



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 9, 2017

Attendance

Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President), Daniel Lam (VP Academic, arrived 12:42), Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Sally Lin (VP External), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor)

Guests: Eilis Courtney and Melissa Picher Kelly (UBC Ceremonies Office)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 pm.

UBC Graduation Models

Eilis Courtney:

- Currently May sees 26 graduation ceremonies spread over seven days; it's a lot, and yet UBC is still over capacity.
- The President has asked us to explore other models, for instance the one at the University of Cincinnati (where he was President formerly): they have one big ceremony in a bigger arena.
- Been consulting Deans, the Alumni Advisory Council, outgoing and now incoming AMS Executives, etc.
- Thinking the focus for the ceremony should be on the students graduating and their family and friends.
- Want it to be formal and dignified, but not intimidating.
- Current attendance rate is high, which is great, but ...

[Daniel arrives]

- Considerations include time commitments for senior administrators; also involving faculty.
- Considering adding a third ceremony in, say, February, in addition to the ones in November and May. Maybe move the May ceremony back to June. This would lessen the wait for some graduates and alleviate the numbers.

Questions

- Pooja: Who would the third ceremony be for?
- Eilis: Have to speak to Enrolment Services about that. Maybe grad students.
- Melissa: May is very big now: 7-8,000 graduates being approved. Very intense.
- Alan: It's mostly about friends and families. Maybe one big ceremony, then break up into faculty-specific groups, like Imagine Day in reverse. You want to spend some time with the people you went through your degree with: your "student family."
- Eilis: Looking at Winter Sports Arena as a venue, though people love the intimacy of the Chan Centre. Don't go back to War Memorial Gym, some alumni have told us.
- Alan: Engineering has an Iron Ring ceremony at a separate time. You may not want to do the big ceremony and the faculty-specific ones all on the same day. People may be working and can't spend the whole day.
- Eilis: Staffing and space issues. Logistical issues.
- Discussion of maybe bringing this topic to AMS Council, but later in the process.
- Eilis: Also looking at the regalia graduates wear.

[Eilis and Melissa left.]

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Alim, Pooja).

Minutes

- The minutes of April 25 were approved (Daniel, Pooja).

Bus

- The new Executive agreed that despite the motion passed at the last meeting of the previous Executive, they were not going to buy a bus.
- A motion to rescind was put forward:

MOVED SALLY, SECONDED DANIEL:

"Be it resolved that we don't buy a bus."

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried unanimously

Executive meeting time

- A new meeting time of Tuesdays at 9:30 am was agreed on.

Execs on Committees

- Finance: Alan.
- Governance: Pooja.
- Brewery: Alan.
- UBC Ombuds Committee: Daniel.

Executive Goals

- Alan reminded the Execs to work on their individual goals for submission to Council.
- There was discussion of team goals, and the following were agreed on:
 - 1) AMS Strategic Plan (completing the plan begun by last year's Exec).
 - 2) Effective, clear communication.
 - 3) Engagement and Outreach to the student body (Alim suggested a video). The idea is to increase AMS visibility.
 - 4) Council interactions (providing quality documents to Council, etc.).
 - 5) AMS Community Building (bonding with the staff, both permanent staff and the Executives' student staff).

Student Experience

- The Executives brainstormed about student experience in preparation for a meeting with the VP Students Office, coming up with such things as:
 - Extra-curricular activity
 - Community building
 - School spirit
 - Health and wellness
 - Food
 - Block Party
- Alan:
 - The University's updated strategic plan talks of:
 - 1) Teaching and Learning.
 - 2) Research and Scholarship.
 - 3) Innovation.
 - 4) Knowledge.
 - I would like to replace Learning with Student Experience. There's much more to student life than learning, and you can't learn without the rest of it.
- Sally: Students drop out for various reasons, not just to do with learning issues; there are financial and health issues.
- Alan: I'd like us to develop a definition of student experience to present at the meeting tomorrow.

- Pooja: We should note that the old strategic plan came from a different time, different people. Perspectives change.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.