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Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
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September

The SUB Project

The SUB Project + UBC

We wrapped up discussions on the governance structure. It is the belief of the committee that we have a structure that could be workable depending on how the other agreements are written. With that in mind, we began discussions on the other agreements. Our first meeting with Treasury to discuss SUB project financing took place at the end of September. We discussed different concerns from both sides and compared finance projections that both sides had prepared to kick off talks. Both sides knew walking in that this agreement would be just as difficult the governance structure to work through. UBC asked for permission to re-cost our program with the reasoning that they felt that UBCPT could give a better estimate on the program because of their extensive knowledge on how much buildings on campus cost. We also agreed that we could work on the finance and development agreements simultaneously. We began the development agreement discussions by looking at what both sides already had and figuring out a way to bring them together.

The SUB Project + Council

Blake, Guillaume Savard (MHPM Project Manager), Jensen Metchie and myself gave a presentation to council regarding the project. Blake and I made the decision to wait until September to give council an update because we thought our presentation would be the most effective if we had all of our councilors back from the summer holidays and all the craziness of first weeks back to school settled down. Our presentation was well received and councilors felt like they were adequately informed on the progress of the project. Parts of our discussion were held in camera, a necessary precaution when dealing with a project which is still under negotiations.

The SUB Project + The New SUB Committee

The committee worked on an Agreement Development Process and an Architect Selection Timeline with the hopes that it would guide the negotiations in the right direction. We had hoped that we would be able to begin the architect selection process before the New Year but the

University has asked us to hold off on the selection until we had a more concrete idea of what the agreements will look like.

Student Administrative Commission (SAC)

Clubs Days and the SAC Wine + Cheese took place at the end of September. Both events were very well attended and ran with almost no problems. We held the SAC Wine + Cheese in the Art Gallery which made the event spectacular. A big round of applause goes out to all the commissioners who made this possible and all of the clubs who participated.

Other

The Deans' Debate also took place at the end of September. The turnout was great and the overall response was positive. While the deans came out swinging and defending their own faculties by pointing out the faults of other faculties, the deans wrapped up the debate by all agreeing that they would not be able to do what they do best without the support of the other faculties.

October

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The final version of the program was passed onto the University. We wanted to be sure that they were kept in the loop and to assure them that the changes they suggested were considered and made. We also tabled with them final versions of the project mission statement and the sustainability charter. Both documents are things that the committee has been working on for the past while. We made the decision to table them with the University before bringing them council because we wanted to get their feedback and incorporate it because presenting unfinished documents to council seems counter-intuitive. A big thanks goes out to Max Unger, the committee member who dedicated time and effort into the project mission statement.

The SUB Project + The New SUB Committee

Guillaume Savard (MHPM Project Manager) held a project-planning seminar for the committee. The project-planning seminar was a comprehensive overview of what the owners (the AMS) needs to know in order to work with and complete our project with UBCPT and MHPM. We also decided that we would hold off on registering our project for LEED. We felt it would be better to wait to see what directions negotiations go. The committee also decided that now was the time to begin the process of program signoff. We will be working with all the stakeholders in the project and the final program to make sure everyone understands what kinds of things will go into the new building and that there are no final problems.

The SUB Project + The Students

Jensen Metchie (the new SUB Coordinator) is working with different classes that have chosen to incorporate the SUB project in their curriculum. He spent time providing the classes with necessary information on the SUB and the AMS to help with their assignments. I also went through all of the applications for the new SUB fee. We received over 200 applications, a huge increase over the 7 applications we received last year.

Renovations Planning Group

The proposal to renovate the copyright centre and the Inter-faculty publishing offices were brought to council and passed. By December we will have more club offices in that area downstairs which will increase traffic and liven up that area of the SUB. We also brought a motion to council install two baby changing tables in the SUB, one in the women's restroom on the main floor and one in the gender-neutral restrooms on the second floor. Appropriate signage has been drawn up and posted in all of the restrooms in the building to alert users of the addition. Work on the waterproof membrane of the bike kitchen was also brought to council. The University agreed to pay for half the project that brings our costs down significantly.

All Presidents Dinner

The All Presidents Dinner was an amazing night. Everything fell into place; we had more people interested than we had room for! Being able to bring together the diverse group of students and University administrators that we did made the evening magical. It was an amazing night for the AMS; being able to thank our clubs in a very real way is important to us.

November

Student Administrative Commission (SAC)

SAC is looking into different ways to digitize all the documents, mostly club constitutions, that they need. There are a couple of different ways to go about it, SAC is considering its options.

The SUB Project

The SUB Project + UBC

MHPM and UBCPT met to discuss UBCPT's costing of our program. We are working to come together on the amount the new building is going to cost us. There are some unknown factors which neither side has information on; UBCPT and MHPM are working to agree on the impact these factors will have on our project. We are working with Anne DeWolfe (Executive Coordinator, Office of the Vice President Students), John Metras (Managing Director of Infrastructure Development, Infrastructure Development) and Rob Brown (Vice President, UBC Properties Trust) on are working on fleshing out the development agreement, discussing the project charter section by section to make sure both parties will be happy the final product. The AMS is confident we can come to some kind of agreement where both parties will be comfortable with the results. We are working on the financing agreement, having met with Pierre Ouillet and other people in the finance portfolio; we feel that we have a clear picture of what kind of deal UBC is willing to give us.

Other

The Primary Appointments Committee interviewed candidates for the Safety Coordinator position. We had a lot of qualified candidates but one candidate was clearly of the same mindset as the committee and was looking to take the position to the place we saw it going. I also attended the Alumni Achievement Awards, which was a spectacular affair, as usual. I enjoyed getting a chance to meet some of the alumni who have made our university the spectacular place that it is.