

Quarterly Report #2

VP Administration

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8/23/2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last few months have undoubtedly passed by very quickly, and as we near the busiest time in all our portfolios, I am excited to start the academic year off right and continue to enhance students' university experiences. I have been busy with a veritable potpourri of projects, tasks and goals. Most notably, during the past three months I have worked on:

- **The New SUB Project:**
 - Hiring Kaizen, our food consultants
 - Expanding the terms of reference for the committee and changing the committee's name
 - Increasing student-at-large participation through two MAL positions
 - Engaging in the architect selection process and selecting HBBH+BH as the New SUB Project architect
 - Being the second reader for a previous subrenewal coordinator's, Bronwyn's, thesis
 - Executing the planning of the student engagement process with HBBH+BH and the current subrenewal coordinator
 - Commencing the renegotiation of the contract between the AMS and MHPM
 - Adjusting to the new committee structures and UBC Properties Trust

- **Student Administrative Commission**
 - Completing locker and office assignments
 - Completing art gallery show assignments
 - Setting dates and planning Clubs Days
 - Planning Deans' Debate
 - Constituting clubs regularly and answering questions
 - Dealing with a few club conflicts

- **Equity**
 - Planning the Positive Spaces program
 - Completing the Equity report and presenting it to Council
 - Planning the Equity Session in September
 - Participating in the Pride Parade

- **Everything else**
 - Allocating committee chair office and computer replacements
 - Making final budget changes and communicating that to council
 - Being awesome (and positive) despite challenges and awkward situations
 - Collective Bargaining

It is the purpose of this report to highlight the above in more detail, discuss some of my thoughts surrounding issues and disclose my goals for the next five months. I have focused on relaying information clearly and concisely so if there is a feeling that there is a lack of detail in report, please let me know. Again, feedback is very much appreciated (hopefully through email or face-to-face and not during Council debates). Questions and Concerns can be directed to vpadmin@ams.ubc.ca.

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NEW SUB PROJECT

FOOD CONSULTANTS

The New SUB Project felt that there was a need to hire a food consultant for the New SUB Project. The purpose of the consultant would be to validate the space requirements of the New SUB program and to offer the AMS some advice on what kind of food venues the AMS should think about retaining, what kind we should close down and where we should be the owner-operators, where we should franchise and where we should lease in terms of outlets. The process for selection of consultants was a request for interest from the wide public, and then a preselected list of consultants were asked to submit a formal proposal. The selected firm, Kaizen, excelled in the technical scoring as well as the cost proposal. They have worked most closely with Nancy, our food and beverage manager, getting sufficient data, researching the competitive landscape and offering recommendations. Their final recommendations will be disclosed next week, but already we have a clearer idea of ways we can save space through combining back of house operations, how many loading bays we require and what kind of venues would be best to incorporate into the New SUB.

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCES

In an effort to increase student engagement, I have added two Member-at-large positions to the New SUB committee. I have also changed the terms of references and the name of the committee from the Subrenewal committee to the New SUB project Committee.

ARCHITECT SELECTION PROCESS—A BIG WELCOME TO HBBH+HB ARCHITECTS

The largest part of my summer with regards to the New SUB Project has been the selection of the project architect. In April, students voted to select Bing Thom, HBBH+HB, and Busby Perkins +Will as finalists for the New SUB Project. In June, we issued a Request-for-Proposals from the three firms and selected the architect selection committee. July 1st was the deadline for the Proposals and the month of July was filled mostly with this process. Firstly, we underwent an extensive technical scoring process, then interviewed each of the firms and lastly visited the firms' offices to see their work environments. HBBH+HB stood out on all three steps and was reasonable in their cost proposal. What we really liked about the firm was their strong understanding of animated spaces, food, urban centers and their casual approach to student engagement. While a lot of firms thought student input was to be collected through a top-down, formalized approach, HBBH+HB, with their design cube and focus on casual interactions, really understood what we were striving to do. They also seemed to be the firm who had the most fun interacting together and chatting with us. All in all, it just fit and my recent trips to CBC Plaza and Granville Island (their projects) only affirm how brilliantly creative these guys are going to be. Our only concern was with the sustainability aspect as they had little experience with LEED Platinum projects. However, they hired on a great sustainability partner and their BH branch in Toronto has the guy who practically wrote the LEED scorecard working for us.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROCESS PLANS

Andreanne, the New SUB Project Coordinator (who is an absolute superstar), has been working hard with the architects in further flushing out the engagement plan and charrette schedule. Highlights of the plan include:

- Recruitment of SUB volunteers to help with charrettes, act as a sounding board and to diffuse important information
- The installation of a Design Cube in the south alcove of the SUB, 16ft by 16ft, which will house work stations and act as the design centre for the New SUB Project. Along with being able to talk to the architects and give your input inside the cube, the cube will also have a TV projecting the drawings as they develop.
- Two large-scale, day-long charrettes during September and then four smaller, focused workshops in October.
- Participation in Imagine and Clubs Days as well as a travelling display board to places like Vanier and Totem.

RENEGOTIATING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE AMS AND MHPM

On August 13th, UBC Properties Trust became the project manager for the AMS and MHPM officially took on the role of project advisor. Now this new role is vague and is difficult to value in monetary terms (what kind of service does MHPM offer? Is it

worth the amount of money we spend?). To put this all into perspective, MHPM proposes a further 900K for their services until the end of the project. While the project is 103M and money is budgeted for MHPM, we need to ensure that their services, going forward, are worth such a large amount of student money. Another concern lies with the responsibilities for MHPM as the last thing we would want is the duplication of project management services. We are currently engaged in renegotiating the terms to see where, if at all, MHPM fits in. They have been phenomenal up until this point and we are confident that a solution that benefits students will be found.

NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURES AND UBC PROPERTIES TRUST

August 13th also marked the implementation of the new New SUB Project Committees: The Joint Oversight Committee, the Project Management Committee and the Integrated Design Committee. At every level, the AMS and students participate and engage in meaningful decision making. The Joint Committee acts as the highest body for the project, representing both the AMS and UBC. The PM meetings are meetings where the PM and the architects, and UBC, the AMS and other stakeholders meet to discuss operational things pertaining to the project. The IDP is where the day to day design choices are made.

Our new project manager from UBC Properties Trust is Rob Brown and he has been great so far (I personally consider him one of the best, if not the best, PM UBC PT has). Throughout the years, there has been a lot of distrust surrounding UBC PT, some merited of course, but some not. While the monopolistic agreement they have with UBC is a cause for some concern, at the end of the day, UBC PT is not some evil behemoth acting out the Administration's wicked will. It's a little more subtle than that; my concern lies with their non-transparent documentation and reporting process. We have established, from the very beginning, that the New SUB Project unlike any other UBC PT has handled, and I believe it will be up to us to create an environment where lack of information will not be tolerated.

STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

OFFICE AND LOCKER ALLOCATION

SAC has completed office and locker allocation and the appeals process of the allocation. A big concern surrounding this all is when clubs do not apply and then cite that they "did not receive the email" when they are not given a locker. While each and every club is important to the AMS, many clubs believe that their club requires special privileges. It's a daily challenge in allocating resources, including human resources, in a fair manner for all clubs.

ART GALLERY SHOWS

I am incredibly excited with regards to the art gallery this year: Kate, the commissioner has just about fully booked off each show and if the recent crit nights and pre-September shows are any indication, this is bound to be an exciting year! I will be urging Council to attend shows as I believe the art Gallery, as well as our art collection, has not yet been truly appreciated by the student body as a whole (more art!).

CLUBS DAYS, DEANS' DEBATE AND ALL PRESIDENTS' DINNER

Here are the important dates and information to remember:

- Clubs Days:
 - When? September 22nd, 23rd, 24th with the SAC Wine and Cheese on the 24th at the art gallery
 - Where? All throughout the SUB, including outside
 - Why? To showcase all of our amazing clubs! This is also a great time to meet all the club executives and establish a face-to-face contact
 - Where are we now? Dates are set, rooms are booked and most clubs have already applied. We are ready to go!
- Deans' Debate
 - When? September 10th from 2:30pm to 3:30pm
 - Where? The SUB Conversation Pit

- Why? This year, the Deans' Debate will be part of AMS Firstweek and will showcase the undergraduate faculty deans' discussing important issues pertaining to campus and well as battle to see who has "the best degree" (as if one degree could be better than another).
- Where are we now? Date is set, promo will go out with Firstweek stuff, and most Deans have confirmed attendance. We're still waiting on the science dean and a final date for a quick luncheon to go over details as well as a confirmation from our proposed moderator.
- All Presidents' Dinner
 - When? October 14th, 2010
 - Where? The SUB Ballroom with the après-dinner at the Pit
 - Why? To celebrate student leaders and to give out the Great Trekker award. The Great Trekker award is an award given to a UBC Alumni who has contributed significantly to the UBC campus. The All Presidents' dinner will also be attended by Stephen Toope and will showcase some of our permanent art collection. It's also a pretty awesome free dinner for student leaders and clubs!
 - Where are we now? Rooms and dates are set, Toope and BSul have both confirmed a yes, and we have sponsorship from BSul and the Alumni Association and are seeking additional funding from UBC Athletics/REC. The invite list as well as the program is in the works and the menu is being finalized.

CONSTITUTING CLUBS

On average, SAC constitutes about two clubs per meeting and we meet every other week in the summer. That's a lot of clubs! Sometimes debating whether the proposed club is a duplication, whether there are safety concerns, whether the club is sustainable are difficult issues to manage. Inaki, the SAC Vice Chair (who is also going to be an athlete for the Commonwealth Games in India!!) has been fantastic with everything. What we are beginning to find, however, is that we need to lower the amount of club constitutions and start looking at inactive clubs to deconstitute as our accounting system and bookings department simply does not have enough resources for all clubs. It's not a huge concern yet, but we're developing a better guideline for determining which clubs should be constituted or not.

DEALING WITH CLUB CONFLICTS

Along with answering club questions and dealing with daily demands, few clubs have had some conflicts dealing with HR and interpersonal issues. Most of the time, clubs will be directed to the AMS Obuds, but sometimes I deal with HR-related issues. Most notable issues have included some problems with the Wrestling Club trying to hire on "employees", the Kung Fu club having some difficulties with an old instructor, and the Water Polo club dealing with a past member. Most have been resolved and haven't been a cause of too much concern. With regards to the Wrestling Club, we need to ensure clearer requirements on what constitutes an AMS employee as opposed to a contracted worker and need to make sure that clubs understand the intricacies and usually the impossibilities of "hiring" a person.

EQUITY

POSITIVE SPACES TRAINING

In July, I organized a special Positive Spaces training session with UBC Access & Diversity for AMS Councilors and employees. It was relatively well attended and the training we received was very useful. The Positive Spaces program helps people understand the LGBT community and their particular needs. I am currently planning an equity training session with the UBC Equity Office for mid-September for the AMS.

RESPONSE TO SPARC BC'S EQUITY REPORT

I completed a report outlining the benefits and concerns surrounding the SPARC BC Equity Report. Within this report, I included the additional research conducted during the SAC's Executive Orientations. I later submitted this report to Council and presented the recommendations to Council. I am currently engaged in executing some of these recommendations and will be setting up an Equity/representation working group shortly.

PRIDE PARADE!

On August 1st, UBC participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade. We partnered with UBC Pride and Access & Diversity UBC with our float. Our float was camping themed and the parade itself was a lot of fun. Planning and decorating the float was a little hectic as we did not get a lot of participation/help. It was basically only three people who managed to assemble the whole float (and amazing dance number) in about three or so days.

EVERYTHING ELSE

BUDGET TIME

Some of my time has been dealing with the budget craziness and the resulting issues. As the executive that managed to cut the well over \$21,000 from my portfolio (the most!), I am definitely beginning to feel some of the result repercussions from such a massive cut. I've also felt my fair share of pressure and antagonism from various councilors and the media, especially with regards to the budget. It's incredibly frustrating dealing in such a toxic environment such as Council and understanding that there is a line between one's personal and professional life.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

We have engaged in negotiations with COPE 378 dealing with our collective agreement. While I can't really speak too much about our strategy and the details of the raised issues, COPE needs to understand that the AMS is not in a good financial position right now and that their demands will have to be considered in the greater context. We have been undergoing massive cuts and simply do not have money in our budget to be giving them increases. This fact has been communicated along with the importance of negotiating this agreement promptly.

KEEPING ONE'S SANITY

No doubt the last couple of months for me have been crazy (and a little awkward); I have learned a few things with regards to keeping one's sanity and staying positive (despite awful Council meetings):

1. Bureaucracy is the murderer of the entrepreneurial spirit.
2. Do not date someone who will work in the office next to yours.
3. In Council meetings, it is always good to present something positive before things get awful so that you can at least be happy with yourself while conversations fall apart all around you.
4. Emotional detachment from projects is necessary for the benefit of the project.
5. The spicy crunchy roll from the Honour Roll is addicting. Be wary!
6. UBC Plant Ops has a place where all the old furniture is stored. Make friends with them and get free stuff.
7. It could always be worse: at least you're not the one conducting Land Use Plan consultations.
8. When painting an office, stay away from brown.
9. The Architects are brilliant not only because they go to Burning Man, drink JJ Bean and have iPads but also because their ideas are amazing!
10. The blackberry phone is NOT an extension of your soul.

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

- ✓ Work with on New SUB Project in ensuring a meaningful and engaging Schematic Design Process
- ✓ Establish the Equity/representation working group and start flushing out the Equity Report recommendations
- ✓ Execute the SAC events well
- ✓ Finish the digitization of club constitutions and improve the constitution process