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Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
Second Quarterly Report
June – September 2009

June

The SUB Project

The SUB Project + UBC

In June, a copy of our program was passed onto UBC for feedback. It was an important step in our process of finalizing our program for two reasons. We needed to let them know what kinds of things we wanted to see in our new building and also because we needed to let them know what kinds of things we planned to leave in the current SUB. Our Value Analysis exercise told us that we would not be able to afford all the things we wanted to see. We also drafted our response to UBC's response to PBC's (Partnerships BC) P3 (Public Private Partnership) report.

The SUB Project + Students

Reported by Jensen Metchie (New SUB Coordinator)

In June, Bronwyn and I pushed forward with the New SUB curriculum initiative, organizing meetings with faculty deans, department heads, and professors. The initial response was very positive and we met with members of Commerce, Forestry, Applied Science, Engineering, Science, and Dentistry. The usual outcome of these meetings was a larger list of people to contact who could potential include a SUB related project in their curriculum and an expanded list of project ideas the could be implemented this year or in following years as the New SUB project moves into later stages. An early success was with Carla Patterson, a professor in Applied Science, who agreed to devote her Technology and Society course to researching topics related to the New SUB. Working with Carla, Bronwyn and I came up with seven distinct assignments for her class, including support materials and an outline for the expected deliverables.

Other professor expressed interest but only if the projects were under the umbrella of UBC SEEDs, which has established a similar program related to sustainability. Moving ahead with these projects had to be put on hold until a new SEEDs project coordinator was hired in mid-July.

Part of June was also spent wrapping up the New SUB program. Bronwyn and I met with the GSS to address changes to their space requirements and with the Alumni Association to look into collaborations and potential space sharing. The result was a near final agreement on the New SUB program, clearing the way for architect selection, pending governance negotiations.

Other

I attended the first Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Stewardship Committee Meeting. It was useful to learn about the problems that the IKB staff were having with their space and beginning to think about how these problems might translate to our new building in the future. Also attended meetings for the Walter Gage Memorial Committee where we gave money to student initiatives.

July

Student Administrative Commission (SAC)

SAC began working on the organization of Clubs Days and the SAC Wine and Cheese in July. Needless to say, it was a huge job, something that took up most of the commissioners' time, right up until the event.

The SUB Project

The SUB Project + UBC

We met with Gerry McGeough, the University Architect, on the master plan. The master plan is important for the project because it shows the placement of the SUB and where the other buildings that are going up will be placed. We also discussed the repurposing of the current SUB. UBC currently has no plans to demolish the building which means that if we do leave things in the current SUB they will be safe.

The SUB Project + The Students

Reported by Jensen Metchie (New SUB Coordinator)

In the start of July, I began working on a communication plan for the 09/10 school year focusing on avenues to engage students, booth participation, and inform students on new developments in the project. Bronwyn and I also continued to meet with professors in Engineering, Forestry, Environmental Design, and Land and Food Systems to promote the New SUB curriculum initiative. With a new SEEDs coordinator, Liska Richer, hired in mid-July, we were able to move ahead with several projects including a Land and Food Systems class creating an operations plan for a rooftop garden and an Environmental Design class looking into the architect selection process.

Discussions with the Alumni Association increased during this month with talk of sharing the ballroom and/or the council chambers. I assisted with this discussion by attending several meeting with the Alumni Association and, following discussion in the SUB committee meetings, composed a space sharing scenario chart outlining the pros/cons of all the options. This chart

was presented to the SUB committee, debated, and given to Crystal Hon to present to the Alumni Association.

By the end of the month I was finalizing details for the confirmed curriculum projects and presenting a complete communication plan overview to the SUB committee.

The SUB Project + The Alumni

A calendar was put together with the Alumni to explore the potential for sharing space. It was useful because we figured out whether or not it is actually feasible for us to be sharing space and what each parties' space requirement are.

Renovations Planning Group

Talks with the parties involved with the Inter-Faculty Publishing Office regarding taking the office and putting the photocopiers from the photocopy room across the hall went well. Michael Kingsmill (AMS Designer) was working on the budget and all the technical details of renovating the photocopy space. A few different options were explored, at the end, we decided on the model we adopted because it would give the photocopiers a house.

Dean's Debate

Contact was made with the Provost and VP Academic of the University, David Farrar, to discuss the Dean's Debate and how we could work together to make this event something different than your average Dean panel. We asked David to be the moderator for the event. I felt that this was appropriate because what I wanted to do with this event is to give students more exposure to the administration of UBC than what they might normally see.

All Presidents Dinner

We began envisioning the goal of this year's All Presidents Dinner by figuring out what kind of sponsorship we would seek, who would be invited and whether or not there would be a guest speaker. We also looked at the past All Presidents Dinners to see what was done and what ideas we could adopt.

August

Student Administrative Commission (SAC)

SAC was working hard to get clubs days organized. The problem of too many clubs and not enough space only amplifies the amazing work these clubs are doing. In addition to working out the allocations for clubs days, we still constituted clubs at each meeting.

The SUB Project

Internally, we brought up the subject of mission statement, coming up with project goals. Work on this front has been done in the past, and the committee felt that it was important to revisit it to make sure we all still shared the same vision. Final approval of the mission statement does lie with council, something that we are aware of.

The SUB Project + UBC

End of July and all of August was when the bulk of negotiations with UBC took place. We meet with UBC pretty frequently, working to come together to come up with a governance structure that would alleviate concerns from both parties. Guillaume Savard (Project Manager from MHPM) met with Rob Brown (UBC Properties Trust) to discuss how MHPM and UBCPT could work together under the governance structure the negotiations team worked out. UBC also asked us to put together a couple of panels for signs that were going up around the construction fencing.

The SUB Project + The Students Reported by Jensen Metchie (New SUB Coordinator)

With the communication plan ready, August was spent enacting elements of the communication plan to be ready in time for the beginning of 09/10 school year. All the content on the website was updated and revised for better readability, promotion material for the Imagine Day Booth was updated with the help of Kelli Seepaul, AMS communications, and a communications budget was prepared.

Three more curriculum projects were secured in the department of Chemical Engineering, all looking into utilizing bio-waste to produce bio-fuel for the New SUB. One more curriculum project in Mechanical Engineering looking into a Green Wall design is tentatively going forward.

At the end of August, UBC Campus and Community Planning approached the AMS regarding putting banners advertising the New SUB project around the construction fencing surrounding the next phase in the underground bus terminal. Working with Kelli, we agreed upon a design and message for the banners that continued with the project's focus this year of getting students involved in the project. The banners were put up in early September, in time for the beginning of the school year.

The SUB Project + the Alumni

It was determined that should we share space, we would not be comfortable with the ballroom and the council chambers being in the Alumni Centre. The same can be said for the alumni, which means that we need to have some kind of building in between. The important thing about that scenario is that we need to make sure it is not a third project; rather it needs to be amalgamated into either our project or the alumni's.

Dean's Debate

With 7 Deans committed to the event, we started looking into the format of the debate and how we could involve UBC Debate in our event. UBC Debate decided to out the event by holding a workshop for the Deans and work them through the some basic rules about Debating.

All Presidents Dinner

We began soliciting sponsorship from the previously identified sponsors. We also felt that including the Club Awards would be an interesting new element that we could incorporate into the dinner. We asked the constituencies to sponsor individual club awards. Invitations were sent to everyone from club presidents to student employees in the AMS. We also invited professors, deans and heads of departments from UBC to join us for this opportunity for students to get to know more about the UBC Administration.

September

The SUB Project

The SUB Project + UBC

SUB Negotiations took a bit of a hiatus with the start of school and all the first week activities. UBC is making a presentation to the Board of Governors to present an update on the progress of the project. We are following suit with council. We also began negotiations on the financing of the project and architect selection.

The Program + Cost Estimation

We asked Cornerstone (the firm dealing with our Program) and Spiegel Skillen & Associates (the firm dealing with our cost estimation) to give us final drafts with all of our final edits. We expect the final program and final cost estimation sometime at the end of September.