



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 4, 2017

Attendance

Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President), Daniel Lam (VP Academic, by phone), Sally Lin (VP External), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Linda Huang (AVP Finance)

Regrets: Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 am (or 12:18 pm, Daniel Central Daylight Time in Winnipeg).

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Sally, Daniel).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 27 were approved (Daniel, Sally).

Updates

Sally:

- New government in Victoria: we'll be discussing strategy.
- Speaking to UBC's transportation planner to coordinate messaging about the Broadway extension and bike sharing.
 - No policy currently on bike sharing. Hope to prepare a one-pager and eventually a policy.
- Putting self forward to sit on the U-Pass Advisory Committee's working group (which is looking into expediting contract extensions, etc.).
- SUDS has doubled its attendance since I last reported. Now up to 86 delegates.

Linda:

- Budget passed/didn't pass. Has to go back to Council. Finance Committee needs to meet and look at areas that need changing.

- Treasurer's Handbook this week.
- Want to advertise and explain our funds so they're used properly: e.g., Sustainability Fund for actual sustainability projects.
- Training video.
- Looking to get authorization from last year's Grad Class Council to pay for an art project.

Daniel:

- Developing a policy on future Academic Experience Surveys, including the following points:
 - The VP Academic will have to do one.
 - There will have to be a timeline for them.
 - It will be established how often each question should be asked.
- Retaliation working group.
- Housing Action Plan.
- Meeting with the Bookstore.
- First Nations House of Learning has reached out about hosting a lunch.

Alan:

- Council retreat: planning for first weekend in September, in accordance with recommendation from ad hoc committee on Constituency relations, which said not to do it in the summer.
- Old Grad Class Council projects.
- Faculty Cup planning.
- Blue & Gold Society/Homecoming.
- Talking to the International Students Association re the use of Simply Voting for their elections.
- Meeting the Law Students Society.
- Shooting a book promotion video with Sheldon: walking around campus talking about history, BBC-style.
 - Book launch to be in Jack Poole Hall in the Alumni Centre.
- Website updates.
- Budget: Finance Committee will meet again and send a new budget to Council. Also is to review budgeting procedures.

AMS-GSS

Alan:

- In 2015 the Graduate Students Society passed a motion at a general meeting saying that over the next three years they would evaluate their relationship with the AMS, culminating in a referendum in 2018 on whether to secede from the AMS.
- They have set up an ad hoc committee to look into this.
- It's our fiduciary duty to respond and to do what's best for the Society.

- We need a group to look into this through the AMS lens.
- It could be the Steering Committee, or Council may want to establish an AMS ad hoc committee.
- If we go the ad hoc committee route, I'm thinking the composition could be (voting members):
 - AMS President
 - Another Executive named by the Executive Committee
 - Three (3) non-Exec and non-GSS members of AMS Council
 - A student at large from the graduate students (but not a member of GSS Council)
 - Another student at large.
- There could also be non-voting members:
 - A GSS representative
 - The Archivist & Clerk of Council
 - The Managing Director.
- Maybe also someone from the Health and Dental Plan Committee, since the Health and Dental Plan fee may be an issue.
 - It was suggested that perhaps they could just be invited when that fee was being discussed.
- Issues for the GSS surround fees, services, and advocacy.
- They also note that it's very unusual for an incorporated graduate student society to be part of an undergraduate society the way the GSS here is part of the AMS.

Including the GSS on the AMS committee:

- Alan:
 - I see this as an informational committee.
 - It should have a graduate student voice on it.
 - Graduate students are members of the AMS.
 - The committee might be looking at modifying our services to better serve graduate students, and for that we should have grad student input.

Advertising in the Nest

- Alan:
 - This has not been done.
 - We could set aside spaces in the Nest for advertising decals or art pieces.
 - This would be for financial return and for animation.
 - Could also use digital signage.
 - Last year's Exec was opposed to offering advertising space to external organizations.
 - What does this year's think?
- Linda:
 - Could have different categories:
 - Non-profit/advocacy

- UBC initiatives
 - We could promote the Nest as the most high traffic building on campus.
 - I understand hesitation about corporations, e.g., Red Bull.
 - Alan: UBC has a policy on what can be advertised.
 - Daniel: Why was last year's Executive opposed?
 - Alan:
 - They didn't want the Nest to become a corporate hockey arena and saw allowing any advertising as a slippery slope.
 - If we do allow advertising, it should be in designated spaces, and we may want policy on the amount of space we can sell for sponsorship; and we may want policy on restrictions.
 - We could also open up spaces to student artists, as opposed to advertising, to animate the Nest.
 - We could have a policy spelling out how much space should be for artists.
 - People keep asking about this. We need a plan.
 - Daniel: What do other student unions do?
 - Kelsi said she would look into that.
 - Sheldon: We already have a contract with Zoom Media for washroom ads, and we had some policies on restrictions.
 - Sally:
 - Having guidelines is good.
 - What about priorities for the space? Clubs? Differential pricing?
 - Linda: We might focus on the time of year: some months we would be advertising our elections. In the holiday period, we might have a non-profit month.
 - Sally: Have to look into the management of it, and relation to poster walls.
 - Alan:
 - The two are not to be confused: these would be actual decals, not posters.
 - We should look into costs.
 - Linda: Let the advertisers work out the details.
 - Kelsi: Have to maintain the integrity of the building.
 - Discussion of which body might look into this: Operations Committee? Steering Committee?
 - Alan: I might take it to the Steering Committee and inform Council via a Steering Committee update.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 am (or 13:16 Daniel Central Daylight Time).