point C, the Chief Returning Officer receiving a duly signed petition and referendum in question at least 14 days prior to the first day that the Student Union is required to give notice of referendum or election so that [Bylaw V:9] then reads, a referendum shall be called without delay by the President of the Students' Union upon A a resolution of Board of Directors or B the receipt of a petition duly signed by 10 percent (10%) of the members, delivered to the President of the Students' Union recommending a referendum on a particular question or subsequently, C the Chief Returning Officer receiving the duly signed petition and the referendum in question at least 14 days prior to the first day that the Student Union is required to give notice of referendum or election.

I would like to move on to the next bylaw change. Just to give you some background, this change recognizes the involvement of the General Manager in the committee. So be it resolved that [Bylaw IX:2], the Executive committee shall consist of, A, the President, the Vice President Internal, the Vice President External, the Vice President Finance and Administration, and the Vice President Campus Life, be amended by adding a new point F, the General Manager as a non-voting advisory member. So [Bylaw IX:2], then reads the Executive committee shall consist of A, the President, the Vice President Internal, the Vice President External, the Vice President of Finance and Administration, the Vice President of Campus Life, and the General Manager as a non-voting advisory member.

Finally, the last bylaw change. Just to give you some background, the SUO has a Food and Nutrition Manager overseeing the operation of Pantry this year. So this change is just to remove the role of the President from this bylaw. So we have resolved that [Bylaw X:1], be amended by striking the point K, "oversee the operation of the pantry -a student food bank" from the roles and responsibilities of the President and renumbering the consecutive points as needed. Thank you.

All right. So moving on to, as section four of the presentation of the bylaws has now gone, we're going to number section, agenda number five of the new agenda, adoption of new bylaws. I would like to seek a motion that the result of the changes to the files be adopted as presented in the special resolutions package and presented by the internal. Looking for a mover. Moved by (77), seconded by (22). Any discussion?

So, can you guys hear me? No.

No? Now, yeah.

I propose an amendment to the item. The written version can be distributed to you and the digital version can be written in email to you for the notetaker, if need be. My motion reads, be it resolved that the motion, adoption of new bylaws be amended, such that it includes a following resolution in the attached document to the agenda, proposed policy changes for the Term 1 on November 23, SUO AGM. Be it resolved that [Bylaw XIII:2], the financial statements of the Students' Union shall be published annually, no later than the 15th of November each year, in a Students' Unions publication, or any other campus newspaper, and it shall be made available at the main office of the Students' Union. Be it amended by adding an auditor's report of this statement after the financial statements of the Students' Union replacing the 15th of November each year with two weeks prior to the annual general meeting and adding on the Students' Union website before in a Students' Union publication such that the [Bylaw XIII:2] will now read the financial statements of the Students' Union and the auditor's report of the statement shall be published annually no later than two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting on the Students' Union website in a Students' Union publication or on any other campus newspaper, and it shall be made available at the main office of the Students' Union.

Seconded.

Seeking a seconder, (86).

Thank you, member. However, I understand the motivation behind this motion, and I understand that it's very inconsequential to change it just from the 15 to out of your way after AGM. However, I'm going to rule this is out of order, as you cannot amend a Bylaw on the floor, or add another special resolution after notice has been given. As per the Societies Act, and as per your bylaws, you cannot add another motion like that.

Point of order, could you refer to the exact bylaw that prevents us from doing this?

[Bylaw XI] states that the notice of a General Meeting shall state the date, time, location, and proposed agenda for the meeting, and if special resolutions are to be considered, the wording of the special resolutions. This is a special resolution. You must also give a 14 day notice.

As also, the Societies Act, Section 72 of the Societies Act, is the top legislation in the province around this. also states that, essentially, the same thing.

Essentially, the only way that this could go forward is if you put it forward through a referendum or the next election or the following, a Special General Meeting, but at this time, it is out of order.

(86)

Is that the SUO Bylaw on the website that you read from?

Yes, so [Bylaw VI] of the SUO bylaws, and also section 78 of the Societies Act of British Columbia states that.

Which subsection?

[Bylaw VI:2]

My understanding is that this refers to the agenda that the SUO is proposing and how they should do it, and it's not preventing the members from amending the agenda. So I appeal the chair's decision.

You may appeal the chair's decision, it is still out of order, and it will break the Societies Act of British Columbia. This is a legislation by the province that oversees all types of Societies. It will be out of order, and this will not be enforceable, essentially. The government will not allow this change in the Bylaws.

Sorry, (220)

Thank you. Could you repeat the name of the act, the Societies Act?

The Societies Act.

And if that's what it's called, just the Societies Act?

Yeah, The Societies Act of British Columbia

Is there a specific bylaw?

It is not a bylaw. It is legislation. It is Section 78, I believe. I'll just double-check for you.

(7)

Hey. Yeah, so I can totally understand the motivation behind the motion. It's unfortunate that we didn't receive this earlier because we could have considered it then. The other piece to it is we do provide our financial statements as soon as they're approved at the AGM. So what we present to you is the unofficial draft of the audit report, and once you guys vote on it, it becomes the official audit report. So we can't even present to our members an unofficial audit report until, you know, it's time to vote. Because then it's, it's not a legal document at that point. So in regard to our financial statements, once you vote on them here, and once you see them in the presentation, that's, that's that. If there is still concern about having, this motion put forth to change the bylaw, then we can work with you and the governance coordinator to actually facilitate that process to make sure, um, we can call a Special General Meeting should we want that to be done moving forward.

(153)

Absolutely. I would prefer you come to a mic for accessibility. There's one right behind you, if you'd like. So I'm just going to start the speaker's list, so I have (153), and I have (10). Thank you, (153), you have the floor.

So you referenced the Societies Act, so I sense what the SUO bylaws say, but can you please read it out loud?

Yes. So the thing I'm citing from the SUO bylaw is [Bylaw XI:1], states that the Students' Union shall not, less than 14 days, provide written notice of a General Meeting, election, and referenda. And then following that, with that, a notice of a General Meeting shall state the date, time, location, and proposed agenda for the meeting. And if special resolutions are to be considered, the wording of the special resolutions must be provided. So that is for the bylaws. As for the Societies Act, Section 78.1 states, Notice of a general meeting must include the date, time, and, if applicable, the location of the meeting, and the text of any special resolution to be submitted to the meeting.

That's just, that's how it is. I'm sorry, folks. That's just, that is the legislation.

(153), and then, is that to, is this a new point, (153)? Okay, so I'm going to go to (10) then, because they were on the speaker's list, and then we'll go back to you. Thank you.

This is an important point that was raised about a week ago by a student, And the SUO has made active efforts to include it as part of the AGM's bylaw changes. But for the same reason provided by the Chair, we weren't able to include it in the bylaw change. And as for our regulation as well, this is what we've been adhering to for the past few years. AGM used to be held in October, which means that the audited financial statements were posted after the AGM. That's why November 15th was stated in that bylaw. Our Regulation 34, as part of 8, reads, the audited financial statements upon their acceptance by the members shall be published on the Students' Union website for inspection by the members. Please take note of the wording, upon their acceptance. That is what we're trying to ensure so that there's more transparency. That it's first reviewed at AGM so that students can see it and then we can publish it. Thank you.

(153)

Is special resolution one of the terms defined in the Societies Act?

This is a special resolution. Changing a bylaw or adding a bylaw, amending a bylaw is a special resolution that requires two-thirds majority and notice.

Right, but is it a term because the Societies Act has definitions at the top. Is that one of the defined terms in the Act, and if so, can you read the definitions on that?

I could see if they have that defined there, but...

Thank you.

Special resolution. A. a resolution passed at a General Meeting by at least two-thirds of the votes cast by the voting members, whether cast personally or by proxy, although by proxy has been eliminated by your bylaws that way. B. a resolution consented to in writing by all voting members. C. That the bylaw... Let me see what C has to do with you. C has nothing to do with this society. (86), oh sorry, (153), does that answer your question?

(86)

Yeah, I can see your interpretation. I also have a different interpretation. So, hypothetically, if we appeal this decision, we vote to proceed, and it turns out that it is, in fact, against the Societies Act, what happens then?

When you... So, a society that willfully, with negligence, breaks their own bylaws, or any provincial or federal legislation could jeopardizes financial circumstances, like fines and such, dissolution. Also, when you do check the file, this happens, and it does, you guys all vote in favor of it, up to you how that works, when you provide it to the Societies of the British Columbia Registrar, they will probably strike it down because it was out of order. So they will not accept the bylaw change.

Like, I understand that it's a very, it could be an inconsequential bylaw change, but through the Societies Act and through your bylaws that you have, and once again, the Societies Act is above your bylaws, it states that you cannot do this. That is my reading.

(86)

So in the previous years, we've accepted amendments that strike out part of this package, does that not fall under changing the text of the special resolution?

No, you may amend a motion or a resolution that has been presented to you. You may not, outside of the nature of these motions that have been presented, with notice to all members, you cannot add something. You cannot amend something directly to create something else.

(7)

I was just gonna add, is that, So let's just say we had initially brought up this motion for a similar reason, like we said we'll post it three weeks. The membership was like, ah, we want four weeks or two weeks, whatever the arbitrary number was. Then, at that point, you can move to change it. But because it wasn't pushed and considered before the meeting started, we can't really make an amendment to a motion or a bylaw change that hasn't actually been put forward yet. Because we adopted the agenda, we amended the agenda, that we can't just add another bylaw. One, bearing in the Societies Act, and two, bearing in just kind of the order of the meeting. So, I will, we can totally meet and work on this, because it was something that Osho brought up probably a week ago, and given that we tried to make that change and couldn't, it's too bad, because I wish we did, because then we wouldn't be having to have this conversation, but if you guys are willing, then we can totally meet and work on this with Cecily, maybe even Michael, I don't know, we'll see. But if that's what works with you, then unfortunately we can't move on with this, but move along with the others and just have further conversations down the road.

And once again, you have many opportunities to run a referendum, a Special [General] Meeting. You can also include this in your upcoming election in the spring. So by the time you do have your next Annual General Meeting, this will be in effect. You could easily have it as a yes, no question in your general election. So if that is something that you want to put forward, I strongly recommend speaking to your Board of Directors and Executive.

Is there any further discussion? And we're not really amending this or anything because I'm going to still rule it out of order for this.

(216)

Yeah. Just pardon my ignorance on this subject. So based on this discussion, is there anything we can change during today's discussion? Based on the previous discussion and the bylaws that you had just read, is there anything we can do today in today's session? Is there anything we can object on, anything that we can change, based on this bylaw?

As per the bylaw that was brought up to be added additionally, no. For that one, because it is out of order, it has not been presented to the membership with notice, which is 14 days. But all the other motions that have been accepted, the re-changes, you could, when we go through them, you could change them, amend them, whatsoever, but you cannot amend them to such a drastic way that you would add that new change.

Can you just be more clear on this?

So, yes, I'll try. So right now we have one, two, three bylaws to consider. So what you can amend are the three bylaws that we have in place right now. So let's just say you wanted to amend [Bylaw V:9], and strike the certain amendment that we're making, that you can make that motion to strike that word, or add a word, or change, or just end up voting against it. But you can't, at one point, say, hey, let's strike every word in the motion and then put that motion in there. Like, that's what Michael's trying to say is not allowed. So what you can do is edit the current bylaw, you can change the wording of the bylaw, you can reject it, you can change whatever you want inside the bylaw, but not introduce a new one.

What happens if we reject the bylaw that you just introduced?

So, if, like, the bylaw that we're putting forward? So, if you guys vote down the bylaw, then nothing happens, and we can't move forward with the change.

Then the amendment, because we are, right now, what has been proposed in the special resolution packages are three amendments, or amendments of three bylaws. If you vote that one down, then nothing changes in the bylaws of that one bylaw. If you hold the second one down, nothing changes, third one down, nothing changes. Yeah.

Sorry, does that give you a little more? Thank you. Sorry about that.

(80)

Oh, thank you. I have a question about the 14 days written notice thing. It says, from the Students' Union. It doesn't really say anything about, like, students and members trying to amend things. It only mentions the Students' Union.

Sorry, are we speaking to the...

The SUO's, the SUO's, the [Bylaw VI].

Okay. I understand.

So if a student wants to make an amendment to a special resolution, how much notice do they need to provide? Because it only refers to the Students' Union meeting notices due date.

So you could, by one way or another, just meeting with the Board of Directors and proposing that before the required date, and to send notice for General Meeting is 14 days minimum, and thus that is always the same. If the Board of Directors, for some reason, that does not hear your plea from a month out, you could, under [BylawIV:4], run a petition. If a petition bearing the signatures of at least 5 percent (5%) of the members of the Students' Union in support of having one or more special resolutions or ordinary resolutions considered at an Annual General Meeting, and if it is delivered to the President of the Students' Union at least seven days in advance of the date of the Annual General Meeting, the special resolution or ordinary resolution shall be added to the agenda. I'll bite, that is also technically a little out of order, but I think people will get a little...

Then that has to be amended and changed, and that's what we're trying to do... But essentially, outside of the 14 days, you cannot add another special resolution. You may... Yes, that is... Yeah.

Sorry, I don't understand what you mean by outside.

So, you may send notice for the meeting with the special resolutions and the area of the agenda and all that. 60 days to 14 days, so it cannot be 61 days before the meeting, and it has to be before 14 days. Yeah

(86)

I see your decision. I agree. So is there a possibility that now we amend the agenda, pass a resolution to establish the date for a special general meeting in a date that we see feasible right now, since there's a lot of people here who seem to be passionate to change the bylaws in different ways?

Um, I have to, like, I will have to, uh, caucus for a moment to read your bylaws and see what your Special General Meeting looks like.

Okay. Sorry. Sometimes they're rarely everywhere. Okay. I would say, um,

No. So, no, you may not. However, because it, because calling a Special General Meeting is also a special resolution. However, Section 4 of, of [Bylaw IV:7], a special general meeting may be called by a special resolution of the Board of Directors. So I have a feeling that the Board of Directors will meet very soon, and they may have a special resolution to do this. But from the floor, you may not. I'm sorry, special resolution.

(7)

I'll commit tonight, if it's not the next board meeting, because I already gave notice for that board meeting. Second board meeting, I'll put a motion forward to call for a Special General Meeting to pass bylaws. And we'll have to work on that. It might take some more time. You're not going to see a lightning response like we're not going to have one tomorrow. But given that there's concern and that the bylaws are unclear, and given that we had to caucus, then I think that warrants a response from us to help and try and make this more transparent and more accessible for students, especially ones that are passionate. So, um, let's do that. And you can have my word on it, I'll send you an invite to the next board meeting.

(90), may you just approach that mic or, sorry, go around it.

Is everyone who would need to vote in that board meeting already on the floor? Like, is that something you guys could propose and set a motion to you right now, since you're all here?

No, the whole... First of all, notice for Board of Directors a meeting has not come, even an emergency meeting, a motion would not work with that. The whole Board of Directors, I believe, that I don't even know yet for. And a special resolution of the Board of Directors also requires two-thirds, I don't believe you have those numbers, and you don't even meet the parameters of calling a special Board of Directors meeting, emergency Board of Directors meeting.

(106), and as (106) approaches the mic or that, once again, you can do special resolution for the Special General Meeting, you can wait till February, March for your elections, you can do a referendum, there are many avenues to do this, but not this meeting, or this specific one.

Yeah, so I know you mentioned that we should have, you wanted to change the bylaws done in advance, and I was wondering if you could talk about what the process is to submit those changes beforehand, because when we look to see what it is, I think it's a little unclear.

So how to present a special resolution to the Board of Directors for them to put forward?

Yes? So essentially, per your bylaws. You could present a, you could present this section, [Bylaw IV:4], is present a petition with at least 5 percent (5%) of the members of the Students' Union in support of having one or more special resolutions to the Board of Directors, essentially. They could also, this could also occur at a..., you can put a special resolution to be forward at the Board of Directors meeting as well so when the Board of Directors meets, they run a special resolution to have a Special General Meeting and the business of that Special General meeting could be this bylaw change. So I believe what Cade was saying is that that will be happening in the next one to two Board of Directors meetings. Does...?

May I Chair? So, what I was going to say was, also, we all have office hours, random days of the week. So, if you wanted to, we do get lonely. You're more than welcome to come ahead of time and work with the VP Internal or myself or anyone to try and, you know, get the ball rolling ahead of time.

Can I just ask... What, if you want to?

Microphone, please. (151)

I was just wondering where we can find that information.

The office hours?

Yes.

At the front desk, online, or on social media. Thanks. Mines are Mondays, 12:30- 3:30pm, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. So, please just look them up. You're welcome. Please come.

Okay. So, we're back to, after the presentation from the VP Internal, on the floor, we have three amendments or amendments to three bylaws.

Is there any discussion regarding the special resolution packages and those bylaw amendments? (90)

So (90) is going to go up. If you have a comment, if you could, could you please start lining up at the end of the microphone?

Thank you.

With the current proposed changes on the Executive board, whose job is it to look after the interests of international students?

I don't... speaking from my own experience, and I would hope someone else could speak to it, there is not, I don't believe there is one Board Director or Executive that is attached about taking care of international students as all members are members, kind of.

Is that an amendment that I could propose?

Amendment to...

add a position for the executive Board for someone whose job it is to look after the interests of the international community and the international students that are university?

Not... no, that was out of order as well. Because none of these bylaws that are on the floor to be amended speak to that about job... about the descriptions of the positions, the portfolios. So this is something that could be added for discussion at a Special General Meeting and such.

All of these things could happen. It just can't happen right now at this meeting due to notice. (123)

Point of clarification from an accessibility standpoint to, if possible, to present the amendments to the three bylaws that you read out in a more accessible way. So just letting us know what it is that you are proposing to amend, the one, two, three, right? There's three bylaws. I know you've read

them. Thank you. And thank you, Chairman Michael, for knowing the procedure so well. I was just wondering, because there's going to be a vote, right? That's how that's going to work. We're going to vote on the amendments to the bylaws. And there are three amendments being proposed, and they were read out loud. And (123), School of Social Work here, was just wondering if there's a more accessible way to state what it is that you're proposing. Thank you

May I? We have printed packages as well up front. So Cecily... or they're all gone? Oh, they're all gone. Okay, well, do you want my package? I can hand mine out as well. But

The language that has to be presented as per amendments has to be pretty much exactly that. Maybe the explanation around it might be a little different, but also I'm not sure if I could put that onus on the VP Internal at the moment to motivate that way, but, yeah.

So, the package includes the amendments exactly as you read them, and you are saying that they have to be read exactly as such without kind of commentary in plain language to what is being proposed?

I think, yeah, if someone would like to motivate in plain language, that's what I'm saying, as per the overarching order or something, it has to be that exact language, but I did not write these amendments,

Yeah, I will allow someone to go with it. Okay, I'll do some plain language, and I'll try to do it kind of quickly, just so that, you know, you guys don't go forward. First, bylaw. So this one, essentially... Grace can actually also talk to this as well, not to put her on the spot. But this came up this past year, when we had to run a referendum based on a petition we received from students. And so what happened was, they presented the petition on the last day before we could actually give notice that we were going to have a referendum, to be in line with the elections. So what the First Amendment does is give an additional two weeks ahead of time so that we can give proper notice to students. Because what happened was that the CRO ruled that there was not enough time for petitions, so then the petition itself and the referendum got kicked to September. What we'd like to see is to be clear for students so that, you know, they have come out two weeks before so that they can have adequate, you know, accessibility information campaigns given out for everyone. So this was just essentially trying to clean up the regulations to be in line with what we unfortunately saw this past year, so that we could have the referendums fall in line with the other regulations. It's more of a housekeeping piece.

The second bylaw change. This is also a very basic housekeeping piece. The General Manager sits on the Executive committee as a non-voting member already. He sits there as a kind of an advisory

member, the liaison between the executives and the staff. I work very closely as President with the GM, and so we kind of work as a team. The only change with [Bylaw IX:2], is adding the General Manager officially into the listed members of that executive committee, so that we don't have a General Manager at some point in time that can just kind of not show up. It's just to ensure that there's accountability to the GM.

The last piece is striking the Pantry Food Bank oversight from the President's role. And this is to do because... So when the pantry was created... When the Pantry was created, there was no Food Security Manager. So now we've hired a Food Security Manager to look over food security programming for students, and they work directly in the Picnic. They also do all of the programming and staffing scheduling for the Pantry Foodbank itself, makes all the food hampers for students. And so given that we have someone hired, it's not really my role, especially considering they're unionized staff, it's not my role to oversee the pantry per se. Now we have someone hired to do it specifically that has expertise in that area, so it's not some random student like myself trying to, you know, look over a food bank. So it's just clarifying the role, so now that we have a special... particular staff person. Is that a little clearer?

The first one. Can you repeat the first one?

First one... First one was just essentially just making sure that we follow our own regulations and allowing students more time to give their petitions, if they have petitions. So we're just adding two weeks to the time before you have to give notice. So it's a little confusing in the way I'm saying it, but that's... it's just so that a student doesn't come with a petition before it's too late. It's giving them two weeks time before the CRO can actually rule them out of order, is essentially what it's doing.

I don't understand that. Can you give an example of something?

I'll let Grace, because she actually is a part of the...

I can speak to this a little bit. So, a key part of this is the referendum, which will be called without delay. Without delay deemed by the CRO's ability to run the referendum based on exams, based on student availability for voting. So, just calling it without delay, but then also adding these two weeks, just make sure that it is as timely for students as possible. And I think just making some of these referendum bylaws more clear and just adding pieces like this will help in the future. But just the key piece of this, which is within the original one and the new one, is the without delay. So point C just kind of goes with that to give students, give the CRO more time to put this together, kind of.

All right, now that we know who we're talking, speaking to, if someone would like to amend any of these amendments, they could pull it out of the package. And if not, if these all seem good, we'll have a discussion about it, we could just vote and pass them all at once, or we could pull them each out at once. So we get omnibus, or we could pull them out. So we've moved and we've seconded, now we are looking for further discussion on this matter. And if not, I will call the question if we do not be able. (153), (90), once again, if you want to speak to the motion, let's start...it would be preferred if you line up just so folks don't feel like they're standing and not having a chance.

So, sorry, is this an appropriate time for me to ask clarification on one of the proposed amendments?

Absolutely.

Ok. All right. So, for the second amendment you proposed, adding the General Manager to the Executive committee as non-voting. I'm just looking at the bylaws here, bylaw seven. And so the Board of Directors involves the Executive committee and then faculty representatives, directors at large, etc... Why would someone be added to an Executive committee which is a voting committee without a vote and who is not a member of the Students' Union as a student?

From practice, at many student associations, staff hold historical knowledge and institutional knowledge of the organization, so they're able to provide insights, guidance, assistance, but once again, they might be able to speak at these meetings, at these committee meetings, Executive committee meetings, this in this sense, but they are a non-voting member, so they do not have an actual vote at the table. They're just there to provide further information for folks that might not know what's going on exactly. I see (7), (80), (153).

Just to add to that, it's just so that next year, perhaps, the Executive will be five new people, totally new people. Having the GM there as a consistent figure and just making sure it's just in the bylaws ensures that they can't leave. Now they're added to quorum, now the change is essentially not much, that's the practice that we have right now. It just puts it in writing.

(80)

Thank you. I had a question about this bylaw as well. Are the salaries of everyone else on the Exec public? As a follow-up, I think that's a yes. What would you consider making the General Managers public if they're added to the Exec?

If I'm not mistaken, the General Managers...

It's non-public. The line isn't public, but our expenditures are public. I think, can I ask, one second,

Osho is gonna answer.

So as per the budget, there is the wages and benefits of all staff members of the SUO that is made public. The individual salaries of staff members are not made public.

I have (153) unless this is to the point of Osho's response. (86)

A new addition has been made to the Societies Act that requires societies to disclose the remuneration of all employees and contractors over the prescribed amount currently \$75,000 per year. Does the General Manager make more than that? If so, it should be disclosed.

It's not publicized, but, yeah, it is public information, but it is not publicized on specific amounts on the website. If students are willing to ask, you know, come to these office hours and ask specific questions, they can find out.

I do want to note that it's made public in the auditor's report.

So it is public. Sorry.

OK. (153)

Unless we're speaking to the wage line.

OK, my question is, for this resolution, if the General Manager does get added to the Executive committee, does that also mean there's going to be an increase in the salary for adding that committee?

No. No. In practice, the General Manager, I believe, since I was around back in 2016, even the General Manager, would already sit in on this committee to provide oversight, insight, essentially. This is just posted into practice that the general manager as part of their contract, because they have to follow the bylaws, they would be in these positions, essentially. But no, they do not get any extra wages or whatsoever. It is already part of their job description of their contract.

(153) I'm going to say (153) because they've been waiting a couple times. And (123), (104), I really recommend coming to the main speaking mic if you do have some things to say. We're just kind of forcing people to run around. Thank you.

There we go. Thank you. I understand how the first bylaw amendments affect the students. How does the second one affect the students? It seems like one and two are more housekeeping specific to the way things operate. I just fail to see how the vote will be meaningful if we don't know how it affects us.

Essentially, it won't affect you as much. It's just that we are having the General Manager accountable in practice, and the second one is it's helping for clarification overall so that we are allowed to, so that we don't run in the same situation we did last year with the petition. So it doesn't change much in practice. It just helps facilitate the overall process. Osho, go ahead.

It adds structure to how the Students' Union functions right now. Every year there's going to be new Executives and directors who come into this Board and they need a point of reference to see what's consistent. Having these bylaw changes and clarifying the way things work right now and ensuring that the Students' Union follows its bylaws is part of ensuring that it is consistent among the new future general leaders that come into their position.

(104)

Who appoints the General Manager? Do students have control on who becomes the General Manager?

So the general manager is, it's a contract. They're hired by the Students' Union, by the students in Executive positions. This most recent time, when the General Manager was hired, they went through a hiring process that included Executives as well as staff from the Students' Union, and they were held accountable to the Board. So it's not a direct... students aren't involved in the hiring, per se, because we're elected to be in that position to make those decisions.

At what point does the rest of the students' community get involved in that process? I know that the Executive Committee of Boards has a role to play in hiring a General Manager, but what about the students' community?

So just to clarify, the general membership, or are you speaking of the rest of the board of directors?

Just the General Manager.

As per, I believe, your committees, as per, I don't know what it's called, your labour committee, as a staff relations officer, as is under job description of the President, it would never come to the general membership for staffing reasons. Essentially, you are voting on members to represent you, those directors and Executives and your fellow members have a fiduciary responsibility to uphold the society and to hire well in that. And it's not just them. I mean, they are the voting members on this hiring committee where you should bring in a HR specialist, a hiring, a professional hiring manager, external group comes in, external parties will come in to speak, which is, yeah, so essentially they're accountable to the Board as well, because they, yes... but a direct vote by the membership to hire one person is...that is not...that is not in... that's not practiced anywhere. And I just...I just want to note, it's a great question, but it's not...and when we were done that, but if there's questions that are very...that are general about the reasons of the General Manager or stuff like that, we can wait till the end where there is a questions aspect, but right now, we should be discussing on the floor for the amendments to the bylaw. I do understand. Thank you.

(153)

Can we just get the lapel microphone here and perhaps we just figure it out.

It's very sensitive.

Thank you. This is, again, pertaining to the motion to add the General Manager to the exec committee. I think to your point, Cade, to just using it as an accountability mechanism The General Manager, Jason, from what I see, is very diligent and is always in attendance. So to me, that doesn't land as justification enough. And to your point, Michael, about the way that General Manager tend to be permanent staff, they offer some continuity, whereas Execs cycle in and out, usually on a yearly basis, coming in perhaps with no understanding of how the Student Union works, that makes sense. For the last person's question, however, students are voting in student Executives. They are not voting in the General Manager, and so that's perhaps something to consider about who sits on the Exec committee. As well, when you're speaking to the, like, having more seasoned knowledge of how the processes work, with that also comes a bit of a power imbalance, because even though technically the General Manager is hired by the executives and works for the Executives and thereby works for all of us in the room, there is still the fact that the General Manager tends to be an adult who is older, who is not like a 20-something year old student that is entering the Union, and they are not, the unitary position is not nearly as secure. So with that, there comes a lot of opportunity for power misuse. I'm not saying it's happening here, but it happens at Students' Unions across the country, elsewhere, whereby, you know, you see someone who seems to have more knowledge than you, is older than you, it has the title General Manager, and it's easier to default to what

they're saying rather than, you know, reflecting on your own portfolio of assigned tasks or the own, you know, the bylaw sections you're supposed to adhere to, or focusing on what the student body is committed, if they want. Therefore, I have some concerns about that power imbalance existing, should the General Manager be added to the Executive Committee.

Noted. This does happen, some Students' Unions have issues like this, others do not. It is the nature of non-profits, the nature of businesses where sometimes there is a power imbalance within that. Once again, I think it's just a practice that this is what they want to do. If this body does not want to make this amendment, then vote down, but thank you. (86). Thank you.

Yeah, I second the other concerns. I agree that it's good to have a staff person who has knowledge after all. We're all students, the fact that you're here has been helpful. So I do agree that the staff person is good to have around, but I also see that there is a power imbalance between having someone who's not a member and not elected. On that point, the Societies Act, section 61.3 says, a person who is not qualified under section 44, person who is qualified to be directors, to be a director of a society, is not qualified to be a senior manager of a society. And then section four says, unless the bylaws provide otherwise, and subject to section 41, employment of directors, the director of a society may be a senior manager of the society. So if I understand correctly, the General Manager has to be a member unless the bylaws state. Could you clarify what that means and if there's anything I'm missing?

So 41?

Section 61, sorry, 61, 03 and 04 of 61.

Member, I think I understand what you're trying to say. Yet this is...so this part of the Societies Act is usually for societies that are extremely small, that might only have three Board of Directors, one leads, but you must have three directors to run society. And in that spot, they might appoint a senior manager to do the duties of the society. But when they do that, they are more like caretakers of the society. They usually don't get to vote into bylaws, change things, add budget items or anything like that. They're there to make sure that cheques are signed, legislation is followed, stuff like that. But in this regards, that might be a worry of you, but as we are speaking to this motion, that does not fall within this. But I guess if you are asset is noted that you are finding more evidence for yourself to follow us.

Just to clarify, so what you're saying that the senior manager here refers to the Board of Directors, not the General Manager as a staff, yeah?

I believe so. I believe so. I know a lot of the Societies Act, but I am not a legislator or anything like that. I watch Question Period a lot, that's about it. (127).

So I wanted to ask, can this amendment be, I mean like the new bylaw be amended like by adding the College of Graduate Studies Representative, the Graduate Representative as a voting member for the Executive Committee?

You could amend it to add that; however, they are not an Executive and they would not have a vote on it because an Executive is laid out in the bylaws as those, the President and the four Vice-Presidents.

So you would... that could be another bylaw change but you would have, essentially that's a whole other position you'd be changing. They would receive more responsibility.

But as you were discussing about the General Manager, actually they're not also the, those like five positions that you're talking about. So shouldn't like the Graduate Student Representative get like at least the voting position in that committee then?

(10)

Having the Graduate student be a voting member of the Executive committee would require other bylaw changes, which is basically making the Graduate student an Executive position. If the amendment were to say something like, okay, have the Graduate position as a non-voting member the General Manager, it would not require other Bylaw changes. Likely, this is based on what I know Cade can answer more. But, yeah, that would be permissible because it doesn't require additional Bylaw changes.

(121), just to clarify, in society, being an Executive within this society does not give them any more rights or power around the Board of Directors table. They have more responsibilities and are expected to work more, provide more results, stuff like that, but they do not have more power than anything else. If the Executive Committee decides something, they bring it to the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors as a whole, which out-vote them, or out-number them, technically, they can vote down the decision of the Executive Committee, because they are the oversight, the general oversight. So just FYI, as I'm saying, like, the Executives don't actually... they don't have extra... they just have extra responsibilities, just as every Board of Director has more responsibilities than the members do.

Does it have to do with anything with the number of the Executive members as well, in terms of the voting? I know like you said that there is a need of the bylaw for that

I don't know the reason why, how the bylaw was created for that. I would assume having an odd number is usually because you would not have an impasse. I'm not sure. I didn't write this bylaw.

Thanks for clarifying this out. My reason of bringing it out here is that the Graduate students, to make about 11 percent (11%) to 12 percent (12%) of the population here on campus among the students. And then I know the voting is open for all the students, but if you compare that someone from a population of 12 percent (12%) is standing for the Executive position as compared to someone from 88 percent (88%) of the students are standing, it's hard for them. Because I have seen some of the students going to those positions, but because they don't have that much bigger of a community to maybe stand for them. So it's a bit harder. And with that, I understand your answer and I think we have to, maybe, look forward to the Special General Meeting, but I'm just giving these comments. So that's the reason behind this question. Thank you very much.

(121)

Call for a vote.

We have a call to question. Call to question. That is an order, so essentially, call to question is we will cease debate, all those in favor of ceasing debate. All those in favor of ceasing debate. Sorry, second,

(63). We are now voting to cease debate. If you vote yes, you would like discussion on the selection of the agenda all those in favour of ceasing debate.

Thank you. Down all those against.

Thank you. Okay, motion fails. (153)

Just one more thing about power, just when we're thinking about whether or not we want this motion to pass, of adding the General Manager, I don't think it's an accurate statement to say that the Executives do not have more power than other Boards of Directors, perhaps in writing, However, you do have more responsibilities, therefore, you're more immersed in the governance structure. You're also paid \$28,000 a year as honorarium, and so you're able to do this work while being paid. I know the other Boards of Director members are not paid nearly as much. And then there's also title and status, and with, you know, integration and governance structure, with integration in the community by the nature of your paid role, you have a greater sense, perhaps, of what's going on.

You're more connected, and therefore, there is an unspoken power dynamic. once again, between the Executives and other people. So just to clarify that we can talk about power in writing and then we can talk about power as it exists in the world.

(10)

I would just like to agree with the previous statement, there is a power imbalance between Executives and the rest of the board, we do hold the power and that's because we have more responsibilities and more decisions to make.

(48)

So grad students, as has been mentioned, we do have one grad student rep who is on Board of Directors but not an Executive, but they could be added as a non-voting member here if I bring that up as an amendment, because I would just be adding underneath that grad student. I would do that saying that the grad students generally stay on campus longer and are more involved in how the campus works. I wanna say they have a more mature head on their shoulders and if that's what we're thinking, if there is a power imbalance here, having a grad student voice in all of the Executive committee meetings also makes sense. The fact that we don't have the grad student rep there, I don't think that's fair, so we could have the grad student rep added as G at the bottom of this bylaw, the grad... sorry, College of Graduate Students [Representative], be added as a non-voting advisory member as well.

Yeah, just to clarify, just because the member a bit before you also brought this up, are you moving this motion? Yeah. OK, thank you. Seconder?

Can I reply at this point, please?

(86)

I believe the member would like for the bylaw to be amended that there will be a G added that will have the College of Graduate Studies faculty Representative also be on this committee as a non-voting advisory member.

I did not believe that, I thought he said instead of F, can you please clarify that?

I meant in addition to, G

Thank you, that has been seconded, and we are now discussing the amendment on the floor. (86)

Yeah, I'm in favor of this amendment. I just want to also add, for our future upcoming Special General Meeting, that we've witnessed, Anjali, the current grad rep board for GSC members, we've also witnessed Kirthana's, previous grad rep. It's a lot of work, and they already do things that are part of the Executive's portfolio. The grad rep is the only director that hosts their own committee. All other committees are chaired by Executives. The Grad rep hosts events, which is normally part of the VP Campus Life's portfolio. The grad rep connects with external institutions like the GSS, the grad rep advocates for the university. So they essentially run a mini union within the SUO, but they're paid like a director, which is \$150 bucks per month, I think, not an Executive, which is \$28,000 per month. So if we're giving the grad rep more, yeah, you can clarify. Sorry, a year, not a month. Oh, sorry, sorry. Yeah, I misspoke. So if we're giving more responsibilities to the Grad rep, we should change the bylaws so that they're renumerated fairly, but that's, again, something that has to come up in the next Special General Meeting.

I'm closing the speaker's list. If you would like to speak on these amendments, please approach the mic or make yourself known.

Okay, as discussed, and hopefully explained a little earlier, we are voting on these as a block of amendments. All right, so we will... Right now, we are voting on all three changes.

Sorry, can we approach the mic if we're going to speak, and just reassert that? Well, technically, we are voting this as one package, because they have not been split up yet.

Are we voting for the modified bylaws?

Yes. Yeah, so we're going to vote on that one, Sorry, yes, we're going to vote on that to change it to have the F and the G. Yes, and then once that is amended, we will vote as a package. Sorry. Yes.

I apologize. Can you clarify that one more time?

So we are voting right now. We will be voting on accepting the amendment to Bylaw 2, the Executive Committee. Yes.

With the added G?

Yes.

Okay, thank you.

That's what we'll be voting on because there's no discussion on that amendment at this time. Thank you.

Just to clarify, with the added G, but does that include removal of F or not?

No. No, it's not at the moment. (59).

I'm just confused. We were talking not to have an F, and now you're adding G, but we get F, and we're... it's confusing. And also, I wonder, what is the assessment of the, what was the assessment process of the General Manager? Because we vote for you, and we can ask questions from you, but we never hear what were their activities and how their activity would impact your decision.

Yes. So, two points. The member moved for G to be added with F included, so that is what we are on right now. Because the member did move that, has been moved, has been seconded, discussion has ended with that. For the second part, I will pass it to Cade for the General Manager's assessment?

So, just for the General Manager's assessment, the Executive Committee, and particularly in my role, working with the General Manager in Staff Relations and Human Resources, part of our job as an Executive Committee is to oversee the General Manager himself. So, that means there was recently,

sooner than a year ago, there was an internal review done, assessment on performance. So processes like that are always in place and are always happening. And those conversations happen day-to-day, especially since the General Manager is my staff partner. With asking, you know, the performance of staff throughout the SUO, I mean, we have 50 or more staff at the SUO that work in the well, work in the bookstore, that work as full-time employees in the actual office itself. And so that is our job that we're elected to do, is to manage the day-to-day operations of the Students' Union. And so not... those positions aren't elected for a reason. It's because they can't be elected. They're supposed to be impartial, neutral arbiters of students' voices to a degree, so that students that come in are assisted. And so that's why you don't directly hold the General Manager account is what we're here to do. And if you have issues with the general manager or any staff person at all in the Students' Union, then you come to us, and we address those problems head-on.

Sorry the numbers for our list

216.

Thank you.

I just want to propose that we go through the bylaws, like vote one bylaw at a time, if that is possible, with the amendments mentioned clearly. So bylaw number two, I think we had three suggestion, the bylaw as it is now, Bylaw with F and G, Bylaw without F and only G, if I understand correctly. Can we do that?

Sorry, no.

Why?

You may not. You may vote on what has been proposed and second it, and any discussion is we will be voting on the F and the G as one. You may vote it down, or you may vote it...

It seems to me that there are a few people who would like to have G without F, or G instead of F.

Well, then you're able to speak against it and vote against it. But that was not the motion that was put forward. So currently, right now, we're still on the amendment. So we still need to have a vote on F and G. So what we're going to do before is we're going to vote on the amendment to see if people want to have F and G as it's proposed. If that passes, then we move to the original motion, where then we can split up the three bylaws.

Yes. So essentially, if you are voting for this, for F and a G, we will now enter into discussion about this bylaw as amended. So by you voting yes or no right now, this does not change the by law. We're just going to – that is what we're talking about right now.

I just have three questions. First of all, is the amendment that I just mentioned, removing F and just keeping a General Manager who's a graduate student, Is that an acceptable amendment or not?

Not right now. It is out of order because we must vote on the amendment as proposed. So if you do that, and then after that, we'll have discussion, and then you can come back with more amendments after that. But we have to finalize this amendment first. If you vote yes, then we're talking as there's F and G. Imagine there's F and G there. And then you want to speak, I would like to remove G, or I want to remove F, then you can amend them. but right now we can only, we're voting on the proposal ahead of us.

So if I get this correctly, you're saying at the moment, is the amendment is not an acceptable one? It is only acceptable after we vote yes or no for this one?

Yes.

That doesn't make any sense.

I'm sorry, member, but that is how it is. So we are voting, it's, this is...

The way, the way I see it, if the amendment is acceptable, then it should be added now or shouldn't be added at all?

It is out of order because the member put forward their amendment, it was first... It was moved, it was seconded, we discussed it. If this passes, then you could move an amendment to change that again. You could move it after the fact, but we are done discussing and changing the amendment. We just have to vote on it to get to the next stage, where you can do what you want to do. Member, is this the way it is? This is how we have to do it.

It seems to me that the out-of-order card is being used just to object...

You could do exactly what you want after we vote on this part. When we're voting on this amendment, we're not voting for this to pass. We're just voting to this forum. The members will now be speaking to the amended part of it.

But if you're accepting that as an option, why just not add it now and to the vote?

Because the other member put forward the amendment, it was agreed upon, it was discussed, and then we moved, we're now at the voting stage.

So I can't propose a new amendment to the amendment?

After we vote on this, then you can, then absolutely you can, yes. Yes.

Can you clarify that to all of the students so that it is absolutely clear? Now we have two options, we could reject them and then propose a new one.

Yes, so right now you are voting on, do we want to keep the changes that F and G has been added or do we want to go back to the motion that is here, which is just F, and those are the options. F and G, or we're back to the drawing board, which was what was presented with F. And then you could

amend things to change things again, but once again, we are only voting on F and G to continue talking about it.

So we can adjust F and G and then propose just G?

You can do whatever you like, however.

I want that to be clear to everyone. Thank you.

(86)

Just to clarify, so we're not voting on getting this done and in the bylaw. So what we're doing, we're now voting on adding the Grad Rep to this. And then afterwards, we have an opportunity to again change this. Someone can propose removing the General Manager afterwards, but we have to vote in a series of changes.

Yes.

Now, that clarified. What I personally think, I'm gonna vote yes, I think the Grad Rep should be on this, but again, on the condition that we're gonna also remunerate the grad rep later. I also think that the General Manager should be on this committee, it's good to have the staff there. But again, in the future, we should have a series of bylaw changes to make the General Managers work more transparent, to know how they're hired, what they do on the committee, and such and such. But I don't disagree with having them on the committee.

So point of clarifications are over, point of privileges are over. We are now voting on the amended amended bylaw. Imagine there is a G there with Graduate Student Representative.

And an F

F and a G, yes. OK, all those in favor, thank you. Down, thank you. All those opposed? Okay, that carries.

We are now debating the resolve that the Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice-President Internal, the Vice-President External, the Vice-President of Finance and Administration, the Vice-President of Campus Life, the General Manager, as a non-voting advisory member, and G, the Graduate Student Representative, as a non-voting advisory member.

So that is what we have agreed upon. So now the floor is yours, members.

(216) and then I have (123)

I'm just proposing that we remove the General Manager who is actually not voted by the students.

Do I have a seconder to remove the General Manager as a non-voting member? Seconded.
Discussion.

Would you like to motivate? You want to propose why you think, yeah. The mover usually is provided with time to do this.

I think that having someone, and my colleagues really mentioned that in a position of power, who is not elected by the students is not a good idea. Even if they don't directly have, by directly I mean that they're not President's or directly influence the decisions, they can influence decisions indirectly by advice for, I don't know, someone who has more knowledge than you. I think they might be able to influence some changes in that. And I honestly don't like that idea of someone who I didn't elect. None of the students elected being influenced by the decisions by that office.

(123), I just want to say that I support what number (216) said. Thank you.

I want to disagree with their conversation and say that the General Manager be added because of the fact, as every Executive director has mentioned, that the General Manager is already, as I say, already is helping them create decisions and this decision and this rule was only proposed in order to make him more accountable so that he is on the table there tomorrow and does not have the right to say that he cannot be there for any reason and it's making him more accountable. and as you already mentioned that it's written in his contract previously that he has to attend it but it's just adding to the rule today it's just proposing that we add it to the SUO bylaw so that they are held responsible.

Thank you member. I have (7), (10), (80)

So this initial proposal to put the general manager on the executive committee, was just like a good - hearted, let's keep things transparent. He's at every single meeting, he's involved in every single decision because we need that in a Student Union organization. You guys are here upset at us about some decisions we've made, hence, we need extra direction. So, with that in mind, what our point is, is he's gonna be here. He's gonna be at the decision table. where we rely on our staff to help make informed decisions. And so we were just hoping that by including a General Manager in the actual

text of the bylaws, that that would help provide some transparency to the overall bylaw and the overall operations of the Students' Union. If you guys don't want to see a General Manager as a non-voting advisory member on the Executive committee, then we don't need to list it in the text. But the General Manager will still be present at the Executive Committee meetings because the President as the Chair invites members to those meetings. Because he's needed there in order to fulfill the directives of the Executive Committee. So that's essentially what this initial purpose was for. And I welcome the College of Graduate Student Studies as a representative and an advisory member on this Board because I think that's a good step in the right direction. And hopefully someday, when we grow, we can have our own Graduate Student Society as well. But that's not the topic right now, so we're going to keep moving on from that.

(10)

Just to address your concerns, I understand there is a power imbalance and you're worried that there could be unreasonable influence on the newly elected directors, is that correct? So what is the alternative here? If it were just a group of six directors who are newly elected every year, on what context and basis do they make their decisions? How can you ensure consistency of information that gets passed down year to year without having a member who is a staff, who has been there for a while, can pass down this information to provide context, not a voting member, to these elected representatives? The issue of influence will always be the case whether or not there is a member of power in a council. Everything goes through vote. Everyone gets influenced by advice from people who have information. That is why they are a non-voting member.

That is true, but when you propose a new, you don't have to say it.

(86)

Didn't they call to question? Or...

They're not, they don't have a mic. I heard nothing, all I heard was that you would like to get to the thing, if you would like to get to the microphone, call the question, you may do that. But right now, I only, sorry, I heard that you want to get to it eventually. I did not hear the question.

I will be voting against this amendment. I think the General Manager should be on the Executive committee. I totally agree with the concerns. I think we need more transparency about what the General Manager is doing. For all I know, they're a fine man, but I have no idea what they do in the union, how they're hired, what their process is. So we need clearer bylaws. But removing them from the Executive committee just makes the bureaucracy harder, because the Executives will need to

seek the advice of the General Manager. So they have to have their own meeting and then go talk to them and come back, have another meeting, go talk to them. It's just easier to have them in the committee, and they're not voting, so their advisory as they would normally be advising the Executive committee.

Thank you member. Sorry for your number... (59) Thank you.

So, talking about giving context to the next, like, members of the union, my concern is how can we ensure that we are not biased context, as there are other students and, yeah, that is, like, my main concern. And I would also, if possible, I would be happy to hear some anecdotes that you folks used the presence of that General Manager to facilitate your discussion. That would be awesome to hear what were the situations you were stuck at and they helped you through. Thank you.

(10)

To clarify your bias context, do you mean that the General Manager might have some sort of personal objective and hence try to influence?

Any kind of objective. It's just not in the student with students' interest.

Gotcha. Thank you. So as any position, that is always a possibility. It is a risk that we take but it's calculated. The benefit of having an advisory member, especially the General Manager on the Board, on the Executive committee far outweighs not having one. The decisions that the newly elected Executives make need information, and it is not just the General Manager who is involved in this process. Outside of the Executive committee, the other staff members are also approached for context. Each Executive member also has a staff partner that they work with. For example, I'm the VP Finance and Administration, and I work with the Finance Manager. And to answer your question of anecdotes, when we first come in in May, and we have our first executive meeting, it is the finance... it is the General Manager who guides us through the process of how these meetings work, what are the different sectors in the SUO, where your attention should be to begin with. You know, like the focus should be on the budget when you start up, and that needs to be settled before you do anything else. While you can get this information from the bylaws and regulations, that is a massive amount of text for a newly elected member to understand, let alone do that while being a student. As a staff member who has the experience and knowledge, it's vital to be, you know, in that committee to advise us when the time is required. Thank you.

To motivate on the bias. Lakshay (14).

Yeah, firstly, hello everyone. first time taking up the floor, so just really quickly want to add to what Osho said in terms of the anecdotes. I think a lot of cases where, apart from context, there are a lot of directives that we make decisions on during the Executive meeting. A lot of the time, some of them are simply not feasible considering the limitations of the Students' Union or the resources at hand. A lot of the time, that decision making, it saves us a lot of time, and the General Manager has the context to let us know how something can be executed right then. And yeah, that's basically what I wanted to second what Osho just said. Yeah, thank you.

Okay, I just want to speak to the bias real quick as with experience of being a rep, being an elected rep Staff members of a society, just like a business should be, but mostly especially of a society have fiduciary responsibilities to the society as well as employees, so they are still responsible to the society.

(93)

Hello. Now, I'm probably going to be voting against F, at least that seems to be where I stand right now, and my main reason for that is that with Cade a minute ago mentioned that we are upset that you guys... We're not upset, we like you. for most part, you know. That we're upset because you don't feel like you're being accountable enough to us, and that's why we shouldn't want the General Manager on the Executive committee. But I don't think you should be accountable to the General Manager. I think you should be accountable to us.

(32)

I'll move it, or I don't know how the f#*king words go, but let's go to voting this now, please, because we only have like a half hour left and I really wanna vote on Palestine, do we all agree?

So all the questions in order?

Yeah.

For a ceasing debate, moved, seconded. All those in favor of ceasing debate.

Parliamentary inquiry,

Sure

We want you to clarify by that we can extend the meeting as long as we want?

As, yes, orders of the day could be challenged. Orders of the day could be challenged at that time. Yes, you may. However, all those in favor of calling the question.

Thank you. Opposed? Okay, we are now voting.

Okay, we are now voting on the amendment to the amendment, to the amendment, to remove the General Manager from the new Executive Committee make up. So if you vote in favour, you would like to remove the General Manager and only have the additional Graduate Student Rep. If you vote against, you would like the General Manager and the Graduate Student Rep.

All those... if you vote in favour, you would like to remove the General Manager from this Executive Committee. If you vote against, you would like to keep the General Manager in the Executive Committee as presented. All those in favour of this motion?

Down. All those opposed?

Okay, it fails.

We are now back to the motion at hand, with the Graduate Student Committee member also being a part of this, alongside the General Manager.

I'm going to test the House, and I would like to call the question on this particular... I'm going to pull this bylaw out, and we should vote on this one. So we get to the additional two.

Any opposition? If there's opposition, we will continue discussion.

Seeing none, all those in favour of the Executive Committee will include the President, Vice-President Internal, Vice-President External, Vice-President Finance and Administration, Vice-President Campus Life, the General Manager as a non-voting advisory member, and the College... College of [Graduate Students Representative], as a non-voting advisory member as well. All those in favour?

Okay, thank you. All those opposed? All those opposed? Okay, thank you. That carries.

Okay, I would like to now, if we move that, I would like to,

we are now moving on to the changes for [Bylaw V:9], about the referendum change. Discussion?

Moving to a vote. Seeing no discussion. All those in favor of the change?

Thank you. All those opposed? Carries. Would you like that noted? ... Moving on to [Bylaw X:1], to remove the oversight of pantry from the job description of the President.

Any discussion?

Seeing none. All those in favour?

Thank you. All those opposed?

Would you like that noted? Yes, okay. (106) votes nay ... (91) votes nay. That passes.

Okay. Proposed policy changes for term on November 2023 SUO AGM have been done.

This is an ordinary resolution brought from the floor. Be it resolved that the SUO will pen a letter to UBC and Board of Governors to direct the UBC endowment fund to divest from the nine companies within the whereas clauses, mentioned above, no later than a week after the 2023 AGM. Looking for a mover, (90). Looking for a seconder, (151). The floor is yours, members.

(7) (123)

I am just stating my support for this motion, and should it pass, I'll have it done in a week.

Thank you. (123)

That being said, should we move to a vote, or should I read the statement again for the student body?

This is discussion. If you would like to motivate, you may.

What do you think?

I just want to give context to where we stand right now in terms of Palestine. Over the past 40 -plus days, there's been 25,000 tons of explosives dropped on Gaza. That's equivalent to about two nuclear bombs. 14,000 people have been killed in Gaza, including over 4,000 children. Over 200 have been killed in the West Bank. Millions have been displaced in Gaza, over 1,000 have been forcibly

displaced. In the West Bank, we have over 49 journalists killed. We have medical facilities and news buildings targeted, along with over 30,000 plus civilians targeted. So we are asking specifically, and the language starts whereas, whereas the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 has declared that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories are a flagrant violation of international law, and they violate Palestinian human rights, whereas the United Nations has produced a database of companies which are wrongly contributing to of the development of these illegal settlements. These are the companies we are asking our endowment fund to divest from. And whereas the UN database includes six companies, shares of which are held by the University of British Columbia. Those companies are Motorola Solutions, General Mills, Inc. Partner Communications, Ltd., Bezeq, the Israeli Telecommunications Corporation, Cellcom, Israel, Ltd, and Bank Hapoalim BM whereas UBC also holds shares in three other companies that have been cited and documented by Investigate, produced by the American Friends Service Committee, and Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East to be violating Palestinian human rights. These companies are Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Lockheed Martin, and whereas UBC has a responsible investment policy and has signed onto the United Nations Responsible Investment Program, So, therefore, be it resolved that the SUO will pen a letter, thank you very much, to the UBC and Board of Governors to direct the UBC endowment fund to divest from the nine companies mentioned above. And it sounds like it will be done within three days, it doesn't even need to be within a week, so thank you, but we did write no later than one week after the 2023 AGM. Thank you very much.

I'm in support of this resolution. I'll be voting yes. I just wanna ask the Executives, how will the process of actually writing this letter would be, who will you ask for input? And also if this will be an open letter, you'll publish it on the social media websites as well.

I guess I'd take that. So we have a board meeting next week. So likely what will happen is the executives and I will write a first draft based on any directives that the General Membership gives to us. And once the General Membership votes on the directives to us, we will write that letter and then in a bid to, you know, for process's sake, we'll bring it to the Board of Directors. And then the discussion will be at the Board of Directors level as to how the letter should be moved forward. And then any resultant of that discussion will be posted. It will be an open document that will be publicized in whatever form follows.

Can you repeat the next part? It will be publicized how?

It will be publicized as best as we can. So, like other statements we've made via social media, website, etc...

But you will try to aim for sharing that on your social media accounts. At least aim for it. We expect that the university will push back. We expect that. But you will at least aim for that.

It will be published on our social media.

But you as a committee will aim for publishing that through your social media accounts as well.

It's not an aim, it will be done.

Okay, that's it. Thank you.

I just want to clarify that it will be published on the Students' Union of Okanagan UBC's accounts because the organization as a whole is putting this out there, it's not individuals putting it out there, right? (165)

Hello everyone, I want to say I'm absolutely in support of this resolution as a Palestinian international student here. If you're still on the fence, some of my tuition money, tuition I've been paying for the last four years, is being, you know, invested into companies that are responsible for killing people who have the same last name as I do. And so it is really important that we get a stand on this. However, what I'm hearing is this is going to take a little bit of a process from the Student Union, and I would like to also ask, I mean, I know this isn't a motion, it's not something that's going to happen, like, through a legal process, but I think we would all like to see the Student Union support the Palestinian student body better, um, kind of a... [inaudible]

As we are going along, I would like people, if they would like to speak to this motion, approach the mic. If you are con against this motion, please also approach the mic, because if not, if the House is pro, pro, pro, pro, then we should just call the question. Is there anyone else that would like to speak to this motion? I'm closing the speaker system, essentially.

All right. Once again, just to re-clarify, (123)

Sorry, I just want to clarify that the letter that will be penned will include specifically divesting from the nine companies mentioned from the endowment fund?

Yes, it does. Right, it does read that. So be it resolve that the SUO will pen a letter to the University of British Columbia and the Board of Governors to direct the University of British Columbia endowment fund to divest from the nine companies mentioned about within the whereas no later

than a week after the 2023 Annual General Meeting. We are voting now as discussion has ended. All those in favour of this motion?

Thank you. Opposed? Abstentions? That carries.

And now we're going to check if our auditor is still alive.

So we will be moving on to the presentation of the Annual Auditor Report. Just checking in on the auditor.

All right. So we are going to move on to the presentation of the Annual Audit Report. This is...I will give the floor to Erik from Tompkin Wozny.

Okay. Sorry. Sounds like everyone can hear me. Hello, everyone. My name is Erik Allas. I'm a CPA and partner at Tompkins Wozny LLP. And we audited your financial statements for your fiscal year end, May 31st, 2023. So we're going back a few months. And that's our job, really, is to express an opinion on the fairness of these financial statements. These financial statements are prepared by your management team with the oversight and direction of the council or the Board of Directors. And then our job is to be independent and provided opinion, conduct an audit. We're worried about risks. Where are the risks? So a couple of things, we're wanting to make sure that the membership fees that you all pay are reported as revenue in these financial statements. We got UBC is very kind. They do a lot of the reconciling and the numbers at the registrar's office, so we make sure their records are matching the student union's records. We have some business operations with the pub, bookstore, some lease rentals, and other activities, so we're looking to make sure that those are all complete, going through cash sheets, gross margins, and other analysis. We have some significant cash balances, so we're reaching out to your bankers to make sure that their ledgers are matching your ledgers, and that the bank balances exist, and there's banking controls in place. But probably most importantly is the disbursements. We want to, as auditors, we want to make sure that all the wages, all the stipends, all the operating expenses paid are authorized and valid expenses, so we vouch those and do some confirmations as well. We're just looking at the overall financial statement presentation, making sure this is a fair story of your financial record for your May 31st, 2023 fiscal year. And perhaps I'll share my screen. I don't know if everyone's had an opportunity to look at this financial statement, but I'm gonna share it on screen. Hopefully it pops up there or if you have another copy. And so our auditor's report is on pages one and two, and I'll just summarize in our summary opinions in the second paragraph, where we are stating as independent auditors from Tompkins Wozny we feel that these financial statements, in our opinion, and do present fairly for your May 31st, 2023 fiscal year end in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. So after conducting all our tests, there was minimal adjustments. It all went

quite smoothly. So I just want to give a big thanks to Jason, Leanne, Mike, and the rest of the management team, Osho, the council for their oversight on the financial records sounded to be in good order. And as a consequence, we've got this unqualified or clean report on your financial statements for May 31st, 2023. What we'll do, I'll just take a couple of minutes to highlight some of the figures. Usually in an AGM, we don't get too much into the details of just an overview, but of course, feel free to ask any questions that you might have. There's really two main financial statements. The first one's on page number three, titled The Statement of Financial Position. That is called a balance sheet for for-profit businesses. In the non-profit world, it's called The Statement of Financial Position. And it shows where everything was at the end of the day of your fiscal year, May 31st, 2023 and 2022. You do have a general fund in the first column, a capital fund, and a health and dental fund held in trust. And so the totals are here in column four. And so here it is showing at May 31st at the end of the day, the total assets were \$8,775,854. Those are the resources that the Students' Union owns at the end of the year. On the other side of the balance sheet is the liabilities, your obligations. That number was just under \$3.7 million. And so when we take your assets of \$8.7 million, 8.8, less your obligations of 3.7, we get what's left over, \$5,076,648. If everyone sees that number, that's the net number on this page. If for some reason at May 31st, you were to liquidate these assets, pay off your liabilities, this is the amount we'd have left over. What we're carrying forward is called retained earnings, net assets, fund balances, \$5,076,648. \$1.4 million is in the general fund in column number one, \$742,000 is tied up in your long-term lease of your Students' Union building. Everyone, I don't know if everyone knows, in 2009, you signed a 30-year lease for the Students' Union building. So you're about halfway through that time period, on the way to 2039. So there's capitalized costs, it goes behind a mortgage, and the net is \$742,000. And then finally, the Health and Dental Fund does have \$2.88 million. These are accumulated surpluses of the membership fees for the health and dental collective, less what's been paid out. So this is restricted for the health and dental to be used for no other purpose, and that stands at 2.8. So overall, it's 5.7, it's a good financial position. You've got the top line with cash, and you have investments under the investments line. That comes in at about 6.1 million combined. So \$6.1 million plus your Students' Union building asset are the main categories. Compared to last year, last year we had \$5.3 million in the far right column of fund balances or equity. It has dropped to \$5,076,000. That's a \$268,000 drop. And that's because we turned to the other main statement, the statement of operations, which is on page number four. A lot of numbers here, hard to get it all on one page, so I'll just cycle through it. We had 5.4 million in total revenues generated in the year. The expenses were a little bit more, 5.6 million. So there's 268,000 that decreased our fund balance from 5.3 to 5 million that's represented on the statement of financial position. That shouldn't cause too much concern. In fact, your operating account had a modest surplus, pretty much a breakeven, and your health and dental pretty much broke even, a bit of a surplus of \$24,000 and \$25,000. The loss is really generated on the write-down of the Students' Union building over the 30-year period. So this is by design. It has the amortization, that's the write-off of the building, and an interest charge. So the loss is really a

drawdown of that asset that will turn to zero in 2039 and another 15 years or so. And just to highlight the revenue figures, top lines, increasing health and dental plan, \$2.8 billion. Your membership fees increased to \$1.7. These were confirmed by UBC, a 3 percent (3%) increase in the top two lines with a little bit of enrollment and a CPI increase. And also big increases in lines 3 and 4, your business operations with the pub and the bookstore. Coming back from COVID-19, about a full year of operations. So a big, pretty big jump of, it looks like about 30 percent (30%) at the pub, and it looks to ride a big increase as well. And then you've got some rental income and some other miscellaneous fees. So \$5.4 billion of total revenues generated. And then the expenses listed in dollar size. So the top one is the health and dental premiums that we pay to student care of 2.8. your wages, and then we've got all your business operations, more going on in campus life, more expenses there. And just in summary, we do have, it's kind of hard to see by type, the total here for 5.6 million, because there's wages in different categories. But overall, of that 5.6 million, you've got about 2.8 for the health and dental plan, 1.1 million for wages and benefits, investments in your human resources. And then we have the amortization. The student activities is about \$700,000. And then all the other operations, like the pub and business operations, about \$800,000. And that's how we get to about 5.6. But an increase in the health and plan premiums and campus life is the increase in expenses over the prior year. So that's a look at your revenues, \$5.4 million, expenses \$5.6, a loss of \$268,000 that drew down our net assets or fund balance of \$5.3 to \$5 million. We're carrying forward \$5,076,000 to 2024 in these three categories, fully represented by cash and investments on the top line. That's a quick look at your numbers. since I can't hear the room, but if there's, maybe it can be relayed to me. If there's any questions or comments, I'd be happy to take them.

And if it doesn't work out tonight, please reach out to us at any time throughout the year, and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Okay, there he is. Oh, turn it down. Questions for Eric, he can't hear us, but we can type them out.

Just as we're waiting for questions, perhaps. Again, prepared by your management team, went through in detail with Council to approve these statements back on November 6th. And so it's gone through quite a process, of course, right? The management team's been preparing these throughout the year, ensuring that there's internal controls, the check and balances, the oversight and direction of the Council with Osho and the team, and then we come in and audit these, and they're here to be presented to be accepted to the general membership.

(86)

Are we at quorum?

Yes.

OK. I have some questions for the auditor and some for VP Finance, since we don't have an item on presenting the financial statement. Is this the right place or a presentation of the budget?

So this is only for the audit of the fiscal year. We do have a section with this current fiscal year.

So how much is the general manager earning? As you said, the auditor can disclose it.

Okay.

I see a note here, a student is asking for the amount that the General Manager earns and wanting the amount to be disclosed. Yeah, there is some disclosures in the, pursuant to the BC Societies Act, anyone, it's, Students' Unions are a little bit different on the, on some of the classifications, but I can show you, I don't know if everyone can see it, there is some breakdowns of, in the notes of the financial statements, remuneration for the directors, the executive, pursuant to the BC Societies Act, the amount for those paid over \$75,000, it can be grouped. So I don't have that readily available and they're looking to maybe increase that amount. I would have to leave that to, in terms of the general purpose financial statements, there isn't a breakdown by name, per se, and that's because of some privacy concerns and so on. So there's the Director's expenses.

Yeah, so the financials don't list it out by name that way, and that is pursuant to the standards. So I would have to leave it to management or the council if they wanted to provide that.

Okay, well, we were wrong. With that being said, I'm just hesitant to disclose any information that may be perceived as, like, private information without talking...

We do have the over 75,000 in an aggregate. Those making over \$75,000, there was five employees over that threshold, and in total, a \$412,000. So from that, you can kind of glean a little bit of what the average might be, per se.

So we can't give the directing, but we will confirm with our team and we can provide that information once we confirm and figure out what the legalities of it are. Because I was under the impression that it was disclosed, but apparently disclosure is the grouped number of employees that make over \$75,000. That's our mistake. But we can follow up with you for sure and see what I can say and can't say.

Yeah, and I should—as we're waiting for any more questions, there is a cash flow statement that reconciles the cash and notes to the financial statement. So please do, when there's a bit more time, read through those. There's a lot more details, breakdowns about those two main statements that we just looked at. But those two main statements provide the highlights, and then And then notes do provide additional details. Break down that there's a mortgage with UBC related to the Students' Union building and some other notes about your rental lease or your 30-year rental lease. And little mini income statements for the bookstore and the pub operations in notes 13 and 14. And of course, everyone knows the coffee house that closed down April 30th, 2022. That's why we're showing no activity in that regard.

Are there any other questions for the auditor?

In regards to the program. Is there a total, to follow up on that last question, there isn't a total. We looked at the total expenses of 5.6, and we can see here. Here is a summary, so someone can see the total wages paid in the organization. I see no further questions. I want to thank everyone very much. Again, thank you to the managing team and the board, the council. Very good job, very pleased to present that report. We audited about, I think, 18 Students' Unions, 240 not-for-profits across BC. And I can tell you, in comparison, you guys are doing a great job. So thank you once again. And again, call me if you have any questions.

Thank you everyone, have a great night

Okay, so that's the presentation of the annual report. Moving on to the next section of the agenda, approval of the auditor's report. So I would like to seek a motion that we approve the auditor's report as presented.

Moved by (35), seconded by (13). Any discussion about accepting the report? (86)

I'm inclined to vote no. I'm sure the audit is fine, but I haven't read it, which is, I would say, is the fault of the Executive Committee. VP Finance says that you can't provide the financial statements and sorry, the auditor's draft report to us. That's not true. In the 2021 AGM, the financial statements and the draft auditor's report were a part of the agenda package. And as the chair mentioned, violating our bylaws and the BC Societies Act is a serious thing that could lead to the SUO losing its standing. The current bylaw is that the financial statements should be disclosed to the public by November 15. They explicitly weren't. These aren't direct charges, at you. You're all good people. I've worked with Lakshay and Cade. You're perfect. It's just the institutional thing, where it's like a culture of withholding documents, even at times when I don't think it's necessary, and even at times

when it violates our bylaws. So, I don't know what voting no on this means, but I can't vote yes until I've read the whole thing.

So, as per your, regulations, not incited, but I've just been trusting the expertise of the staff members, that the membership will receive the report by the auditor at that time, because up until that moment, it is just a draft that has not been presented at all. So, essentially, this is the time that you will receive it, because it's not public or anything to any members until this moment.

So in the future, for the next AGM, hopefully the society, the directors will have more physical copies present at the beginning of the meeting.

Yeah, that is our oversight. For some reason, I thought we had asked to print them, but then I realized we just printed the agendas. That's completely our oversight, and you have a valid point.

(153)

This is just a question, is our auditor off the line now? It's not a sketchy question.

Yeah, I think he is. I know... He is. But you could reach out to them and they could get your number for you. ... Get his contact information for you.

Okay, I can also maybe just ask a question in case you have insight on this, but just, because I got distracted, quite honestly, but when he was speaking about the 30-year lease that's between the SUO and the UNC through UBC, and it's a lease and mortgage. So is it a mortgage, paid off in like a lease-like installments?

Yeah, there's both principal and interest payment, and we pay them all yearly.

Sorry, what was the first thing you said?

We also pay principal amounts and the interest every year.

Every year, and when can I get this contact info?

You can find any information regarding our auditor on our website, or you can visit Tompkins Wonzy LLP website; you can Google it and find that information.

Yeah (129)

I've brought this up before, but if you're releasing the auditor's report on the day of the AGM, how do you expect students to make sense of it within such a short period of time, especially since most people are not used to reading financial documents, right? So, like, doesn't it make sense to release it before? Oh yeah, doesn't it make sense to release it before so that students actually have time to go over it and raise questions? Because right now, how will anyone have questions if no one can understand what's written on the document?

Oh, woah that's loud. I agree. We should have a better process in place to distribute the auditor's report before the AGM. Honestly, I think it's just because that's been the practice that's been happening and no one's decided to change it. For the reason of that, maybe people have their own reasons, I don't know, but it will be the work of this Executive committee to propose those changes as the year goes on and to ensure that the incoming Executive is empowered with that information before or while they're being transitioned to their role. Certainly, we can look at how we can make them more public, more publicized. After the fact, it's just unfortunate that we weren't able to print out more copies.

(10) to speak to that point.

Okay, so in context, you're absolutely right. It should be released two weeks before the AGM, so everyone has some time to review it. And that was the process for a very long time because the AGMs used to be held in October. and there's been changes to this date because of availabilities of auditors, the time in which many of the processes that we need to get done got approved. Like as you saw, November 6th was the time when this auditor's report got approved, and from that time, we had a series of processes like taking it to the Finance committee, having it presented there, passing it through the Board, and then the board gets to adopt this and then present it at the AGM. And by the time it took, it was reading break, and that's when I get this student mail involving this bylaw. And we took the necessary steps to bring it up, make the change, but as previously mentioned by the chair, it being out of order and breaking Societies Act, we couldn't have it as part of the bylaw changes this time. And it is my commitment that this will be pushed to the next Board, either the Special General Meeting, or the next AGM.

Okay, I also have a follow-up question. I have suggested this before, But do you think having information sessions before the AGM about something like the auditor's report would be helpful, not just the auditor's report, but also all the bylaw changes and stuff like that, so that students have appropriate context when they're going into an AGM? Because otherwise, students are just attending a meeting once a year, knowing nothing, and then coming in and just asking all these questions. Because that's what draws out the AGM so much. that's what leads to such a less turn

out. So, don't you think information sessions are something that are absolutely necessary for the SUO to do?

Absolutely. I think that's a great idea. And I think, I'm personally trying to make more progress in engaging with students more often. So, we're gonna be hosting like a Town Hall next semester. We're gonna try and get the election more frequently and try to get that information out as soon as possible. I think that'd be great, having an information session beforehand, and we can totally pilot that coming up next semester to see what the engagement is like.

It's just generally the time, October's busy, November's busy, and then students only find time to come to one meeting at the very most. So I think that'd be one piece, but I think working on engagement is a priority of our Board of Directors this year, especially.

Just to really quickly add, we've had this conversation in the Campaigns committee as well, increasing engagement with students, not only concerning the AGM but the election process as well. It's something that we are working on, considering how we've been noticing the patterns of student engagement over the years. And I just want to assure you that the Campaigns committee is actively engaged in this, and you'll definitely see we are already trying more things, and more specifically centered around AGM and giving out information to students is things that we are working on currently.

I would appreciate if you do have, since you're third supplemental, while there are other folks, I would like to ask a question.

I don't think he has a problem. This is my last question. Okay. Sorry. My last question is I want to ask what you guys did to promote this AGM except post about it on your Instagram since you said you've been working on engagement.

Well, for the AGM, firstly, of course, we've hired a Communications Manager who works on communications on all forms of social media, given that's where our members communicate with us most. We've sent out a mass email, which went to every student's inbox, which was really our only way. Currently, we're working on a licensing agreement with UBC, because they restrict how many mass emails we can get out to students a year. So what this agreement will do is that they restrict us to two a year. It's really frustrating. So what we're working on right now with our communications manager is getting an agreement signed so that we have access to that email more often, and we're working on the newsletter as well so that we can engage students more often. We've recently updated our website so that it's more accessible for students to a certain degree. It's not perfect, but we're working to put information there as much as possible. We have a regular blog. Do students

want to read the blog? Probably not. But how can we continue to engage with students is a good question. It's ongoing, and it's something that students struggle with across Canada. And so while I agree, perhaps our engagement level wasn't perfect, we've really tapped out on resources that we have, and we're back to the drawing board to try and figure out more resources and more strategies to do that. But I agree with you 100%. And Osho, wanted to add, we're open to suggestions.

Thank you member, think we're going to belabor this point, but I think I would like to pass it to (86) first before we continue on that.

Can I shout?

I would prefer the microphone. I would prefer the microphone for accessibility. Sorry.

Is the mic working? Okay. This one? Okay, perfect. Thank you.

So, referring back to what the executive said, that it's been a longstanding practice to do it this way. Again, I don't think that's true because in the 2021 AGM, the audit and the financial statement were part of the agenda. I couldn't confirm further back because the agendas are not available on the website. But even if the audits can't be released prior to the AGM, the financial statements can be. And so then we could just ask the auditor whether the financial statements are truthful, read those, and vote based on that. Again, all that said, what happens if we vote no on the audit right now?

It is just a report. You are just acknowledging that you accept the report as it is provided. As it is mentioned, it is unqualified, which means there are no issues with the report. That's it. There's nothing else will come from this. Yeah.

You are just morally voting that you do not accept it, but it does not change the fact that this is an unqualified audit report. Thank you.

Hi. I wanted to ask whose role it is to allocate funds, for example, who decides how much money goes towards putting on a Carnival versus the operating budget for the Resource Centers, because I've noticed that the resource centers have been drastically reduced in hours and funding this year

(10)

So it is a collective responsibility of course me, VP Finance and Administration, and staff members who are involved in specific sections. For example, our Membership Outreach Coordinator is the one handling the resource centers. So naturally I would work with her and we come to a conclusion as to

what those numbers would be. I would be going over the exact applications, how I came to those numbers in my presentation and I'm more than happy to explain that when I reach a point.

Okay, thank you.

Thank you member, so, we're back to, oh, we're still, sorry, we are still on be it resolved that the auditors report for 2022-2023 fiscal year be approved as presented. As they're, I'm closing the speaker's list. This is your last chance to discuss this point. (10)

To the question of what happens if it doesn't get approved, one of our regulations is we make this public as per approval, not saying that it won't be made public without the approval. would be so hard to do it, because I think this is vital information that students need to see, regardless it's objective and truthful financial status of the Students' Union, but there is a regulation that states that as per approval, we post this on the website, just pointing that out.

(86)

Just to confirm, does the regulation also state that you cannot publish a draft audit if it's not approved? So we could theoretically vote no, you would still publish a draft audit? That it doesn't, bylaw, is unnecessary?

Again, the point is to publish it, and the approval process is an effort to show that we made an efforts to make this information transparent. If you do not agree with it, there's probably a reason, maybe there's a fault in the auditor's report, maybe, you know, perhaps you haven't had enough time to consider it which is completely valid but, you know, we're hoping that by publishing it, you can take a look at it, and if there's any concerns at all, you're always welcome to bring it up.

If you feel that - you can vote yes, you can vote no, or you can abstain. If you feel you do not have the information, enough information at hand, you may choose to extend as well, just for those in the house. Sorry, (90).

Hello again. I wanted to ask what the decision -making process is for setting the salaries of members of the Students' Union and also the Executive positions.

OK. So I'm going to say, we'll answer this one, but we should be speaking to the acceptance of the honors report. There is a section about this budget here that will be presented by Osho, and there is also a section for general questions. So I think we should, we won't answer this one, but if we could, if the next speakers could speak just to the acceptance of this audit report, thank you.

So, like many of, you know, the traditions of the SUO, they represent an honoraria to the volunteers, which, who work in the SUO, and the allegations that have been made so far, we have not increased any amounts. It has been consistent through the past few years. If you notice the increase in the budget, that is because these numbers are tied to the CPI. As the Consumer Price Index increases over the past years, you will see that number go up. But these numbers are agreements made on the Board, and everyone has, you know, it's a democratic process, anyone has the ability to contest, hey, this is not a fair amount, we should drop it, and that will go into discussion.

So, to clarify, it's not the students who are setting the Executive salaries, but the people on the Board of which the executives are a part of?

Not just the executive, but the directors as well. They approve the budget.

OK. Thank you.

Is there any further discussion regarding the audit report's approval of the audit report? Seeing none, all those in favor of approving the audit report as presented,

thank you. All those opposed?

That carries.

OK. Moving on to the next section, appointment of auditors. As per the Societies Act, you must appoint an auditor for the current fiscal year for the next General Meeting. And it is recommended by the Board of Directors is the result of Tompkins Wozny LLP be appointed as auditors for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Seeking a mover, moved by (91). Seeking a seconder, seconded by (2). Any discussion? (123)

Just want to bring some humor into the room. Is it going to be Erik again?

It could be, it could be.

I will personally request him.

I think Erik might be a little above doing the nitty-gritty of it, but he presents all of the longest sides.

Okay. Seeing other discussion regarding appointment of the auditors, seeing none. All those in favor of appointing Tompkins Wozny LLP to be the auditor for 2023-2024 this school year. Thank you. All those opposed? That carries.

Moving on to the next section, a presentation of the 2023-2024 budget as presented by the VP Finance and Administration.

Alright, thank you so much, my initial presentation was going to be 20 minutes long. but I don't want to loose anyone else, and I want to leave more time for questions. It seems like everyone is a lot more engaged....

Very quick to add some context, as you can see, I've taken out the courses and these are the common fees that every student pays. Just give me one second. So, I just want to point out UBC-O Athletics and Recreation and the library levy fee is collected and administered completely by the University. The Students' Union has no part in playing that out. All these numbers have to go through a referendum for them to be approved as student fees. Moving on, the rest have to do with the Students' Union and some of the active decisions that we've made. The BC Federations of Students, as explained before, it's a provincial alliance among 14 university and college student unions in BC, and we became a part of it a few years ago. We pay a membership fee of \$10 .59 per student per term, and they offer a number of programs and services to their members, and actively engage in large-scale campaigns and lobbying for students. If you have more questions, I'm sure Mike or Cade or Lakshay would be more actively involved in it, would be happy to to answer.

Next, this is a very significant part that have been not included in previous agencies from what I've seen. It is the UBC-O dental fee and the medical fee. If you notice, I have squared them. This is the amount you pay for your insurance. It comes to a total of \$316 .76 annually and it has its own budget plan that is not posted on the website because it's restricted funds. These are not funds that we could use or anyone could use completely freely. They have a very specific theme and I will get to that later on. We also collect a media fund fee of \$4.45 which is typically distributed to all our student media platforms and outlets. Before, we used to have Heatwave Radio as one of our media outlets, and now it's just the Phoenix, so the majority of the allocation goes to The Phoenix. Leftover amounts are kept as reserve for media outlets at UBC-O. We do not touch the reserve amounts as far as the general budget plan, it is purely meant for media purposes. The fee for the U-Pass that's \$63 per term is also collected. Now, this is a pretty discounted amount as to what you would pay if you were just buy it with the student discount that BC Transit offers. They charge \$33 a month, so it's essentially a 50 percent (50%) discount in the bus pass that you just get. And lastly, the Student Union fee of \$164 .26. This is the main source of revenue for the SUO, and this makes up our general budget line and the majority of our revenues. Oh, and you might also see an additional charge if you

belong to the Faculty of Management, Engineering, or Human Kinetics. They have course unions that have passed to collect a fee, and it has a differing amount for each one.

Next slide, please. So, I think there's a slide that's missing or something. I just want to get some structure to the budgets. There's revenues and expenditure as per any budget line. Within revenue, there is our student membership fees and we also have split it into a general society revenue, which has a multitude of items that we get our revenues and in the expenditures, we split it by director expenses, which has to do with the honoraria of directors, the amount we spend for training student leaders, and conferences and travel expenses for these directors. We also have services expenses, which consists of three pillars that the SUO follows, which is Campus Life, Student Services, and Advocacy. And lastly, our biggest expenditure would be the general society operations, which has everything to do with operational cost that includes wages or long-term interest payments through debt or anything along those lines. Let's take an in-depth look at the revenue summary.

I'm not gonna go through every single line. I'm gonna leave that for questions, but notable changes, I am will just start with the that membership fee which increase is not because we are expecting more students this year. I think this is the first time in a while that the number of students have gone down by very little or stayed down. There's a multitude of new reasons to have that, and the price that student members pay is like the CPI once again, and hence there's the increase in the numbers, so our purchasing power doesn't increase as much. And moving on, you can notice a drop in the revenues generated from the leases, and one of the main reasons of this is in terms of our application last year, if you saw the auditors report financial statements, we actually got about \$115,000, but we added J's Cafe since, and that is an additional source of lease revenue and that brings our number to about \$161,000 to be estimated. Our total general society revenue is therefore projected to increase from last year to \$197,000 and we also have net losses for Paper and Supply Co. and The Well. These are more accurate representations from last year. We made some structural changes as to how these numbers were represented in the budget. There were wages of The Well staff members who were, you know, which was counted as part of the Campus Life, since the manager of The Well is the staff partner for the VP Campus Life. To avoid confusion and promote complete transparency, we put it within The Well. We also hired a new staff member and assistant manager in The Well, that increased some of the wages that we had to pay out, and one of the significant change that raises of the costs, is that The Well was open for a portion of the summer over at least for a large portion, they have not been over the previous few years. So, that's the reason you're seeing that big number there. Paper and Supply Co. doing better than The Well. Now, this is a kind of an experimental number because we have slightly changed the operations of how the Paper and Supply Co. works. They focus a lot more on printing this year, which we are expecting to have a higher source of revenue. But yeah, the reason why they're operating at a lower term, you

know, they're kind of getting lower revenues is because the demand for physical books has gone down significantly in the past few years. most courses are going towards online content and courses.

Okay, next slide please. Expenditure summary. This is basically a summary page of all the different splits of the expenditures that I mentioned before. Just overall, we have our director expenses that come to \$256,670. That includes honoraria, conference, travel expenses, and training costs. Next three lines are campus life, student services, of advocacy and which are the three pillars. And they're part of our services expenses and society operations, which is the operational costs. The overall expenses are about \$2 million and \$42,000. And the main financial goal of the SUO this year is to not be in deficit. We don't want to promote a culture that accounts for a deficit when we offer these services, we want to come up with a culture that is prolonged. It shows bad health of the financial organization. We want to prove that we could offer the same level of services and initiatives that students can experience without sacrificing financial health. And I think based on the budget we have accomplished that and the updates I've received so far, we are looking good. Next slide please.

Starting with the director expenses, you can see the honoraria is listed for everyone, every VP here. and also the directors, that comes together as a lumpsum amount. You can notice under the President's total budget, that's slightly higher, but that's not because the President gets the higher honoraria. In his portfolio also has the campus relations budget attached to it, and it's part of that. That doesn't mean there's any amount of money that will be transferred to the President's direct account. He uses that funding predominantly for engaging campus partners, university relations, and sponsorships for community events. I think you can find a lot more on that end. And it also contains the GM's Operations Fund of \$1,400. And this has many purposes that involve director and staff welfare. But in essence, it's a miscellaneous fund. We allocated a portion of this to the emergency funding during the wildfires that happened over the summer. And if you, one of the significant drops that we have this year is in the conference and travel allocation this year, from 68,500 to 25,000 dollars. There's been a massive over-allocation over the past few years that has been recognized. And what I did personally was to tabulate every single conference that people went to over the past few years, how many of them could be accounted for by directors, by specific names, and what the absolute important ones are. Just as any director is, I came into this organization fairly new, so within that context I had was limited by that, but talking to every staff partner, realizing which conference adds valuable input into the running of this organization were decided, and those were the contents that I allocated funding for. And it's also a better reflection of the expenditures from last year.

Overall budget amount for director expenses is lower, to about \$257,000, that basically because but they do suffer the consequences of a bunch of money.

For our services expenses, those are the three pillars. Under Campus Life, the most notable change is the drop in event development. Now, last year, there wasn't a very specific definition of what event development was. So, one of the processes that I did over the summer is to talk to the various staff partners involved, namely the Campus Life staff partner, which is Mike, and really get to the bottom of how these numbers are allocated. And the event development, essentially, we have defined now is any small-scale events that would either happen at The Well or anywhere, you know, that might not require any sort of funding over \$10,000 per event. And it's a significant drop from \$141,000 down to \$39,000, so that more, you know, accurate representations can be made based on the expenses. Now, one other change we've made is increase the number allocated for Recess up to \$85,000. Now, you might be thinking this is one event. Recess is the party. Our [VP] Campus Life, like this year, has decided to change this approach because Recess typically has been an event that's signified the end of the year for students, and it could come in the form of various events and not one concert. He'd be happy to answer more questions, but how he's planning to split this amount is in three large-scale events that may or may not involve concerts.

Next, student services. There haven't been too many significant changes here. We've maintained our allocation to the faculty with the overwhelming response by students that we've accessed in its services. There's also a slight increase in website maintenance. We plan to make the website more engaging and information accessible. And we've also included an allocation of \$32,000 in the student aid and empowerment fund, most of which is one of Cade's initiatives for a transit bursary to make the cost of bus passes more affordable to students who need it. Under Advocacy, we can see a notable difference in allocations. Sustainability now has a significant allocation of \$25,000, and about \$12,000 to the other ones, which are Mental Health and Advocacy campaigns, which are among those \$98,850, and that's a lot closer to the actual expenditures last year.

Next slide. And last is our society operations, the notable increase here is general wages and benefits. That has gone up to \$710,000. Now, one of the reasons is because we have hired a new staff who is working on Communications and Marketing team. Her name is Kelly. You might have seen her in the interviews. And yeah, she's great. And the other is that as per the CBA, which is the agreement that staffs are under, they are. Their wages will increase continuously over the next few years as part of their agreement that we've signed, and hence the increase there. And also pointing out that the new position that Kelly has is a co-op position, and we plan to have that so that students can apply and learn about the SUO. This brings the total general expenses to about \$1,060,000. That's a \$50,000 increase from last year, and as mentioned before, the the total SUO general expense is still \$2,042,000. Now I'll go through the student health and dental budget. Next slide, please.

Please note that this budget line is highly restrictive and expenses from this line may only be used for paying the premiums on the insurance and expenses related to either the operational costs of providing the insurance services or initiatives that have to do with promoting the health and wellness of students. As you can see, we have the gym pass subsidy and the foodhub, which are considered to be health initiatives, and we can expend amounts from this budget on there. We typically have a large net asset from this budget, and we keep this amount in reserves, as you saw in the auditors' report, and there's a very specific reason behind this that has a lot to do with insurance, the insurance pool. There's two types of student insurances that you get. One is the amount that you pay for, that's your premiums. You don't, you know, there is no flexibility there. Like, you claim this much, you pay this much. If you have claims above the amount you pay, that's an amount owed by the student duty and to the insurance company. But the system that we work under is a flexible amount where we collect a little bit more than the premiums so that we have the flexibility of adding more benefits as per need, maybe suggestions from students or recommendations by our broker so that this could be added and we could add these benefits without causing an increased cost to students. The way it works is we have this net buffer amount. So when the premiums raise, we use the buffer amount to pay off and stop transferring the cost to students. Yeah, if you have more questions about that, feel free to ask me. And the premium rates may fluctuate significantly from year to year, and that's why having the buffer amount is critical. And next slide, please. And this is the claims from last year. As you can see, the orange line is the premium amounts that we pay so far, and the bars, where the bar drops, and that's where our claims are. And if you can see, the loss ratio is 129 percent (129%) for health and 102 percent (102%) for dental, which means that we are claiming a lot more than we are paying for. This is a good sign, and this is partially due to the reason that our premiums are significantly lower over the past three years compared to when we signed. If you also notice, lesser people went to the dentist over the summer, so that's a change. That's my presentation, if you guys have any more questions I'm happy to answer them.

There is no motion on the floor, but if you have questions, please.

Hi. Yes. First, I wanted to say thank you for making that very accessible. I understood that. Thank you. I was wondering if you could touch on website maintenance being \$27,000 a year. Yeah, that's a great question. And, you know, being a computer science minor student, I ask the same question every single time. We signed a contract with a company that maintains and makes the website for us and the things that we make. And the more I looked into it, you know, small suggestions, small improvements, and, you know, maintenance of the website is very expensive through this company. And then I found out, in Canada, altogether. Aaron could answer a lot more to this question, but it is, honestly, the only thing that could be changed about it is the contract that we have with this company. And I've been looking into alternatives, but I have not found anything better.

(27)

I just have a question regarding Frosh, maybe I don't know who can answer that, because you're doing budget, but I just have a question. Who is choosing the artists right now? It's a stupid question, but...

Regarding the budget, I set the amount as to how much they can spend on the artist. So obviously that influences a lot the options go way down since I'm setting the amount. But the VP Campus Life can answer to tastes and artists.

So we've given a limited budget and hip-hop seems to be the most common area where students are attracted to the concert setting. And under that budget, when we decided to pick artists, we of course, we've been talking to the Campus Life Committee as well as other Executives, but it just comes down to preferences to see what blends in, what kind of music the artist forms, and then also other criminal charges and what else they have done in the process to make sure that they're a good choice for the student body. So that answer,

I have another one coming, I needed that answer first. So, as a Students' Union, why, like, how are you deciding to take, for example, the artist that we had this year, who had a lot of sexual assault that was already published, and he is known for that, like, not maybe known for that, I mean, maybe music is what he's known for, but, yeah, how, as a Students' Union, representing our, like, student body, you're having those kind of artists, when you can have more inclusive artists, when you don't also include people who have disability that can come on, like come to your events and stuff and then you don't create a stage for them. So yeah, I wanted to talk about that.

We also looked at some local artists and performers, but it also comes down to availability and we have many extensive lists that come having first year and later time. And when we juggle these authors, sometimes the budget as well as their availability come is an issue. We also looked into the artists that came in this year and I believe most of them were allegations, not charges.

It has been charged on him. It has been charged already. It's not just allegations. It has been proven he's been to court multiple times.

Allegations aren't enough.

I'll add. So to speak on some of the things, it's under the direction kind of in collaboration with the Executive team and VP Campus Life and the Campus Life team overall and the committee. I think the

main concern that you're addressing is I agree. I would prefer to see like a country artists come in, but no one would come. But with that being said, I think we need to put a process in place to ensure that people aren't being brought in that have these concerning pasts. So with that in mind, though, these names that are brought up and presented are given to UBC and vetted by UBC. So we can't bring any artist on campus that hasn't been vetted and approved by UBC, and they do their own research into these artists. So if there are particular pieces that have been missed and caused offence to students, then I think that speaks to the fact that the process UBC has in place isn't good enough, and we could better on our end. The other factor, of course, is, unfortunately, availability and trying to sell tickets. And it's not an excuse, it's just trying to put on an event that can engage at least first-year and second-year students that are first coming to campus. I don't know if that suffices for an answer, but it's the best I can give at this moment in time.

Thank you. Then I have two things to add. If, then, you have those kind of artists coming in with, like, I mean, applications and whatever they are, then provide resources for the students to, like, be supported during those events, such as as SVPRO, and then I've seen, RedFrogs was here this year, stuff like that, so that would be, like, a great thing, because this already happened, this is a past event, so we can't change what happened, but we can promote and have more resources. So that's one thing I have to add. And second thing, I, again, I'm not gonna change the past, but I'm just saying that can you please try to represent the student body when you bring those events, those, wait, those artists, during those events, because that's, I, what I think Students' Union is supposed to do, and, like you represent us, so please do that. Thank you.

Just to note that we are talking about this current budget we have we have time for all the other committees and general questions as well so

I'm going to talk about the Athletics and Recreation fee and I know that the SUO does not administer that, this has been kind of my personal mission for the last three years or something so I know quite a lot about this I've gone and talked to the recreation people as well to the best of my understanding what happens is UBC takes the fee, and they pay their staff and maintenance and everything out of our fee for the recreation. So basically, recreation is kind of like the SUO, they work for us, we pay for their money. UBC, I don't know, they might pay a share, but in my opinion, that is not something that should happen. If UBC has a recreation department, UBC should pay fully for it. If they don't, close recreation, fine, they will lose students. It's not on us to pay to have better recreation facilities. I want to know if, as a Student Union, we want to decide not to pay this money to UBC, can that be done?

So the recreation fee that's paid to UBC, that fee that was on that chart, that one? Okay, so that fee was a referendum fee. So in order for any fees to be changed, needs to be referendum. so there's

nothing stopping any student member from pushing forward on this referendum I would caution making perhaps generalized assumptions about the value of a recreation facility and what that going would do for how it would be negative impact for a lot of other students unfortunately there's a lot of issues with UBC there's a lot of issues post-secondary institutions. That's why we're formed a society and that's what we're trying to fix, long story short, or short story long, I agree with you, there are processes in place to facilitate that position and it's been on my work to try and lower this fee as years go on, especially with the commitment to build the new recreation facility.

Thank you. I get that. I just want to know that if we were to do a referendum and say we don't want to pay this, then that's doable.

Yeah.

To the best of my knowledge, the fees here are no lesser than off-campus, so we're not getting a benefit for using the gym. Pretty much the same. I've looked at other universities who would pay a recreation fee. They get much better facilities than we do. even UBC Vancouver gets their swimming pool, which we can access. We can access with our UBC card. We don't get anything here even though we're paying, you know.

If I had a dollar for every time I brought this up, I could pay the fee. So, I don't know.

As I said, I've been chasing this down for a few years and it doesn't make sense to me.

I'm right behind you, like I understand.

I also, I feel like the students don't understand where this fee goes and what happens.

I don't either, honestly.

A lot of students come with the question saying, where is this money going, why do I still have to pay a gym fee? It's because this is basically salaries and maintenance and stuff, it's not your gym fee. So, that's something that students should know, maybe the SUO should put that out a bit more, and then maybe if it comes to a referendum, then the referendum it is.

All right, thank you, member (10) to respond; no response.

Hi, thank you again, once again, for making it very accessible and understandable. I am not in this area at all, So this goes over my head, typically. I had a question, though. I've been at this school for

six years, and I've attended Frosh and Recess and all that. So I'm just wondering, maybe Campus Life can speak a little more to it, but why would you need \$80,000 plus for Recess? I have attended Recess, and not good. I'm sorry. I'm going to be honest with you. I'm just wondering why that that event has such a large budget when you look like that could be a salary for someone else, right? So, I don't know who can answer that or what the brainstorming...

I gonna to start with clearing a few misconceptions about the budget, maybe the VP Campus Life can talk more about the events either, you can request some questions, I can answer any questions too. Currently, the Recess line that you see for \$85,000 is not allocated for one event. The budget lines that you see here are the result of what we have inputted in the accounting software to allocate these numbers for. Now, these can be changed, you know, by, you know, over time some lines might not be relevant and then we change them to a different name or completely eradicate them. But we tend to keep them so that it's a point of context for every new executive that comes in that says, hey, there was an amount allocated for this maybe three years ago. Look into that, see what they did so that you have an idea of what they're doing. Now, we understand that, you know, Recess has typically been seen as an end-of-year party, or an end-of-year concert, but from what happened last year, we realized that's not a good idea, and the VP Campus Life has alternatives plans to how to allocate this money. It is not the one event, and he can explain more.

Yeah, can I just add something? I also would ask if you know maybe why you think, or maybe this is for the question period, but why do we need three events, or two events, or that much? And I understand that that money can get transferred to something else if it's not used and the point of contact, like, that all makes sense, thank you. I'm just curious.

I mean, Uday can speak to maybe the events that are going to be happening, but examples would be is the carnival that is attended by 3,000 students. That is a cost in its own that's included in that line. We're hoping to bring back a beer garden or something like that. That is in that line.

Is that one?

Yes.

Okay. I thought I saw something else for Carnival,

Was there one in Carnival? Part of recess. Maybe last year there was one specifically for Carnival, but we're changing our perspective on Recess because there was a lot of tough learning that was done last year. And fortunately enough, though, I think we've come out on the other side with more diverse events because, frankly, I think we're moving away on this campus from the concerts and I'd

like to see the money used in a more relevant space. But your point is heard, and we're hoping that we'll have fun events using this money. And we might not use all the money. I think it's just to have a reference point.

Perfect, thank you.

Once again on the budget, because everyone else has a committee still, and you could ask a lot of these very specific questions.

Yeah, no, totally. This is for the budget. And thank you guys so much for all of this. I guess it has to do with the health and dental fee for student care. And I can imagine that many students in the past have probably brought up mental health and sort of the allocated amount when you get, like, your premium or what you're able to claim back is \$1,000 for, like, a psychologist. And for, like, a regular psychologist, it costs around \$200. Yeah, not seeing the psychologist that much with that budget. So I was just wondering, those are things that you are able to negotiate with StudentCare in terms of, like, looking at the claims that students have made and perhaps moving it away from things like, for example, I know that people can even claim massage therapists and things like that. So I'm not sure if those are things that you can sort of change about how much... Does that make sense? Yeah?

So absolutely valid points, but insurance companies at the end of the day are a business. And how they make their profits is by allocating benefits as bundles. And there are portions that need to be controlled in terms of proportion of how much you might be allocated for and how much you might have to go for. And the brokers that we work with, StudentCare, they've been put in enough to show us that, hey, this is a change you can make and benefit from it. And when they give us those recommendations, we're more than happy to take them as, you know, as part of either recommending or consulting the rest of the student population to get that done. We also accept any sort of feedback from students in terms of specific benefits that they want to see. And if we are able to put that as part of our benefits bundle without causing a sudden fluctuation of the premiums, we're the first ones to do it. But we can also reach out to StudentCare directly to see what's possible... I hope that answers your question.

Yes, thank you so much

(91)

So you mentioned earlier that your goal for the SUO this year was to not run into a deficit while maintaining an acceptable amount of services and maintaining the level of service to our community

that you've done in the past. To what extent do such large honoraria payments fit into this kind of economic goal?

You know, this is an honoraria, from what I understand, in Canada is a way of appreciating the volunteers who dedicate their time and effort while being a student to provide all the services they do...for their work. Where I come from, Singapore, there are no honoraria's, there are no salaries. Students get voted in and they work like hell without getting any pay for the sake of the student population. I think it's pretty reflective of the elections that we see. We have 10 percent (10%) voting, in Singapore we easily have 60 percent (60%), 70 percent (70%), there is no question about it. I'm not someone who can speak about the culture of this place or how things work, this is something that I agree with in a lot of senses and I'm sure Cade can offer another perspective.

I'd love to hear that, thank you

Yeah, I'll get off the alternative perspective, let's say, and say that one of the points of having an honoraria is so that a student in this role doesn't suffer financially because of their volunteering their time for this role. And, for example, I'm not here to ... I can only speak for myself, but some weeks I work 40 hours a week, and when you do the math, I make below minimum wage. And we are Students' Union because we believe in, you know, just living conditions and pushing forward on student issues and trying to make life more affordable when the fact is we're struggling there right with you. It's a great privilege to earn this honorarium, and it's a great privilege to serve in this role, but we still need students to want to run. And that is a major part of this, and the, uh, referendum fee, or the, the, the honorarium been, um, decided by bylaws, and there's been discussions about ... about salary. It's a sticky subject, it comes up at every AGM, and I'm happy and proud to say the work I do, um, is for the students, and I, I, I appreciate the, the money that we get in compensation for that. But thanks for your question. That's my alternative question then. Well, I'll just say, Osho's honorarium.

Thank you.

(86)

So the budget line for the GSC is \$30,000 per year. For me, just based on vibes, that seems like a good number. But I've been trying to think about, so our weird situation where we have grad students and undergrads in the same union, whether the entire budget spending accurately represents 11 percent (11%) of the student population being grad students. That's really hard to determine in the budget, because, like, so the student associations, it's mixed. Some of the budget that's Frosh and Recess, we know maybe, like, a handful of grad students show up, but we don't

know. We share the same staff. So do you have a more detailed breakdown where we actually can assess if the budget of the GSC does cover those other budget lines where the grad students don't use, or, like, if we can figure out a formula that accurately represents the populations?

Sorry, I'm a little unclear about the nature of the question.

So, for example, the student associations, there are grad course unions, undergrad course unions. Does that accurately describe 11 percent (11%) of the student population being grad students in terms of the budget? And then student clubs, are the members who are using the club funding grad students? Is there a way to assess that?

Right now, how the finance process is done or any other executives or directors, how we see it, we see everybody as members of the Students' Union. There is no distinction between a grad member and an undergrad member in our eyes when we do allocations. Now, as per the request and, you know, advocacy of graduate students and recognizing their presence on campus, this budget was like the Graduate Student Representative, that position was created, a budget was allocated as part of it. But it is important to note that graduate students have equal accessibility for the most part to the undergraduate side of things as well. We don't make that distinction directly. We are always looking for feedback from our Graduate Student Rep when it comes to making these allocations. I hope that answers your question

Yeah, so there is no budgetary thing that we can do.

I was just going to add quickly and say the committee has provided a breakdown of how they use that funding. Um, the Graduate Student Committee as a, as a body of itself is brand new, and so I think last year, or, or, or, or the starting off new, we want to just kind of test the concept, and Kirthana and Anjali this year specifically has really shown the concept to be working true, and so I know in my transition report, I'll recommend more, more, uh, allocations to the Graduate Student Committee.

(10)

Graduate Student Committee was given what they asked for this year, so...

(90)

I just did a little bit of education for everybody else in the room. So the SUO has three or four resource centers for disprivileged members of the community, of which I'm one, I use the Pride

Resource Center quite often. And last year, four of these resource centers, managing them and hosting the events for them was a paid position and there were also extended office hours, essentially, where members of the disprivileged communities had a space in UNC where we could go and feel heard and seen, and there's lots of resources in the room. The room is still there. It's been locked. It has much reduced hours of operation and has left a lot of very disprivileged members of the community without a place on campus to really call home and feel safe and access resources, and I just wanted to ask what the rationale was behind allocating so much money to like one-time events where like, yay, it's a lot of fun. But for a lot of disprivileged members of community, they go through really hard times and they need those resource centers and they're not open and they're not functioning. And I understand wanting to have a really fun time. And I understand that other members of this community deserve to have fun times. There are so many places on campus that are designing events for general students. Why is our Students' Union allocating so much funding to events when they're not giving us the resources that they are obligated to provide?

Sorry, can I clarify that you are talking about the Resource Development as part of the advocacy line?

Yes.

Okay. So the truth is there's been a lot of allocation to the Resource Center over the past few years, but have been severely, you know, not used. We allocated \$16,000 to the wages of resource center staff. They're actually students. They were staff last year. And about \$17,000 of it was used. We increased that allocation to \$23,750. As part of accessibility, equity and inclusion. That's the line. And there's been an increase in the wages. The reason why we decreased resource development is because the year-to-date, which is the accurate representation of how much spent from the 22,400 was \$7,600. So there was a massive disparity of \$15,000 that was unspent. And we kept as much allocation as possible because Izzy pointed out, the [Membership] Outreach Coordinator, that there could still be some increase in activity. This inactivity was a result of COVID-19 and you know, a multitude of reasons. So we played it safe by keeping that allocations ready in case they were to be used. Now the reason why the resource centers weren't open was not because there's not a funding allocated to it, it's because no one wanted to open them. It's a student-led initiative, and that space needs to be opened for it to be managed. And we no longer have full-time staff employed as part of this, and that's sort of it.

Why do we no longer have full-time staff employed? I'm aware of what happened last year, and there's been lots of talk on the PRC's Discord about the fact that the person who was running the PRC last year stepped down because they were overwhelmed and not paid properly and subject to misnaming and general not respecting their identity while in their role.

Right, I may not be an expert in this exactly field, but from what I understand there were five positions last year, yes, and the Board last year or the VP Internal last year, had decided that a better way to move forward was to have one coordinator that can base communication between Izzy and the Resource Centres. This is the system that they've been following, and clearly there needs to be some work done there, but I'm happy to set up a meeting with you and along with the VP Internal to discuss any sort of improvements that we can make in terms of the budget. In terms of the specific Resource Centre, I'm sure that the VP Internal is as well.

(126)

I have a question regarding allocation of funds for like the student job and the course union. So, I'm like President of Indian Engineering Graduate Student Society and we recruit around like 400,000 students. But when you see for the budget, like it's like a flat rate for all the student and course union that we get for a year. That's what we get in the orientation, that we get around like 3,000 per year for like events or something. So, do you think like it's justifiable for like the large number of course union, like the student course union having a large number of students who have a similar funding than the other class of course union who have a lesser number of students?

So the difference between a course union and a student association, the only difference in terms of the SUO, is course unions are academic oriented and they have the ability to call a referendum among their faculty. And similar to what the Faculty of Management, Human Kinetics and Engineering has done, they've called that referendum to collect their own fees from their members to create their own budget lines. And I'm not sure I understand the exact question.

My question is, as a president of EGSS, I have to create ... for like 400 students, right? So if you can just run a club with less number of students, so if you have 50 people, 50 members, you can create a club. So do you think the same budget gap will work for the 400 students and the 50 students? I think that's not justifiable.

So you would consider yourself an academic club, right?

Yeah.

But you're not a course union, right?

No, we are like Engineering Graduate Student Society, so we are like the course union. That's what I know.

Is it a course union? Yeah. But it has a different classification?

For engineering, there's the Engineering Society for undergrad, and it's like the Engineering Graduate Student Society for undergrad.

But to clarify, you do not pay the engineering membership fees?

No.

Right. So, like any other course union, you're entitled to have that referendum to collect your own membership fees, if it is an issue about how much we allocate to a coaching team that doesn't have a referendum, then our only option is to consider a non-referendum association.

My question is, like, you know, like, we can make, like, a student club with 50 members, right? So for my club, like, there's like 400, over 400 people as default, right? So whenever I do some event, I have to do it for, like, 400 students. And whenever, like, some club do an event, they have to do it for, like, I'm not undermining the role of any club, but if we can create a club, like if we do something for 50 students and we have to plan something for 400 students, we do need more budget, right? So this flat rate is not working. If you want to serve a large number of students, our club is doing, so our union is doing. So that's my thing. And those Student Union things, it's justifiable for a bigger club and smaller club, the amount should be the flat rate, like 3,000 cap or something?

Well, the cap is \$3,500 from what we've allocated, but I think there's a miscommunication here of some kind that I'm not seeming to understand. The allocation that we can give to any student association is, with that cap, about \$3,500. The requirements to make your club still hold the same as any other club, even if it only has 50 people. To ratify the club, you need 32 signatures, even if you are representing 400 other students, and since you are a course union, that is why you have the special privilege of being able to have a referendum and collect fees. And I would strongly encourage you to do that because I think that would benefit all graduate students and the price is something you can control. And this is how we would move forward.

Thank you.

Coming up here, just speaking, I know we have a lot of supplemental questions, but I think if it's going to be a drilling into very specific niche topics, which are very important, it is really a good idea to meet with your lucky reps at their office hours. Just, we are at 10 pm and we still have five or six items on the agenda, just to note. So, try to keep our comments brief and our quick, quick, our

questions quick, and barely even only one supplemental question, we'll get that. So, more folks could speak.

Yeah, OK, I'll try and keep it as short as possible. It's on the honoraria issue. And I totally agree with Cade. You're a student. You're working here for us. You deserve an honoraria. Mentioned it's at minimum wage or lower. Why is the grad student rep then paid basically over the wage? They're not paid anything at all. Where they, to the best of my knowledge, do almost the same amount of work per week. And they're also doing that by giving up their TA roles, other work they could be doing on campus, their research work, all of that, which is very important. They don't get paid that. And supplemental to that, our budget line, the \$30,000, includes the honoraria for everyone on the grad student committee who are board of director level, but do not go through the board of directors. So we have to pay out of our budget, which is already reduced, for the people who are working for us. So why is that not in the Board of Directors line?

Yeah, um, so first of all, this is a recent conversation that's come up, um, with the advent of the Graduate Student Committee. That has created a much larger amount of workload for the Graduate Student Representative, which is something we've talked about this year and last year, um, and trying to navigate what that means. Well, now that they're an advisory member, maybe it means less, um, and we can work to try and see, to gauge so that graduate students are paid an adequate amount of the time they're giving up. I agree. It's just been

trying to walk that fine line between directors pay, graduate student pay, how do we, you know, navigate this in our bylaws and regulations and the whole practice of Students' Union. It's something we have to study, and we really will. The next part of this is that many of the undergrad students as well don't have BCGEU representation, which is an additional piece that more graduate students have than undergrad students. And just by default, it happens that undergrad students generally are in these Board of Directors' roles. So it's just kind of been an offset of trying to find a balance between pay, amount of time a grad student can give, because I know graduate students are busier than undergrads and probably couldn't fill an executive role to - not to say they couldn't, but to say that, is it as possible? I don't know. And that's a conversation that we need to have in trying to fine-tune the Graduate Student Representative role, because perhaps it's a conversation of making a graduate student society.

Thank you, I appreciate that. I'm just gonna add just a slight bit more context to that. To the best of my knowledge, for the past four years, there has been no competition for the grad rep role. There's only been one person, it's been a yes or no vote, because nobody wants to come into this position. And I'm putting up personal information here. I don't care. My PhD funding for my research for the work I do is \$22,000. So if this was an option, being paid the same level of Executive, I would feel

much more comfortable coming and doing this. I'd already do 10 hours a week for the GSC. It doesn't really, it's not much of a problem for me to have another 20 hours if I get paid more than what my research pays me. So I feel like this is unfair at the moment and this is something that needs to be addressed. Thank you.

261. I wanted to go back to the thing about member outreach and the funds allocated to that specifically. I believe it was a dash. I wanted to ask, as the question was raised previously, where you've seen the SUO hasn't really been engaging with the students And if the amount is not being, if you're not investing any amount, how do we expect you are telling the truth? Because, for instance, you could take some amount of money, like I said, \$2,000 a year, and invest it in YouTube ads or Instagram ads where students are there, and you could restrict the geographical location of those ads around campus or in Kelowna. The price will be cheaper, like for a week or two, to at least reach out to students where they're most active, right? like why is there just no point in that?

So yeah, great question. And it, again, has to do with the nuances of how the budget line works. It's not that we are slacking off or allocating lesser for the sake of membership. We have a separate tab for Communications, Marketing, and Outreach all together that has \$20,000 in there. The reason why Membership Outreach still exists was because there was \$7,500 allocated last year, and in 2022-2023, zero dollars were spent. There wasn't any expenditure because, you know, in terms of membership or communications if was taken out of different budget lines and previous years, like when you look at the history, there's been lower spending because over time, certain budget lines become obsolete, the purpose of them become unclear and it's the responsibility of the Executives to see, hey, is this something you want to revive? And if not, is it something you want to get rid of from the budget line? From the past three years, there have not been many lines that have gotten rid of and as you know, this budget is approved in the summer. So that's the thing you're seeing. My plan this year is to get rid of the obsolete lines that no longer are relevant and push it for the next year so that the budget line that you see next year is going to make sense to you.

I'll add to that question. I agree with that idea. I think it makes more sense for the reading as well. I have a question for investing in media infrastructure for the school. For instance, from the high school I came from, there were TVs almost everywhere, but they had advertisements playing from the student council. Like, why don't we have that, where there's direct reaching, or like we're creating infrastructure for media, like a media infrastructure, so you are, it's easier and it's cheaper in the long run for the SUO to communicate directly with the students. And that will be useful, like, let's say, student outreach, or is it something else?

I think it's a great idea. It would fall under the category of capital purchases, Because, you know, these are things that are, you know, large expenses, but I think it's a great initiative. But, yeah, it's

something that could be proposed to any of the Executives. I'm sure they'd be happy to see how that could be done or proposed next year. But right now there isn't budget allocated for it. But, yeah, it's like any other initiative that's a good idea. It requires funding, and once that comes to the Executive team or the Board of Directors, we can put some budget in.

Who do I reach out to if I want to raise it?

In terms of capital, it would be Lakshay, the VP External, or the VP Internal of the person. And honestly, either of them could really make something like this happen.

Just not him.

Alright.

I have enough going on.

I'm closing the speakers list. (101)

So I have this one question, which I know is doing, I think it's a part of the service budget. And if you just pull that slide back, I just want to, yeah, right there. Yeah, go to the ombudsperson section, and there's zero. I mean, nothing. And last year, it's, there's like 3,000. So are you, I mean, are you pointing out that there's no ombudsperson on campus at this point? Just one second, I have a quick follow-up on that. So if there's no ombudsperson currently in our campus, it also means that there's no place where there could be a human right. If that is the case, then in one side, we are making this claim that we're trying to make this campus more inclusive, equitable, and a safer space to discuss such topics like equity, inclusion, diversity, and so forth. On the other side, we don't have a person there, thoughts?

First thoughts. Both things that you said, even though they're hypothetical, are untrue. We have an ombudsperson who is fully paid, and we're in a three-year agreement with the ombuds office to pay a portion of that salary. That contract is up next year, so we need to go back to negotiate with UBC to make sure that we have this. I mean, obviously, we're going to try and not pay as much student's money into that, but it's an important service for students. The second piece, I think Osho can add to that, the second piece is the Human Rights Advisor. I'm extremely upset by the lack of a Human Rights Advisor on campus. However, it's not for a lack of trying, and it's not for a lack of UBC trying to get someone in that position. The problem is the Human Rights Advisor, especially on a small campus like this, doesn't attract much attention from people that have the expertise to do that. So, given the state of UBC's budget, they cut the funding for the time being, but found the funding due

to advocacy, and I wrote a letter, had meetings constantly, and the position has been reposted. So they have funding, secured funding, we've advocated for that funding, so there will be a Human Rights Advisor coming in next year. Okay, and Osho can add to the first part about the ombuds person.

Regarding the budget not being allocated, that \$30,000 is a part of a contract and we budgeted that we would pay \$30,000 per year, and hence now it's the budget that was put in there. The reason it's not there is because it's expiring next year and we no longer have to make that payment starting next year.

Okay, that's interesting. Because, I mean, just to follow up like a small side of that story, because I have, you know, I've been just, you know, going through some of the data and details published in last year report, and there were like certain kind of feedbacks how this is an important aspect for a student or for, you know, community on campus. And the budget allocations and the, what do you call that, the part of seriousness, the part of, you know, prediction is something not the way it should be in the first place. In terms of, you know, the gravity this holds in terms of having somebody out there who could hear the struggle sometimes the student goes through in a person's professional life. And yeah, that's what I'm looking at.

Yeah, by no means I'm an expert in those things. But in the Human Rights Advisor, I know we don't have a position there. But someone who was hired recently is an investigator from UBC Vancouver, where they transfer to UBC-O. And they are, how they function, not exactly sure. But they are open in terms of any conflict or concern that a student has and they go to the respective offices or, you know, sources where they can assist the student. I'm not sure if this ties in directly with what you're talking about. This is a resource that has just...almost a week ago.

Well, it does, but just, you know, my previous experience is that last, I know one of the student who was trying to, you know, look into this advising regarding human rights, and what happened with that student is that he, sorry, that student was redirected to be contacted with the Vancouver Human Rights Office. And I was aware that this is what happening last probably post COVID-19. We never had a, since Libby left here, there was not a constant person, probably essentially there might be somebody joined it, but there's not that consistency and focus that we needed some one person working very closely with equity inclusion office in the first place or working with other resource center in the campus who could really pay close attention into making this campus more inclusive, equitable, and diverse. And focus on, you know, in this, stick with our commitment to making this, you know, like the added task force that we have in place, and just always continue to do it, so yeah.

I think a lot of the things that you mentioned over here are extremely relevant. As someone who is working closely with the students' advocate in the Students' Union, we do hear a lot of these cases where a student is directed, directly to the Vancouver campus because of the lack of services that we have. Firstly, in terms of the first point of contact, the students' advocate's main job is to make sure that the student is heard and we can lay out all the resources that are possible. Secondly, since the last year, the biggest advocacy point through the Vice President's External office has also been advocating for an HR advisor. The update that we have from the office, from the EDI office as of now, is they are actively looking to hire a person. And similarly, it goes for issues with students with disabilities. The representation numbers are extremely low. One of the first things that I try to get into and our students' advocate is working, is getting engaged in conversations and we have a letter signed, and every single day we are thinking of what other things can we think of. One of the other things that I've been trying to explore is empowering student groups that want to support students. Sometimes it feels like they are a better resource than some of the underlying services that we have on campus. Now to, yeah, just to end that thing up, I think it's an entire underlying issues that need to be addressed more and more, and we're hoping to address them through more awareness within the student population, because the university needs to know through various channels that this is the need of the hour right now. And yeah, I just wanted to add, as someone that's presenting advocacy, I just wanted to put it out there. Yeah, thank you so much.

Thank you also, and thank you, Lakshay.

All right, report of the Executive Committee from 2022-2023 years, presented by the President.

So given where we're at in the timeline of things, I'm going to try and speed things up, all right? I don't think you guys will not like that. This is just basically a brief overview of some of the things that the previous executives did last year. This is not necessarily my work in this current role. But next year, if you come to our AGM, you'll see my updates there. Um, so last year we had President Jackson Pashelka, um, and some of, uh, the projects he worked on was putting in place the gym pass subsidy, um, which helped provide money to students to, uh, apply for gym passes. Um, he worked on, and myself in the VP External role, worked on, uh, opening, uh, Picnic Food Hub, uh, which has been a partnership with UBC-O and has been, uh, proven to be quite successful in providing students with services, uh, free meals, harm reduction, drug testing, sexual health education, along other many, many things. And Jackson's role in this was quite consequential in making sure that that filled the timeline. Another piece that is a part of the president's role is chairing board meetings as well as executive meetings. With that comes just balancing and wrangling in 18 or 17 unique voices. and that was something he did. And another piece that was quite most important in our return last year was the collective bargaining that was completed with BCGEU. Our staff, our casuals, and our full -

time are all members of the BC General Employees Union, and their contract was up, So it was time for us to go to the bargaining table and after several meetings, lots of hard work, discussion, debate, and open conversation, we were able to come to a deal that I'm happy to say was ratified by the local. And actually today I went over and signed it and it's finally finished and will be good for another three years. Um, that was a, uh, very time-consuming task, um, that took up a lot of the second part of the year. Um, and last but not least, the President, uh, is responsible to a certain degree, um, on board training, ongoing trainings, um, uh, anti-racism trainings, uh, sexual, um, assault disclosure trainings, um, some of the things that I'll be hoping to bring on this year, particularly. So that is the Office of the President, and I look forward to continuing my work this year to provide for the students. Thank you.

Any questions? Remember, the person is not here to answer these questions, but (85), could you come to the microphone, that would be good

So you had said that the CBA has been finalized by now. Has it been posted?

No, because I went and signed it about six hours ago.

Is there a reason for it having taken this long? Yes. Because it expired in February, and that does mean that people who are requesting help from the BCGE were not able to use that help as far as the updated...

Yeah, so we put our pieces in and it took the BCGEU to finalize the documents, provide the updated contract. Really what took so long was the representative of the BCGEU could not figure out how to use Adobe, and so we had to physically go to the offices to sign the contract rather than be able to sign them online. So wrangling, you know, six different people during reading week was a major issue, as well as it requires time to go to staff to ratify that deal. And that process takes its own amount of time. So given that the BCGEU has provided this agreement and it has been ratified by its members, it's a normal timeline for a CBA.

It's interesting that you're saying that it's the BCGEU that is holding up, because when I spoke with them needing assistance, they said it was the SUO and they could not access the document, so it's conflicting...

No, we couldn't access the document because they couldn't send it to us. Yes, but this is not relevant...

I'm just letting you know that is information out there.

Oh, absolutely. And I'll be sure to touch base with Kathy from BCGEU about...

Is there a timeline for when it will be posted?

I would assume as soon as possible. I didn't get a timeline. I'll touch base with them this week or next week to see when.

Thank you.

Thanks.

Alright, pass it over to Uday.

So, last year Danial Asif was the VP Campus Life, today I'll be reporting about his time at the VP Campus Life. The theme of the month of September was a September-to-remember, which included a number of large-scale and small-scale events, comprising the Carnival, the Frosh concert, and Expo. And the small-scale events included the Wine and paint night, the trivia's at the Well Student Pub, continued with the Frosh concert. The first concert happened for the first time since 2019, post-COVID-19. The committee decided to have a relatively smaller capacity of 2,000 people. The tickets were sold out within a day and it was headlined by Lil' Pump. And the committee continued to organize smaller scale events throughout the year and collaboration with other clubs on campus. ... This year, we've continued the Frosh tradition and wanted to expand the capacity to 2,000. We have sold about 1,300 tickets. What we budgeted was the last year for a 1,000-person event, so we broke even roughly. The committee continues to organize a number of other events throughout the year, which include the night market, the winter market, which is tomorrow, a beer garden, and the TED talk, as well as the Carnival.

We also had, this is the first year the committee actually had sponsorships for our concert, which included U-Line, Bounce, Line, and Red Bull. We also hired a new booking company this year called BeatGig, which has a relatively high writing power and offers us cheaper rates for booking artists. That's it. Any questions?

Campaigns Committee

So, I'll be reporting on the work done by last year's Vice President External, who is currently on the bias, Cade Desjarlais, so we had multiple campaigns, mostly divided into internal campaigns, municipal election, mental health, and transit campaigns. The municipal election campaign was

focused primarily on promoting students to get involved in the voting procedures. In terms of the internal campaigns, we had a lot of internal advocacy that was done. There was successful hiring of a community safety manager. There was funding secured for some key issues such as food insecurity and health and wellness initiatives. The Expo was back again last year with 50 percent (50%) of the proceedings going to the Pantry, 50 percent (50%) of the sponsorship proceedings going to the Pantry. And we had improved funding advocated for improved funding of study spaces and academic advising. Similarly, there was a lot of active participation in meetings and task forces, especially the student affordability task force. In terms of the mental health campaigns, we distributed the exam survival kits and we hope to bring them back again this year. The transit campaign was focused on a major stakeholder with all of the relevant companies and organizations. Similarly, for media coverage, there were numerous interviews and the SUO was represented more broadly in terms of their outward presence. And that's all for the presentation. I just want to thank everyone who's sitting right now in this theater. It really means a lot. It's 10:30 and it just goes to show and how passionate our student population actually is. Thank you so much.

Would you like to pass it over to the graduate student committee?

Hello, everyone. I'm Anjali Desai, I'm a student, Grad Student Rep at the SUO this year. I thank you all for being here in person and sticking by until the end. This year, we going into the fourth year of operation. We were established in 2020. Today, I'm going to be talking about and reporting on our participation in the previous financial year, talking about the financials. the GSC was allocated \$25,000 last year, of which approximately \$21,000 was utilized. To bring into context this year, based on our conversation with VP Finance this year, we've been incrementally allocated \$30,000 this year, allowing the GSC to organize more events and reach a wider student population on campus. Advocacy and engagement remains to be the two main focus areas of GSC over the years. In the areas of advocacy, the GSC had a big success last year with internal policy amendments, by which we expanded membership to 13 members, allowing an increased participation by grad students in the capacity of student endowments. Over the years, the faculty representatives have also been mandated to report on their engagement with graduate students and their faculty, and also membership of graduate students, and the Campaign committee, and the Campus Life committee. It's also important for me to acknowledge the current bylaw change, which we just passed today at the meeting. Over the years, formation of a separate graduate student society, like the one that exists in Vancouver, has been a part of the GSC meeting agenda. And I believe the Graduate Student Representatives participation in the Executive committee as an advisory role allows the person to gain insight into operations, which is an important skill required to eventually transition into a separate graduate society. So I thank you all for your support in passing that, and I believe it's a great step for the next graduate student committee.

Oversight

Hello everyone. I just want to start by saying when I put this presentation together a couple weeks ago, I didn't think I would have to be presenting it to you two hours past my bedtime, but that being said, I think there are also some important things to touch on in this presentation, and I've condensed it, even just sitting here, but I do still want to touch on some of the more informational pieces of what the Oversight Committee does. So my name is Grace Halpin, I serve as the Chair of the Oversight Committee this year. My report will focus on this term's Executives up until this point, but I do want to remind everyone that all previous Oversight Committee minutes can be found on the SUO website in board meeting packages. I also want to highlight the informational pieces of what the Oversight committee does, some important regulations that I've kind of picked out of my regulations and bylaws, and processes that are in place to keep Executives accountable. So, as stated on the first slide, the committee consists of three to five members. The General Manager, up to three non-executive directors, and one Student-at-Large, chosen by the committee. The chair of this committee voted on this year, and we are responsible for the oversight of the executives. So this year consists of myself, Jason, Ari, and Darsh, and our Student-at-Large, Shreya. Next slide, please. So as stated in our regulations, the mandate of the Oversight committee is to oversee the performance of Executive directors and to hold Executives accountable for their actions. That is straight out of our bylaws and that is what I try to do each and every single day. Next picture, I just wanted to put that on there so you can see the tools that are up here. But these are the lovely Executives that I have the pleasure of overseeing, or we have the pleasure of overseeing this term. Can we go to the next slide please? So here's an example, sorry it's a little too small and big up there. An example of what some of the

regulations look like that guide our committee. Regulations like this serve as a guideline for executives and directors within the SUO. So the first one I put up there is Executive committee directors must dedicate a minimum of 50 hours every two weeks, so 25 hours per week, to fulfill their duties throughout the year. Pay will automatically be withheld at a rate of \$25 per day for late or incomplete reports or documents up to the value of one complete pay period. So we do have the power to withhold honouraria if needed. Out of the 50 hours, directors must spend at least three days and over 15 hours per week in the Students' Union offices over the two-week period, as I said. Directors must schedule post notice and be available for student appointments for at least five hours per week, as mentioned before, on average, out of the 15 hours in office. So, as stated, or way earlier, like four and a half hours ago, they do have their office hours posted on the Student Union website, and this

is something I'm quite diligent about, they all know. This will be posted at the start of, or somewhere in the middle of January, whenever everyone's schedules get set, and this is really important. And I

just want to make sure that they're in the office when you need them there, and you know when you can find them, where you can find them, and your concerns can be brought up in person. Because I think in person is just the most efficient way to do things. That being said, for accessibility purposes, if you need to meet with them on Zoom, you can always reach out to me or reach out to them directly. Next slide, please. This is kind of what I'm going to be touching on, but this is just some cute Canva stuff, because I love Canva, but I made this two weeks ago, so we don't have time for this now. Next slide, please. We're just touching on kind of what the monthly reports include. Just more information on this. There's a lot of information in there. But I'm pleased to report that all the reports

have been submitted on time between the May to November period. Pretty well all the reports have met the standard. The reports that did not quite meet expectations were diligently approved by the next reporting period. It's just an informal conversation and some learning of where to improve, and they were improved pretty quickly. I want to highlight that monthly reports are attached to board meeting packages, as mentioned before, and accessible to all members, which promotes transparency, which is also incredible, incredibly important to me and important to the committee. And next, just to give you guys kind of an idea of what the reports look like. So we recommend that the Executives maintain their monthly reports This is a dynamic living document, so we can put stuff in as they go, rather than trying to scramble and put it all in towards the end of the month. So that's kind of what that looks like. And if anyone ever has any questions specific to the Executives or specific to the committee,

we'd all be willing and more than happy to answer those questions. Next slide, please. So performance reviews. We conduct one-on-one meetings with each Executive for insights to their achievements and future plans, and there's a lot of goal setting that goes into all of this. If there are issues, we deal with them somewhat informally, but then persistent issues may lead to disciplinary action, and there are processes in place for that. Next slide, please. In regards to complaints, so when complaints are received, the Oversight committee convenes to review the complaint collectively. We discuss, use the insight of the General Manager and insight of what we've learned before.

It's important to note that the complainant is responsible for presenting any evidence they have in support of their complaint, and that is right from the bylaws or regulations as such. We have had a minimal number of complaints this year, but in my experience, as the year progresses through April, we may see an increased number of complaints, which I will ensure to be brought forward in my transition report to the future chair of this committee. Next slide. Yeah, perfect. Yeah, essentially, all this one's saying is just we uphold the core principles of the SUO, which is promoting Community, Integrity, Respect, Transparency, and Accountability on a daily basis. Our committee strives to create

a space where these values are embraced and practiced. And I know, as for myself, I think I can speak for my committee that we really uphold these and take a lot of these things very seriously. The next slide, just to wrap it all up. So in summary, we emphasize accountability and transparency above

all. There are clearly set regulations that we abide by and work by and live by, live, laugh, love by, so. That's all that I have to say. Thank you all for listening.

(151)

I'm just curious, so now your job to also oversee the General Manager?

The only committee, like the Oversight committee just oversees the Executives.

the General Manager is going to become an Executive?

No. He will not.

Okay, thank you.

Thank you. Passing it over to the Policy Committee.

[loud microphone noise] Hello everyone, I'll be reflecting on my predecessor, the previous VP Internal, Dhruv Bihani. So, over the previous year, he had some achievements. He changed several bylaws to add new definitions and make the SUO more accountable to its audience. Some of the examples of these bylaws would be disciplinary committee, CRO, and external body, The VP Internal also supported all the SUO clubs and course unions by frequent meetings and by providing them enough funding so that sorry they can operate and organize events to make the campus more inclusive. With the help of the team the VP Internal also planned Expo which included all the student associations across campus. This was a big event happening after three years because of COVID-19. He also assisted the VP Campus Life to help them plan events like Frosh. Thank you.

Okay just before we get to the question period, we do have the raffle prizes, so I'm trying to think of a way to do this so you guys aren't mad. What I think we could do is if you guys have your green cards, if you have a pen, write your first and last name on the back of the green cards, and then what we'll do is we'll send someone around to collect them all, and then we'll just do a live draw. Does that work for people? Can I get house consent for that? Hell yeah? Okay, cool. Now we're going to go on to the question period, give it back to Michael.

Board can't put theirs in, by the way, guys, so sorry about that. Sorry, guys. Just members, not board directors.

the board directors are members, but yes. I understand, thank you. Question period. New business, please. (86)

Firstly, I want to thank the chair, the Executives, all the directors, and everyone who did awesome doing direct democracy. This was really fun. We all pretend to be grown-ups and handle \$2 million, but like, we're little kids. This is awesome. So I have a series of questions. Firstly, the documents on the website, a lot of them are missing. The board minutes from March and April 2022, the AGM minutes prior to 2021, the regulations haven't been updated since December 2022. Is there any plan to fix all the documents? Also, the bylaws and the regulations, they're not searchable. I don't know what's wrong with the PDF.

I can speak to the searchable part. Yes, I know. We're working on trying to get that figured out.

We'll figure it out. I will get that. In regard to board meeting minutes that are missing, this is, first, I'm hearing about it, but maybe not, maybe my memory, Osho?

Hi, sorry, so I know it's the same thing. I don't think it's an issue of the file not being there. The files are there, they are uploaded diligently. There is an issue with the website that we, I think, have recently found out. There's certain things that just crash, and it takes a very long time to load. If you open it in a new tab, and wait for long enough, and it will load. I know it's not, it's a temporary fix, but I just noticed this pretty recently.

Yeah, no, these, specifically, I couldn't find the title. It might be in the agenda or some other part. That's the minutes I spent following them, a month ago, more of them were missing. I know it's been a while.

We'll do a review of everything, and see what's missing, and we'll be sure to post everything.

The second thing, so last year, bylaws were changed, so the faculty representatives were now expected to submit reports on their engagements with undergraduate and graduate students and their respective faculties. Have they done the reports, because I couldn't find them on the minutes?

I thought that motion failed.

No, it didn't.

So the faculty reps, no, I thought the motion failed.

It didn't, it's in the minutes from the previous AGM. I think it's in the bylaws on the website, too. I'm pretty sure it didn't fail.

There was an effort to remove it, that amendment failed, but the motion carried and the bylaws were adopted.

Oh, I see. So the graduate student, undergraduate student engagement reports, from my understanding or what I was told, is that those will be submitted at the year end.

Yes, so the bylaws were implemented last year, so at the end of 2022.

The bylaws come into effect the following year, so this year.

So the first reports are to be submitted.

Yes.

The next thing we did touch upon was when we were discussing the budget I think it's important relating to the email I sent on November 16th requesting financial statements to which VP Finance replied, quoting, from my knowledge this was a bylaw written during the times when the AGM would be held in the month of October, this would have enabled the financial statements to be presented to the AGM where it will be reviewed by our auditors and eventually gets adopted through vote. Only after adoption does the SUO publicize the document since the AGM dates have changed due to various factors, including space bookings, issues with UBC-O, availability of auditors, et cetera. The bylaw has become outdated. I am attempting

to modify it in the upcoming AGM. And you did say the same thing as we discussed it. I want to say to that that I would like to remind the directors that they're responsible for following internal SUO bylaws along with external laws, the University Act and the BC Societies Act. The fact that one member does not feel that a bylaw makes sense is not enough excuse for having them not follow it. I would like to underline the bylaw which says that the financial statements need to be published by the 15th member. That's [Bylaw XIII:2]. This is a standing bylaw and just because the Executives were unaware of it does not excuse them for breaking this policy as it was not changed in the previous AGM's. When the directors and Executives accept their position and sign the paper at the

convocation, or after they are appointed, they sign on following these rules, which means that they must study them to be open to gathering help from appropriate staff members to understand and keep track of these rules.

The staff member is the Governance Coordinator and not the General Manager.

If there is no response to that, I have another thing that I want to say.

Is there a question?

No, I just want the minutes to show that this violation has occurred.

So if you would like to pursue that this society that you're a member of is not doing their duties, by bringing it up to the ... Court, that's fine. You can also go to the BC Civil Resolution Tribunal and put forward a notice.

Good to know. And finally, so we were discussing about the General Manager and what if it wasn't relevant to the file of them, but I would like to remind the students who are concerned about the power are imbalance with the General Manager, that I would like to remind the board that the role of the Governance Coordinator is to act as an impartial assistant to the President and VP Internal, intimately, but also any member of the board, as well as the entire Executive committee to allow them to best understand and keep track of Robert's Rules of Order, internal policies, and external policies. The BC Federation of Students held a seminar last year which stated that governance operates outside of the general management structure. They are there to make sure that these rules are known and are important to the society maintaining their standing. So while the General Manager is useful in the executive committee, when it comes to following rules, the Executives should consult the Governance Coordinator.

Thank you, member.

I just wanted to ask what has been taking so long for new clubs to be ratified. That's a question for the VP Internal.

We are going through an oversight process of the clubs, and unlike previous years, we go through a several process where we check if the club forms are in order and it takes some time to do that. So that's why it's taking some time. That's a great question and I'll be more than happy to answer more about that and setup a meeting with you.

I have a follow-up question. Is there any deadline set or a time limit because we're already halfway through the term. And if a club is like approved or by the end of the term.

I believe all the remaining clubs have been put in as a motion in the next upcoming board meeting scheduled for 29th so we should have an answer after that.

Okay, thank you

Just two short questions. One about being asked by elections. Why wasn't there an open panel for debate among the candidates?

The CRO is not here to reply to that, so I'm not sure. We can follow up and see what the process is in place. I'm unaware if it is a requirement for by-elections, but we can get back to you with that information. And for sure, I will bring up the CRO if that was missed.

The second one was about the referendum. 7.5 percent (7.5%) voting, and it got passed. I don't know if there's a policy of having a meeting of, let's say, 10% of the student body voting yes in order for something to pass. But I just felt kind of concerned that this small number of students can just control something that affects everyone.

I would say that, I think, first and foremost, recognize that trying to get students to vote in Students' Union elections and referendum is, for some reason, quite difficult. Um, and it's a challenge that many Student Unions, well, all Student Unions face across Canada. I mean, the highest turnout I've ever seen was the first time last year at the AMS Student Union in Vancouver. Um, they had 20 percent (20%) turnout. And that was the largest turnout in their general election. Given that we needed to bring this referendum at the soonest time possible, and we couldn't bring it at our last year's general election, we had to bring it to this by-election. Although we tried to engage students as much as we can, tabling, emails, mass emails, tabling, mass emails, social media, direct conversations with students, among other things, put out a survey as well to get feedback on the type of engagement and social media the presence we had on promoting that referendum.

And unfortunately, that is the number of students that came to vote, and that is the policy and the will of the students. And so if they put forward a referendum, we must respond and hold that, facilitate that for them.

Okay, I do understand that it's really hard to get a students to vote. But would it be possible to make policy so that a certain percentage meet?

Yeah, yeah, absolutely. I mean, it looks like we're at a very long Special [General Meeting]. So,

[Bylaw V:13b] states, a referendum of the Student Union shall, subject to these bylaws, be acted upon by the Students' Union where the number of votes cast is equal to who are greater than 5 percent (5%) of the members of the Students' Union. So it's as per the bylaws. So that...

can be increased, yeah.

Would I need to put forward a recommendation to increase the numbers?

No. At the next AGM or Special Meeting, I don't know what special, it is just going to be another meeting. We can have that move, start that discussion at desk That's something you're passionate about pursuing.

Thank you.

Hello, I have a question in regards to Student associations, particularly clubs. Having started a new club that's being now ratified or for other students or associations that are trying to get ratified, once you get the email, you're immediately asked to, within 10 days, put in a submission form for funding. One of the things that we got confused about being this new student association is we haven't had any orientation. We keep being told, there have been emails that we've heard of that there will be an orientation in the second semester. However, being a startup and eager to get started, we don't know exactly what we are or what we are not allowed to do. We've read the handbooks, but we're searching through all of this information on our own. And while we're searching, we've run into the second issue that, oh, hello, by December, you have this report that you have to make for your spending in order to obtain more funding in the second semester. I'm just looking for input on this in this regard because this implies that we need to spend our initial funding by that 24th of December deadline, despite not having any information on how we can even access these funds.

Sure. That's a great question. Can I ask when you guys were ratified?

We were ratified this October, so it's less than a month.

So, the sources of information have always been the same on - the website, the handbook, and the slides that I presented during orientation are all available, and I make sure not to skip out any information that I have said and not put on the slides. So, everything that you do need to know and the same information that I have provided to any student association that may have been ratified at

the start is available to you, and if that is not comprehensive enough, you are always welcome to set up a meeting with Izzy or me. as per the email that Izzy sends to all new clubs to begin with regarding any questions about policy or funding or anything along those lines. To answer your question specifically, since you are a new club, if you haven't spent anything, and there is nothing to put in the end-of-term report I am more than happy to accept an empty report and it is circumstance based and no specific regulation that follows that states that if you don't spend this or this is something that's missing, you don't get funding, it's very ad hoc as the community is.

I see, thank you, and I may have accidentally put two questions into one, but the other question that I had was, considering that the orientation, as I mentioned, happens in next semester, are we allowed to do anything this semester in particular?

You are a ratified student association. As per the regulations and as per the handbook, you are permitted to do everything as stated there.

I see, so we'll read more documentation and keep in communication. We look forward to getting it started. Thank you

Closing speakers list. All right. OK, moving on to Section 13, 14, technically, remember, with the new motion. I would like to seek a motion that we adjourn the meeting at 10:55pm. This is undebatable. (86). Moved by (86), seconded by (4). All those in favour? Oh, there's only two. All those opposed? That passes.