THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of June 19th, 2017

Attendance

Present: Cameron England (Chair & Councillor), Daniel Lam (VP Academic and University Affairs), Sally Lin (VP External Affairs), Christopher Hakim (Councillor), Jamiu Abdsalami (Member-at-large), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor) for first half of meeting

Guests: Isabella Picui (AVP External Affairs), Max Holmes (AVP Academic and University Affairs)

Regrets: Jeanie Malone (Councillor), Antony Tsui (Councillor)

Recording Secretary: Jamiu Abdsalami

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Chris  Seconded: Daniel

That the agenda be adopted.

[The motion carries unanimously.]

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Sally  Seconded: Daniel

That the minutes of the AMS Advocacy Committee dated June 5th, 2017 be approved.
[The motion carries unanimously.]

VP AUA Updates

Daniel: Was at CACUSS Conference in Ottawa with Student Services Manager.

Conference discussed issues from counselling, sexual assault support, indigenous student affairs, VP student affairs. The VP focused on disability accommodations, mental health and wellbeing and indigenous affairs segments of the conference to learn and bring back to UBC.

Met with Hubert Lai, of the University Counsel to discuss changes/updates that need to be made to several UBC policies. E.g. policy 3, 85, 95, 71, 73 might be looking into policy 72 also. For more details, feel free to reach out.

Update on retaliation papers: Meeting happened while the VP AUA was in Ottawa, will get back to the committee with updates.

VP External Updates

Isabella: Been working on consultation of bus route change for cancellation of the 480.

VP External’s office will be sending out a document of their findings and recommendation at the end of day on June 19th (consultation ends today). The documents includes a few suggestions on utilizing best routes for optimization.

The office found that cancelling 480 would increase average ridership on other bus routes by 7% for 41, 49, 25, 43.

Cam: The main issue is the inefficiency in the bus’s routing.

Daniel: Oak Street Bridge, Marpole and Kerrisdale are known problematic areas during peak hours.

Isabella: Servicing 41 bus more is not going to fix much of the issue. Plan currently is to take out the 480 in 2019, which would create a deficit for a few years if not fixed.

Cam: Has there been much feedback from the community as well as students?
Isabella: Mostly student and staff feedback, but it is well supported on different mediums from social media to online platforms like Reddit. Especially by those coming from Richmond, Surrey and Tsawwassen.

Isabella: Also the office is still working on the OER backgrounder.

**Consultation Period - Caucus Terms of Reference Draft**

Isabella: Based on recommendation from external consultations that happened before. The ToR for Advocacy Caucuses: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/16X_ZdCp62-CxrNaVDo2OfaDfNq7Ew617mfc8GgGYaw/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16X_ZdCp62-CxrNaVDo2OfaDfNq7Ew617mfc8GgGYaw/edit).

Isabella: There are a lot of issues with terminology like gender, racialized, LGBTQ2+ and the possibility of exclusivity and division that this could bring. Especially with an expectation that this individual might not be an appropriate representation of a certain group.

Max: From each LGBTQ+, every single group here has very diverse issues to be addressed and cannot just be lumped under one individual.

Cam: Why are we not voting for these members?

Max: It would be a disastrous election. The point of officers is to bring minority groups to limelight and an election might not always yield those minority voices.

Isabella: During hiring, there can be issues with selecting based on certain genders.

Chris: Issues with hiring by segregating people based on their sex, gender etc.

Isabella: Student issues caucus is easier to navigate than the equity caucus. Because they represent very specific and distinguishable groups. Whereas equity caucus can be a whole range of different people.

Jamiu: From my understanding, people don’t necessarily have to represent that group, they are more of a liaison between that group and the AMS. Tasked with doing research as to relevant individuals on campus to be reached out to on behalf of that group.
Max: Doubling up the work of certain offices within the AMS with people like indigenous commissioner. Even if you say the person isn’t going to represent these interest, at the end of the day people will think the individual represents these people. Instead, leave this caucus open and eliminate the equity caucus. Make sure to stress an open door policy to individuals or relevant discussions or issues depending on topic. Otherwise, it’s going to become identity politics.

Cam: People don’t like putting labels of a marginalized group on themselves, for example a “disabilities officer”. Instead, agree with leaving it more open to everyone and a bit more structured.

Chris: How about we propose both options to Council. Make a proposal with what it looks like to eliminate equity and another with leaving equity.

Jamiu: I agree, present both sides and sight what AdvoComm’s concerns raised are with having an “equity caucus”.

Isabella: I’m hearing that we want to leave student issues caucus in and take out equity caucus or at least make sure to distinguish them when presenting.

Max: Going back to electing, we already have enough things on the ballot. It’ll get more complicated trying to explain what each role is and what people are voting for.

Isabella: If there is a choice between being paid for a role or doing it as a volunteer, people will pick being paid i.e. indigenous commissioner vs indigenous representative of equity caucus.

Cam: Don’t want to send recommendation back to Council, since Council already approved it. We need to figure out a solution before we send it back out.

Chris: We should provide Council with what we’ve come up with so far regarding the issues and concerns.

Jamiu: We should add more detail to the proposal, so that Council fully understands the concerns when we present to Council again.

Sally: What I’m hearing is general dissatisfaction. Instead of taking directly to Council, how about VPAUA and VP External go back and discuss more options and see what could be done about the concerns and report back to AdvoComm.
Chris: Membership would be suggested as an open-door policy.

Isabella: If there are any suggestions as to what can be added, please send it in.

Max: Jeanie and Antony should be contacted to bring them up to speed.

Sally: Student Activities Caucus has issues also, because it has been replaced by Blue and Gold Society. So, there is still a lot more to be done after steering committee meeting on Thursday to give direction on working groups of the AMS.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is July 10th, 2017.

Adjourn

Moved: Chris Seconded: Sally

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.