Date: September 30th 2014

In Attendance:

JAMES HWANG (Chair)
ZHAOYI CHEN (Arrival 7.15 pm)
ROGER CROUTZE
CORY HODGSON
NICHOLAS DIAZ
ANDY WONG
AZHAR KHAN
UMER FAROOQ (Proxy for SAMER SLEIMAN)

Excused Absence:

Others in Attendance:

TIM IRA (SOaR)
SACHITHA KUSALADHARMA

1. CALL TO ORDER:

   The meeting was called to order by HWANG at 6.09 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

   CROUTZE moved to approve the agenda for September 30, 2014 as tabled.
   The motion was seconded by DIAZ.
   Vote 7/0/0
   CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

   HWANG moved to approve the minutes for August 21, 2014 as tabled.
   The motion was seconded by DIAZ.
   Vote 5/0/2
   CARRIED
IRA: We were not able to provide an update in August because we were extremely busy with orientation related stuff. There was some concern over the word “consideration” in clause 83 f) of the Finance Committee’s (FC’s) standing orders during a previous meeting. We took the matter to Jane Lee. She interpreted the word meaning that it would not merit special treatment. A councilor wouldn’t be voided or anything. We also want to stress that you can’t apply for these awards if you are on the FC.

HODGSON: That explanation of the word “consideration” isn’t the most intuitive. My first understanding when I read this was different. I think we should look for a better word. I don’t think it’s fair to ban someone if a majority of his/her involvements are through the Students’ Council. There should be a different way to phrase this.

IRA: Sure.

DIAZ: Is it necessary to mention that they don’t have special consideration if we haven’t granted it elsewhere?

HODGSON: That’s true. It’s not a bad point to make too though for transparency.

DIAZ: You can say that they won’t get special consideration.

HODGSON: That makes more sense. They won’t get treated differently.

IRA: Relating to the application form, the progress is similar to where we have been in the past. I would like to add a direct link to the budget spreadsheet. We are looking to make the calculation about who is in financial need a lot easier. We just hired someone new to work on student awards too. We are still waiting on confirmation from the Registrar’s Office to allow us to request students’ GPAs and the number of A/A+s. We believe that having to queue for a transcript may deter some students from applying for awards. That’s why we took that initiative. The thing where we’re stuck in is that when we export data, they’re looking for a system which ties the CCID to what is submitted on a form. If we can’t get it done in time, we will go back to using transcripts.

CHEN: Are the Students’ Union (SU) awards for academic achievements or involvement?

IRA: It depends on the award. Some are solely on the involvement, and some are on the balance of involvement and academic achievement.

CHEN: I want to make the difference clear between the University awards and the SU awards.

DIAZ: A lot of our awards come from sponsors and tenants. They were founded two years ago. The University’s ones are funded by donors. They are very similar though.

IRA: These are the timelines we are currently working on. Within the month, we will open applications for the adjudication committee and the actual awards. They will be closed in November. In December, we will decide who
is on the adjudication committee. I believe someone from this committee gets to sit on that. I’ll have to check though. On January 9/10, the adjudication committee will get an orientation. January 16 is our internal deadline to mail out T4A slips to the 2014 winners. The awards adjudication would occur on February 6/7. That depends on the availability of the committee members. Winners would be notified on February 23. The awards night will be on March 30, and disbursement would occur in April.
Regarding communications and marketing, we are abandoning the pig aesthetic. We’ll use the marketing theme we used last year. We have not started work on the awards night yet. Our plan for communications and marketing is to use social media, posters, listservs etc. We are cutting back on the SUTV usage.
DIAZ: If you can get the timeline over to me, we can put something on the SU emails.
Also, the facebook page for orientations states that you are a local business.
IRA: I’ll look into that. We are actually looking at shutting down the SU Awards social media, and folding it into the general SU. My unit is committed to the SU branding.
CROUTZE: I just want to confirm that the amendment you made was not passed. Involvement with the SU should be treated as any other involvement, and it just shouldn’t receive special treatment.
IRA: It was not passed. I’ll draft something up and send.

(b) Access Agreement Progress

HODGSON: There aren’t any updates for the moment.
The biggest issue for me is the reduction of student positions in the review committee. They haven’t gotten back to me. There’s a meeting scheduled for some time in October.

5. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Golden Bears & Pandas legacy Fund Selection Committee

HODGSON: The Golden Bears & Pandas Legacy Fund Selection Committee (GBPLFSC) will go over grant proposals to approve them. These are mainly submitted by varsity teams. Other students can also apply in a limited fashion. The final approval would be done by FC. At FC, we will look less at specific details. GBPLFSC would have a fewer meetings, but they will be longer. It’s a predominantly student committee.
CROUTZE: What are the grants meant to be used for, and to whom does it go?
HODGSON: It generally goes to a group like a varsity team, or an individual/group that wants to facilitate an event around athletics and
recreation. It’s for general operations of a varsity team, and is directly related to athletics. The committee make up is: 2 UAB (University Athletics Board) members, 1 UAB executive member, 1 staff member from the department of athletics who is the non-voting chair, 1 SU executive, 1 SU councilor from FC, and 2 student at large positions.

FAROOQ: What’s the monetary value of the grants?
HODGSON: It’s around $250,000 a year. I’m not totally certain of the exact number. A portion of that goes into the reserve. All the details are in our standing orders. So, I would highly recommend reading them if you want to know the details.

Most of the meetings would probably happen in the Winter semester. They want to get the committee together and get everyone on board. The committee would be providing recommendations to FC by March 1.

**HODGSON moved to appoint HWANG to the Golden Bears & Pandas Legacy Fund Selection Committee.**
**The motion was seconded by CHEN.**
**Vote 7/0/1**
**CARRIED**

(b) Price Increases for the Daily Grind, the Undergrind, and Venues

*The committee went over the price comparisons document and the price change request document.*

HODGSON: The increase has already been implemented at the beginning of the year. We are looking at a 25 cent increase. I was reading operating policy, and it turns out that price increases have to come here for approval. We haven’t really been following this for the last several years. It’s a good question whether it’s really appropriate for it to come here for approval. I’ll be starting a conversation about changing operating policy so that this will only come to FC as an information item.

The reason for the price increase is the rising cost. We hadn’t done a price increase since 2009. We are still highly competitive.

CROUTZE: You shouldn’t include your price in the average.

HODGSON: Maybe it’s not included. This document is from our manager.

CROUTZE: Where’s the research to show that coffee from the Daily Grind is as good as say Starbucks?

HODGSON: The Daily Grind is doing phenomenally well. They are up $25,000 over the summer from what we expected. That’s the profit increase.

FAROOQ: Is the Daily Grind and L’Express meant to make profits?

HODGSON: They are meant to generate profit. L’Express is struggling a bit, but the catering side is doing well. The Undergrind just opened. I don’t have any numbers yet.

SLEIMAN: The Tim Horton’s at CAB doesn’t open in the Summer. Maybe
that’s a reason why the Daily Grind did so well.
DIAZ: I did the math, and the average doesn’t include the Daily Grind.
Money that our businesses make offsets the cost of our events.
HODGSON: With this committee being what the BFC (Budget and Finance Committee) was, we can go through stuff like profit and loss statements and variance reports. Right now, looking at variance reports is under the Audit Committee’s purview. I thought it would be much better to have it under FC.
CROUTZE: What are the repercussions to the businesses which have increased their price?
HODGSON: They have already implemented it. I guess it was an oversight from our part in not following operating policy explicitly. It was approved by the Executive Committee. It just didn’t come to FC. I don’t think there will be repercussions. If people have different opinion on that, it’s fine.
DIAZ: Sometimes these things happen because the organization is so big.
HODGSON: The Operating Policy is actually due for a major overhaul.
CROUTZE: I’m curious to know whether an executive can do whatever they want, and pass it off as something that they didn’t know about because the bylaws were big.
FAROOQ: It’s a good point to make. For someone external, it can look as if there’s a lack of accountability.
HODGSON: I agree. That’s why I put these on the agenda. There’s no excuse for not following it. I also believe that these kinds of decisions are out of the purview of FC. It should definitely come as an information item though. It has been a long time since work was put into the Operating Policy. It’s a long document. An infraction of bylaw is more severe than an infraction of operating policy. Our operating policy isn’t the worst. Making sure we follow operating policy is part of the audit, and our audit is clean as I know. I’ll come back to the next FC with a report.
CROUTZE: What’s the point of showing this to us now if it’s already implemented, and there’s nothing we can do about it. I agree that the business needs to make this change to be sustainable.
HODGSON: We could refuse it. I would recommend against it, but if that’s what the committee wants to do, it’s possible. The reason I brought it was to be in compliance with operating policy.
The Programming & Venues one is fresh though. The argument is that we can charge more on these venues. We have been getting comments on how cheap the drink prices are in the Myer Horowitz. They want to bring the drink prices more in line with the market. One thing I thought was that it would be nice to have cheaper prices for students. They actually do deals for students, and are on a case by case basis.
CROUTZE: Can you clarify what external means?
HODGSON: External clients to the University.
CROUTZE: If a student group rents Dinwoodie, would it be external?
HODGSON: No.

HODGSON moved to approve the price changes for the Dinwoodie Lounge and the Myer Horowitz Theatre.
The motion was seconded by WONG.
Vote 7/0/1
CARRIED

6. NEXT MEETING  
October 14, 2014 at 6 pm.

7. ADJOURNMENT  
HWANG moved to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was seconded by WONG.
Vote 8/0/0
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned by HWANG at 7.05 pm.