



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 30, 2017

Attendance

Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President, left 10:45), Daniel Lam (VP Academic, left 10:55), Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration, arrived 10:17), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager, left 11), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Sally Lin (VP External)

Guests: Jenna Omassi and Jude Tate (UBC Student Diversity Initiative)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 am.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Daniel, Alim).

Minutes

- The minutes of May 23 were approved (Alim, Daniel).

Goals

- Template circulated from Keith.
- Alim:
 - Initial systems set up to make processes easier for clubs and Constituencies.
 - Videos for Treasurer Orientations.
 - Professional Development: Contacting people for workshops on financial literacy for students at large.
 - Executive credit cards have arrived. Constituency credit cards coming soon.
- Daniel:
 - Meeting about Textbook Broke BC.
 - Meeting with Hubert Lai (University Counsel) to discuss policies.
 - Went with Kelsi and Sally to the Open Education Summit.
- Alan:
 - Talked with the Queen's AMS; things are done differently in Ontario; we may try some new things.

- Trying to contact the chair of the Alumni to discuss ways to promote the history book.

[Pooja arrived.]

- Pooja:
 - Been in touch with the Constituencies.
 - Need to do report to Council on sustainability.
- Alan: Search committee for UBC's sexual assault prevention office: hoping for an August 1 appointment.

Outlet Naming Competition

- Keith: Creating a shortlist of names for the rebranding of Palate and for the new Mexican place that will go into the old Flipside space.
- Shortlist will be sent to the students at large and AMS staff for feedback.
- Aim is to choose names by July 1.

Budget

- Alim:
 - Going over line items.
 - Fixing the meal plan.
 - Will do a presentation for the final budget, unlike for the preliminary one.

UBC committee appointment

- The AMS has been asked to send a representative to the University's HR Advisory Committee.
- Probably an Executive.

Student Diversity Initiative

Jenna Omassi and Jude Tate:

- International tuition increases led to the creation of a fund, proposed by the AMS, for student diversity.
- The tuition increase impacted diversity, and this led to a larger discussion on diversity.
- We're looking for support and input.

Discussion

- Alim: What's the scope? What's the purpose of the fund? What is diversity?
- Jude:
 - Our framework is the notion of inclusive excellence.
 - Want a systemic approach.

- Last year we talked to students and student-facing people.
- We identified six populations as having less of a good time here than others, as having less of a sense of belonging.
- How we define diversity is a question the University is being pushed to understand.
- Certain groups are marginalized.
- Power and privilege.
- Alim asked about money: \$300,000 for the first year and now \$1 million?

[Alan leaves.]

- Jenna:
 - In the first year only part of the money was used.
 - In the second year there will be \$1 million, and there will be \$2 million each year after that.
 - We used the money in the first year for consultations, and the conclusion was that the most efficient approach is to spend on people,
- Jude:
 - We will also have some people embedded in existing units.
 - There are already people working on classroom climate and how to teach in a diverse classroom.
- Jenna:
 - We want to be supporting equity and inclusion in a systemic way.
 - Intercultural.
- Jude:
 - Students want to get together to have conversations.
 - We want to support their capacity to know each other.
- Alim: Who will make decisions about spending the money? Will there be committees?
- Jude:
 - An advisory committee guided us; students sat on that.
 - The decision was to use the fund to hire people. Also for programming.
 - Working with UBC Pride. Also with international students, refugee students.
- Alim: How has this been funded?
- Jenna: It's through international tuition funding: 10% of the tuition increase was earmarked to support students, most for financial aid, but 2.53% for the Student Diversity Initiative.

[Daniel leaves.]

- Alim: Timeline?
- Jude:

- Not just handing money over to departments to let them use it.
 - We have a plan; we want a systemic impact.
 - Full team in place by November.
- Kelsi:
 - Are you giving priority to the noted groups discovered in the consultation and to the intersection of identities?
- Jude: Intersectionality is core to our work.

[Mariam leaves.]

- Jenna: Want to serve the six populations and be system-wide as well.
- Jude: The aim is to be inclusive, welcoming, and diverse, but there's a struggle about accountability. We have to hold Deans to account.
- Sheldon: What are the six populations?
- Jenna:
 - Those who self-identify as having mental health problems
 - Southeast Asians (especially Koreans and Japanese)
 - Queer and Trans students
 - Transfer students
 - Racialized students
 - Indigenous students
- Jude: Lots of students are having a great experience. We have to find those who are doing not so well.
- Alim: Will we receive updates?
- Jenna: We'll work with Alan; also the Student Senate Caucus. We're figuring out how to involve students.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.