



THE ARTS UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

Arts Undergraduate Society Council Agenda

Date and Time: Day, Month Date at 6:00 pm (PST)

Location: Arts Student Centre, 1st Floor

A) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 6:06 pm (PST).

B) Speaker's Business & Land Acknowledgement

Ryan: I am currently the Chair and will be participating in discussions today as AUS President.

C) Adoption of the Agenda

"MOTION: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be amended to add a discussion on the following question for the referendum to be held alongside the AUS General Election:

- The AUS proposes an increased student fee of \$22.43, then the subsequent tying of the AUS fee to BC CPI, to ensure the sustainability of the AUS's budget and the organization's ability to meet student needs.
- The referendum seeks approval to:
 - Beginning in Winter Session 2025/26, introduce a \$9.43 fee levy to compensate for inflation since 2000.
 - From Winter Session 2026/27, introduce indexing of the AUS's fee to the BC Consumer Price Index, ensuring budget sustainability.
- Note: The Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)'s student fee has not been adjusted in 25 years. The AUS currently has the lowest student fee of all UBC's constituencies (excluding constituencies with <1,000+ students). As a result, the AUS has faced financial barriers in growing its services to meet the needs of UBC's largest undergraduate student body. If this referendum does not pass, services and event offerings will continue to be impacted, including further inconsistencies and

challenges in the allocation of AUS Club Grants; reduced offerings for the ASC Food Hub; inadequate management of the Arts Student Centre; reduced scale of the AUS's flagship events, including first-year orientation; and, overall, inadequate budgetary sustainability. For more details, see here: [link]"

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AUS Council suspends sections of code to allow for the referendum to be held alongside the general election."

- **Moved:** Ryan
- **Seconded:** Emma

Motion is in order.

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as amended."

- **Moved:** Emma
- **Seconded:** Zahara

Motion is in order.

D) Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Committees

 03/03/25 AUS Council 24/25

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on **March 3rd, 2025** be accepted."

- **Moved:** Nargess
- **Seconded:** Sarah

Motion is in order.

E) Membership: Introductions, New Members, Declaration of Vacancies

 AUS Council Attendance 24/25

- Speaker of Council (Non-Voting) – **Jaromir Sulja**
- Clerk of Council (Non-Voting) – **Mireille Synaeghel**
- Arts Student Senator (Non-Voting) – **Jasper Lorien**
- Equity Commissioner (Non-Voting) – **Mehka Gnanendran**
- President – **Ryan Chiu**
- VP Academic – **Ananya Gupta**
- VP Administration – **Kaysan Adriyanto**
- VP Engagement – **Ester Tracy Silalahi**
- VP External – **Sarah Wong**
- VP Finance – **Khushi Nanda**
- VP Student Life – **Nargess Shokouhian**



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- AMS Representative – **Eshana Bhangu**
- AMS Representative – **VACANT**
- First Year Representative – **Alex Kim**
- First Year Representative – **Zahara Czar**
- Second Year Representative – **Jiya Binning**
- Third Year Representative – **Khushal Kanodia**
- Fourth Year Representative – **Joey Dolayba**
- AMNE Students' Association – **Tom Liu**
- Anthropology Students' Association – **Teagan Dale-Johnson**
- Art History Students' Association – **Lilly Lester**
- Cognitive Systems Society – **Stuti Sheth**
- English Students' Association – **Anika Islan**
- GRSJ Undergraduates' Association – **Anmool Nijjar**
- Geography Students' Association – **Pierce Florey**
- History Students' Association – **Ethan Lui**
- International Relations Students' Association – **Nuray Omirbek**
- Media Studies Students' Association – **Jodie Leung**
- Philosophy Students' Association – **N/A**
- Political Science Students' Association – **Jasleen Klair**
- Psychology Students' Association – **Aafreen Iqbal**
- Scandinavian and Nordic Students' Association – **Tyler Horman**
- Sociology Students' Association – **Emma Martin-Rousselle**
- Speech and Linguistics Students' Association – **Mandy Moniz**
- Visual Arts Students' Association – **Robin Lei**

Guests: Solomon Yi-Kieran, Joshua Hart, Joe Vu, Kareem Hassib

F) Presentation (max. 10 minutes each)

1. AMS Representative In-Council Appointment

Presenter: Ryan Chiu, AUS President

Positions for Appointment:

- AMS Representative

Nominations:

- Joshua Hart
- Sarah Wong
- Joe Vu



Each nominee shall present a max. 60-second speech explaining why they would like to serve as Vice-President Student Life. Each nominee will be asked a maximum of two questions from AUS Council.

Joshua Hart, AMS Representative Candidate

Joshua: I'm Josh, a third-year International Relations student. I believe that I'd be a good voice for Arts students, owing to my time as a Student-at-Large on the AMS HR Committee throughout the summer and the AMS Governance Committee in the Winter Term. I have been involved in Governance Committee deliberations, including the discussion on developing the AMS VP Student Life position. I have also met with AMS Executives and established key connections. Furthermore, I've worked in the Canadian House of Commons and developed the skills to be an effective advocate for Arts students' voices.

Sarah Wong, AMS Representative Candidate

Sarah: I'm Sarah, a fourth-year International Relations student and the current AUS VP External. As an incumbent executive, I have a lot of experience serving students and knowledge about AUS operations. Therefore, there will be less of a transition time for me to assume this role in order to be a proper student advocate. I currently sit on the AUS Executive Committee and the AUS Governance Committee. Moreover, I have a lot of knowledge of AUS operations and initiatives, as well as issues that directly affect UBC Arts students. My goal is to be a strong voice on AMS Council to represent Arts students.

Joe Vu, AMS Representative Candidate

Joe: I'm Joe, a second-year Urban Studies student. I'm currently the AUS Club Grants Coordinator and have worked closely with AUS Clubs. Through my role, I've met a lot of inspiring figures from the AUS and beyond, and have helped organize meaningful events and support initiatives for AUS Clubs. As AMS Representative, I want to advocate for more club grants and financial resources. Additionally, I intend to continue the current work of the AMS Representatives Caucus.

2. AUS Council Discussion on Endorsements

Presenter: Ryan Chiu, AUS President

Each Candidate may present a max. 120-second speech. AUS Council may ask up to three questions to each candidate.

Kareem Hassib, Senate Candidate



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Kareem: Nice to see everyone! I'm Kareem, a third-year URST student minoring in African Studies. I've been a Senator-at-Large for the past two years. I'm a candidate that represents continuity, which is needed to deliver student advocacy goals. To highlight a few key points, I want to revise policy LR-7 (on changing the policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities to reduce barriers on getting temporary diagnosis and the CFA requirement), V-102 (on Examinations to reduce back-to-back exams near Reading Break), and V-103 (on removing the enforcement of final exams to 100 and 200-level courses). I've delivered and held positions on Senate Committees, advocating for Arts students. I'll be the voice to push for student concerns at the University. Through collaborating with constituencies like the AUS, I can get a lot done. I look forward to hearing more about my platform; you can see it on my Instagram.

Eshana: Where were you before Senate? What other student government experience do you have?

Kareem: I was also on the UBC Board of Governors, which gave me the opportunity to develop relationships with financial and academic administrators in the UBC. By being in the Senate, I have also developed key relationships with key academic personnel in UBC.

Solomon Yi-Kieran, VP External and Senate Candidate

Solomon: My name is Solomon. My experience in student governance began with the AUS as the First-Year Representative, which helped me learn how to lead and organize student events. It also gave me the necessary experience to work with the BC NDP. I want to use my experience for the role of VP External of the AMS. I want to advocate for student pricing on BC Ferries, increasing capacity for buses, collaborating with the BC Housing Minister for more housing to be built and amending the UBC Tenants Act. I'm also running to be a Senator; I want to work on improving student loans, mandating recorded lectures, and continuing open transparency on students' goals and advocacy targets.

Emma: I feel that every single year, we've had promises for the Skytrain to UBC. Is there anything you're planning to do differently than your predecessors?

Solomon: On the first point, the reason why progress takes so long is because the provincial government hasn't committed to building the SkyTrain to UBC. Now, we just need to work with the University Neighborhood Association and the Ministry of Transportation. I want to leverage the AMS seat on the UNA to stop blocking the project. On the second point, the 99 is the busiest transit line in North America, but the lines are long, and the 99 often reaches maximum capacity. I want to advocate for more buses on the route and look into making sure the schedules are more effective. Additionally, I want to advocate to bring back the 480 from Richmond and increase R4 frequency.

Eshana: The UNA has publicly supported the SkyTrain to UBC project. Where did you receive the information about the UNA being against the project?



Solomon: From what I've gathered, there's a lot of feedback from UNA members against the SkyTrain to UBC project. However, the timing now is right to push for it.

Eshana: As the Board of Governors representative in the UNA Liaison Committee, I can say that the UNA is on board with the project. The hurdle for the Skytrain to UBC project is provincial funding. Where did you get the information from?

Solomon: I received this information from the previous VP External Office (Ayesha) as well as from CK. I'm not sure why there's an information asymmetry on this issue.

Kaden (Jasleen PX): The Skytrain to UBC is the biggest project on campus. I think finances have been the biggest barrier. Will there be support to push for this, especially given that Translink has a 600 million dollar deficit? How will this look in terms of advocacy from your office?

Solomon: With the upcoming municipal by-election, we can work with candidates and municipal stakeholders to commit and secure more Translink funding, and on the provincial level, we can closely work with the Minister of Transportation.

Jasper Lorien, Senate and Board of Governors Candidate

Jasper: I'm running for the Board of Governors and Senate-at-Large. I started in the AUS Equity & Inclusion Department and began to build key relationships with Faculty of Arts personnel, something which wasn't particularly emphasized in the past few years. My work can also be seen in the AUS Governance Committee. I have worked to secure more representation on the Faculty of Arts Committee and established a Working Group on the Senate to amend exam policies and the CFA diagnosis requirement. I hope to work closely with the Faculty and sit as a Student-at-Large on the AUS Arts Caucus Committee to foster closer relationships on coordinating student advocacy.

Emma: I saw your platform that the CFA, I know a lot of students have had an issue getting a diagnosis. How do you plan to make it possible to not have it required?

Jasper: I am also the President of DUC. We have secured commitments from UBC VP Students Ainsley Carey and CFA. There are still legal commitments to people with diagnoses. We'd like to expand CFA requirements (LR-7) to make them less stringent to accommodate people without diagnoses. There's also a large wait time at the beginning of the academic year, which makes it harder to secure accommodations.

"MOTION: BE IT RESOLVED THAT AUS Council move in camera"

- **Moved:** Pierce
- **Seconded:** Emma
- **Thirdded:** Nuray

Motion is in order.

"MOTION: BE IT RESOLVED THAT AUS Council stay in camera"



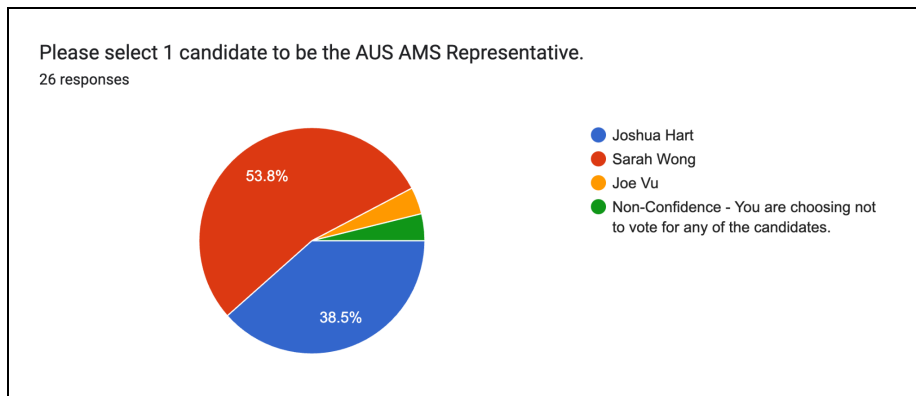
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- **Moved:** Alex
- **Seconded:** Zahara
- **Thirded:** Nargess

Motion fails.

AMS Representative Results:

- Sarah Wong



"BE IT RESOLVED that the AUS Council appoints Sarah Wong to be AMS Representative, effective tomorrow until the end of April 2025."

- **Moved:** Ryan
- **Seconded:** Zahara

Motion passes by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AUS Council suspend code to allow for Sarah Wong to hold more than one elected position with the AUS."

- **Moved:** Ryan
- **Seconded:** Nargess

Motion is in order.

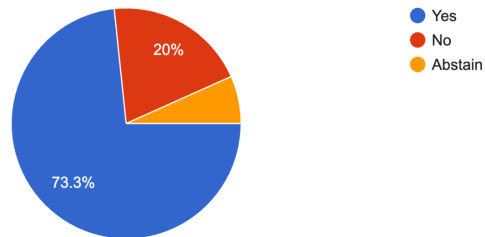
AMS VP AUA Endorsement Results:

- Zarifa Nawar



'BE IT RESOLVED that the AUS endorses Zarifa Nawar for AMS VP Academic and University Affairs'

15 responses

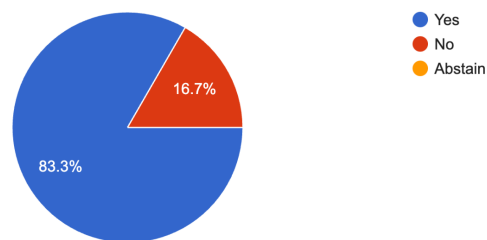


UBC Board of Governors Endorsement Results:

- Jasper Lorien
- Cade Desjarlais

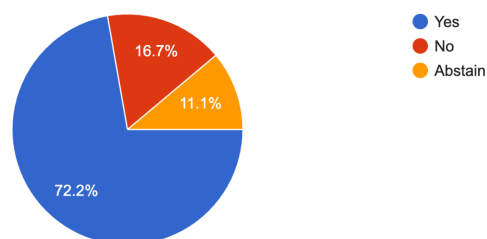
Jasper Lorien

18 responses



Cade Desjarlais

18 responses

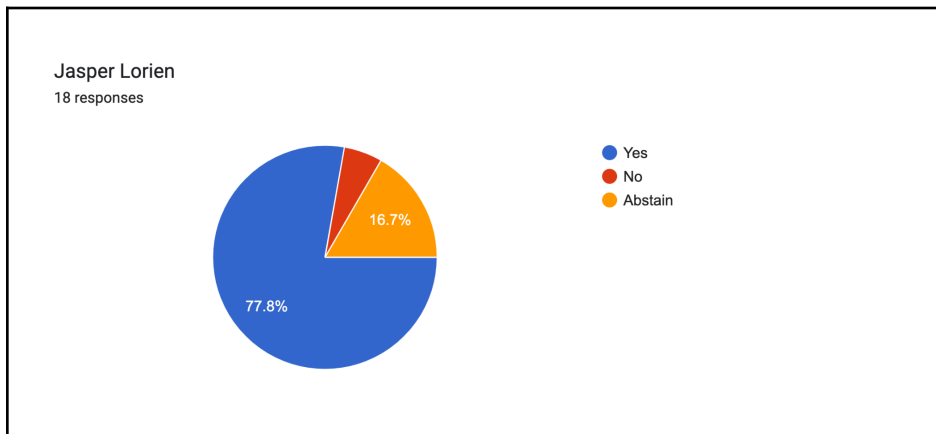


UBC Senate Student-at-Large Endorsement Results

- Jasper Lorien



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"BE IT RESOLVED that the AUS endorses Zarifa Nawar for AMS Vice President Academic and University Affairs."

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AUS endorses Jasper Lorian and Cade Desjarlais for student representatives to the UBC Board of Governors."

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AUS endorses Jasper Lorian for Student-at-Large representative to the UBC Senate."

- **Moved:** Eshana
- **Seconded:** Emma

Motion is in order.

3. Referendum Presentation

Presenter: Ryan Chiu, AUS President

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 **Sample Fee Increase Distribution**

Proposed Referendum

- "BE IT RESOLVED that the AUS approves the following question for the referendum to be held alongside the AUS General Election:
 - The AUS proposes an increased student fee of \$22.43, then the subsequent tying of the AUS fee to BC CPI, to ensure the sustainability



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of the AUS's budget and the organization's ability to meet student needs.

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Ryan: Our constituency fee is the lowest. However, with rising costs and inflation, we start to feel the strain in our AUS services and club grants as well. We're proposing a fee increase from \$13 to \$22.43 (what the original fee in 2000 is worth now based on CPI). The last time we proposed a fee increase was in 2022-2023 to raise \$1 for the AUS Food Hub Initiative, which failed because voters abstained. This resulted in quite a lot of service cuts. In the last 5 years, we've had to reduce the scale of our initiatives. For instance, we now have a lower amount allocated for club grants and conference grants and had to make the emergency grants defunct. Looking back, when the AUS Food Hub Initiative was first established in 2022-2023, the Faculty gave us \$5K in support that we were able to use for a student \$20 grocery gift card program. That funding was made explicitly clear by the Faculty to be a one-time thing. Consequently, in recent years, we had to decrease the capacity of the program. On top of that, due to growing costs and our deficit, we no longer have the Arts County Fair and had to reduce the scale of events that are part of kickstART and Arts Week. The last fee increase the AUS passed was in 2000, 25 years ago. With the stagnant fee, this forced the AUS to cut into our surpluses, which pose a sustainability issue for our emergency reserve funds in the long run. If we increase our fees, we'll still have the lowest constituency fees in UBC (compared to EUS, SUS, and CUS). Therefore, we're introducing a question on proposing a referendum fee from \$13 to \$22.43 and to tie it with the CPI (Consumer Price Index). This fee increase will expand the scale of club grants and club



support, AUS Food Hub Initiative programming, AUS flagship events, and building management. Are there any questions?

Pierce: I understand the need for the fee increase. It seems quite reasonable. I'm concerned about the amount of money dedicated to flagship events. I'm not sure why we're putting a lot of financial emphasis on the AUS flagship events.

Ryan: I put a sample fee increase distribution in the presentation for reference. It's worth the investment as we get a lot of attention campus-wide, leading to the retention of users utilizing AUS services.

Emma: I made this presentation as I'm the Referendum Director. That's the type of feedback I need. Please continue to give more feedback before we put it to a Yes/No motion. If there are any comments, criticisms, or questions, reach out to Ryan.

Jasper: I agree with what Pierce said. \$2 going to flagship events is a bit too much. I would love to see more money go towards the AUS Food Hub. We should speak more heavily about the food security aspect. While funding will increase event engagement, it's a hard ask right now to have \$2 dedicated to events and only \$.75 to Food Hub.

Ethan: This conversation is more related to the Council in the summer. I'm in favor of the referendum, not particularly on the distribution proposal provided right now, but we could always improve the AUS budget in the summer. I encourage everyone to vote on the referendum and promote everything.

Ryan: We're not adding the fee distribution to the question, so it's not going to be mandated. We do notice that putting more money into Arts Week and kickstART translates directly to much higher engagement after looking into the analytics. I agree that we should put more towards student-support programs.

Eshana: It's good that the distribution isn't going to be on the ballot, so there will be more flexibility. I agree with emphasizing flagship events; we should invest in campus spirit. We can promote flagship events as a means to create a sense of belonging in the Arts community. I want to note that the question should be more concise to highlight more critical information. We could also add in the question that this is the first fee increase in 25 years, so students understand the context better. We should also rely on the AUS Clubs for this referendum to pass. The AUS budget is in critical condition, so we should work on this referendum.

Kaysan: As VP Admin in charge of Food Hub, there's been a huge cut in the services we're able to provide to students. I also recently received an email from CK regarding procuring food-related funding from the AMS. Combined with the fee increase, they would greatly help our initiatives and expand our Community Pantry programming.

Pierce: I think it'd be really helpful to have some data on the turnout for such initiatives, especially when it comes to advocating to my club. Also, to Eshana's point, I'm not sure how some individuals on my executive team would feel towards these fee increases if too much of it would be emphasized on flagship events.



Jasper: I'd like to add onto Pierce's point. I think there's a huge difference between 50 cents and \$1. I think some of the funding for the Flagship initiative should be moved towards some of the Food Hub initiatives. I don't want it to disappear, but food security should be prioritized.

Eshana: I do agree with Pierce from an optics perspective. But I don't know how specific we'd like to be regarding funding for the following year, given that next year's Executive hasn't been elected. We should be careful making promises to students in areas we might not have control over.

Kaysan: I think it might be helpful to introduce binding base minimums for the fee increase allocation towards crucial services – at the very least \$0.5 towards AUS Food Hub, for example.

Ryan: The allocation presented wasn't binding, but we'll include that in the question.

Teagan: I think that the fee increase is quite a lot, given what they've been in the past. I think having an explicit breakdown of the fee increase would be helpful for students. Having that visual is very helpful.

Khushi: I agree.

Ryan: I'd like to direct questions to the actual referendum question.

Jasper: I think it'd be valuable to have the breakdown as a supplemental part of the question that states that this part is not binding and only a recommendation for the following Executive.

Eshana: On the question itself, it's not just about shortening it for readability but also what it is binding the AUS to. When it comes to referendums, constituencies are bound to what is stated in the actual referendum. It could be rephrased as well to include AUS operations, essentially removing specificity. I think also some students can be put off by including a note that states that the proposed funding allocation isn't binding.

Jasper: Procedurally, are we allowed to have Council approve this and state that the wording will be reworked for Council's approval before being added to the ballot?

Eshana: I think instead of approving amendments before its final form, we just send out an e-vote form.

Ryan: We will pass this referendum question under the condition that amendments to the question be completed and shared with councillors for approval before being added to the ballot.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AUS Council suspends sections of code to allow for the referendum to be held alongside the general election."

- **Moved:** Nargess
- **Seconded:** Alex

Motion is in order.



~~G) Executive Reports (max. 5 minutes each)~~

- ~~1. President — Ryan Chiu~~**
- ~~2. VP Academic — Ananya Gupta~~**
- ~~3. VP Administration — Kaysan Adriyanto~~**
- ~~4. VP Engagement — Ester Tracy Silalahi~~**
- ~~5. VP External — Sarah Wong~~**
- ~~6. VP Finance — Khushi Nanda~~**
- ~~7. VP Student Life — Nargess Shokouhian~~**
- ~~8. Equity Commissioner — Mehka Gnanendran~~**

~~"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUS Council accepts all reports other than those already accepted."~~

- ~~● **Moved:**~~
- ~~● **Seconded:**~~

~~Motion is in order.~~

~~H) Departmental Club Reports (max. 5 mins)~~

~~"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUS Council accepts all reports other than those already accepted."~~

- ~~● **Moved:**~~
- ~~● **Seconded:**~~

~~Motion is in order.~~

~~I) Senate and Year Representative Reports (max. 2 mins)~~

- ~~1. Arts Student Senator — Jasper Lorient~~**
- ~~2. First Year Representatives — Zahara Czar and Alex Kim~~**



~~3. Second Year Representative — Jiya Binning~~

~~4. Third Year Representative — Khushal Kanodia~~

~~5. Fourth Year Representative — Joey Dolayba~~

~~"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUS Council accepts all reports other than those already accepted."~~

~~• Moved:~~

~~• Seconded:~~

~~Motion is in order.~~

~~J) Committee Reports (max. 5 minutes each)~~

~~1. Arts Caucus Committee~~

~~2. Council Accountability and Performance Review Committee~~

~~3. Executive Committee~~

~~4. Finance Committee~~

~~5. First Year Committee~~

~~6. Governance Committee~~

~~7. Operations Committee~~

~~"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUS Council accepts all reports other than those already accepted."~~

~~• Moved:~~

~~• Seconded:~~

~~Motion is in order.~~

~~K) Old Business~~



~~L) New Business (max. 10 minutes each)~~

M) Next Meeting

Our next Council meeting will be held March 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm (PST) at the Arts Student Centre, 1st Floor.

N) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at: 8:07 pm (PST).

Supporting Documents

Presentations

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Forms

- [*AUS Council Feedback Form*](#)
- [*AUS Council Dietary Preferences Form*](#)

Resources

- [*AUS Council Attendance Sheet*](#)

