THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of August 14th, 2017

Attendance

Present: Cameron England (Chair & Councilor), Jakob Gattinger (Interim VP Academic and University Affairs), Sally Lin (VP External Affairs), Wendy Guo (Councilor), Jeanie Malone (BoG representative & Councillor), Jamiu Abdsalami (Vice-Chair & Student-at-large),

Guests: Jade Scrymgeour (Advocacy Coordinator) - proxy for Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager & Councilor), Max Holmes (AVP Academic and University Affairs), Isabella Picui (AVP External Affairs)

Regrets: Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor)

Recording Secretary: Jamiu Abdsalami (Student-at-large)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm.

Introductions

New members: Wendy Guo (Councilor), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager & Councilor)

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Wendy Seconded: Sally

That the agenda be adopted.

[The motion carries unanimously.]
Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cameron Seconded: Jamiu

That the minutes of July 31st, 2017 be approved.

[The motion carries unanimously with a friendly amendment.]

VP AUA Updates (Jakob Gattinger)

Holding meetings with Andrew Szeri the Provost and VP Academic to setup recurring/monthly meetings

Meeting with VP Students Louise Cowin to push excellence fund consultation process and get it sorted by 23rd of September for reasonable allocations of its usage. Hopefully there’ll be reasonable processes for future allocation like undergraduate research, career services etc.

2 internal policies on agenda (Tuition Consultation and Academic Experience Survey). Thanks to Max and Kelsie. Send feedback especially on Academic Experience Survey.

Indigenous student commissioner has stepped down, looking to replace the individual. Slight changes will be made to the JD before being sent out.

Council approved new hours for the interim VPAUA office at 30hrs a week, instead of 25 moving forward for the next 6 weeks.

Will be attending a conference at Stanford about career services on campuses with Louise Cowin.

VP External Updates - Sally Lin

UNA and IAC council met once to discuss commonalities in student advocacy issues.

A letter will be drafted to create a reporting structure for noise complaint in the community around the residences and Greek Village.
Greek life are looking for ways to facilitate engagement with residences and rest of the community.

MP Joyce Murray visiting AMS tomorrow to see students hired through the Canadian summer student program.

AdvoCan determined 4 directions for current student advocacy asks. Working with a rep from McMaster on funding for post-secondary institution for indigenous students. Looking at asking for envelope funding.

Melanie Mark, the Vancouver-Mount Pleasant MLA making a visit to UBC on Aug 25th, there is scheduled time for an AMS tour to be provided to her. Will be using the opportunity to ask for a future meeting.

VPX office has a call with UVSS and SFSS to ensure steps are coordinated between schools, depending on who can get a meeting with Minister of Advanced Education and Minister of Housing. This is to ensure resources are pulled and all 3 schools’ needs are met.

U-Pass letter for extension of contract will most likely be ready by Aug 15th. UBC legal team will be taking look at it by the end of the month to ensure all is good before signing.

SUDS: Thanks to Isabella and the rest of the VPX office.

Consultation Period

Tuition Consultation Policy

Moved: Jakob                Seconded: Jamiu

That the following consent agenda items be accepted as presented:

Tuition Consultation Policy.

[The motion carries unanimously.]

Jakob: Allows for continuity and possible feedback and straightforward processes moving forward.

Cameron: No objections with the policy.
Jade: What’s the definition of fees in this document?

Jakob: Mandatory fees only, e.g. optional co-op will not be a consideration.

Max Holmes: Anything covered under Policy 71 will be covered.

Bike Share Policy Draft

Sally: This outlines allowing controls to the program, setting limitations on amount of bikes on campus, ensuring we get dock-less bikes for easier access, affordability for students and taking measures to ensure that on-campus bike organizations are not impacted. Also, consulting with AMS sustainability to see how they will be impacted.

Academic Experience Survey

Jakob: Spelling out questions that’ll go out bi-annually, tri-annually or some sort of standardizing, so that data comparison can be made over the years. Also trying to clarify the purpose of the AES and eliminate redundancies with the UBC Undergraduate Experience Survey.

Jeanie: Will it be tied to KPIs for the AMS strategic plan?

Jakob: Yes, it will be an action item. Will be working with Insights West to ensure it happens.

Jamiu: Are graduate students going to be included or have focus questions?

Jakob: They have their own surveys and they think it’s sufficient for their needs.

Jakob: Generally, grad students are more satisfied with their UBC experience and don’t feel strongly inclined to submit question to the AMS AES.

Max: They still have the opportunity to submit questions and will continue to be a part of it, but not very likely that they’ll be asking further questions through the AMS AES.
Discussion Period

Caucus Hiring Rubric - Sally Lin

Sally: This is essentially hiring a member at large, but with a JD.

Sally: What do we see the hiring process looking like and the rubric?

Wendy: We should have candidates come in to an Advocomm meeting and have quick speeches.

Sally: It might be intimidating to people to come in and “defend themselves” against others. Trying to create as small a barrier as possible for applicants.

Sally: Alternatively send a written application and resume in?

Jakob: Video submissions?

Cam: Bringing the discussion back. There should be a category for team coordination and being able to work collectively with others on a committee/ caucus.

Sally: Saying we’re looking for so and so... and clarifying in rubric.

Sally: We will encourage them to submit a short paragraph description of certain traits.

Jade: We should include a section in the rubric for attention to detail.

Jeanie: Are we trying to determine best way to interview people?

Sally: No, we’re currently trying to outline the rubric. We will have the entire committee evaluate applicants.

Jeanie: Why not appoint 3 people from the committee to evaluate everything and get back to the committee. This will it will be a much faster process.

Jakob: How about the Chair and two others evaluate and get back to the committee. If the committee disagrees, the candidate list can be brought back.

Sally: Are we considering individual interviews?

Jakob: We could potentially do phone interviews, less intimidating.
Jakob: So what process do we want to use?

Wendy: Have a dialogue with HR to see what they think.

Cam: The rubrics currently feel arbitrary without scoring.

Isabella: We were hoping to ask AdvoComm what you see an exemplary, good or lacking for each category in comparing candidates on the rubric.

Wendy: We can write down different qualities in the different categories and highlight them as we see candidates display said written qualities. At the end, we’ll see which ones they possess and which ones they don’t.

Jakob: Rubric is more so as a guidance, so no need to get too hung up on it. We’ll end up ranking it based on how good one candidate is to another. It’s a new caucus/system, so we shouldn’t be too excited as to how many candidates we’ll get.

Sally: I agree, it’s still a very new process, so let’s try to be flexible until we’ve had a bit more of standardization over the term of a few caucuses.

Cam: Agree with Jakob, take the rubric as a guideline and take handle applications on a case-by-case basis with each candidate.

Wendy: When is hiring happening?

Sally: Hopefully have the JD and other admin processes done by end of August, so that early September the positions can go out with AMS Hiring Fair.

Excellence Fund and the Role of the AMS - Jakob Gattinger

Jakob: UBC has outlined vaguely an allocation process and we want a more certain guideline. We want a timeline from them and we’ll go to them proactively with a budget we would like to see.

Max: They are seeking feedback on experience fund, which is a small portion.

Jakob: We want to focus on specific, line-by-line budget of what we want the excellence fund allocation to look like. We’ll stick to categories 1-5. We would like your help in determining what this budget should look like in spending. Feedback is welcome and will be the focus of the VPAUA office for most of the interim term.
Jamiu: To clarify, we are being pre-emptive for next year on this planning?

Jakob: Yes, because the bulk of the excellence funding allocation happening next year.

Next Meeting
The next scheduled meeting is August 28th, 2017.

Adjourn
Moved: Wendy Seconded: Cam
The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.