Statement on the Treasury Budget Motion Presented on 28 July 2026

05 August 2026

On 28 July 2026, the Executive Council voted on a motion moved by the Treasury after a report on the International Relations Students' Association's Initial Operating Budget. The motion pertained to the "2026-2027 Annual Operating Budget" and required a two-thirds majority vote. The motion was lost.

The Office of the President ("the Office") recognizes its responsibility to the Alma Mater Society (AMS) as outlined in the *Clubs and Societies Committee Policy Manual* (CSCPM) to ensure proper bylaw implementation while overseeing general Association operations (Section 4, § 7.d.I.). The Office also recognizes that the AMS CSCPM mandates that the Association's Treasurers serve as the sole Signing Officers, administer the Association's funds and assets (Section 4, § 13.c.), oversee all financial activities of the Association, and remain accountable for all transactions (Section 4, § 7.d.II.). Consequently, the Office acknowledges the following considerations for the lost motion:

(1) **Signing Authority Hierarchy.** While the IRSA *Constitution* directs Executive Members to provide Executive Portfolio budgets to be approved in a 2/3 majority vote at Executive Council (Bylaws, § 5.1.3), as affirmed by the AMS procedure and Treasury direction, this budget cannot be legally binding on the Treasurers. The Treasurers retain the statutory authority per the AMS CSCPM and AMS *Finance Procedure Guide* (2023, p. 10) to unilaterally administer the Association's funds and assets given the liability they carry for all Association financial activities.

(2) **Treasury Reconsideration**. However, the Treasury has affirmed to the Office that it recognizes the representative nature of Executive Council, including the election of its Executive Members. The Treasury has informed the Office that it has reconsidered alternative budgets; however, it must prioritize the Association's financial sustainability given a significantly reduced opening budget, loss of expected revenue, and outstanding debts from the last fiscal year.

(3) **Term Budgets.** Per the IRSA *Constitution*, Executive Portfolios must provide a financial budget every term (Bylaws, § 5.1.3); thus, the Treasury will present a budget in the first Executive Council after each term commences per the University of British Columbia's Academic Calendar.