THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AMS University and External Relations Committee

Minutes of October 30, 2015

Attendance

Present: Robin Asgari (Chair), Margareta Dovgal (Vice-Chair, Student-At-Large, Jude Crasta (VP External Affairs), Ian Sapollnik (AMS Councilor), Rodney Little Mustache (Student-At-Large), Sareena Mohammed, Jamiu Abdalsalami

Guests: Daniel Lam (AMS Councilor), Gabby

Kathleen Simpson (Associate VP External Affairs), Daniel Munro (Associate VP Academic & University Affairs), Pierre Cenerelli (University & Government Relations Advisor)

Regrets: Jenna Omassi (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Margareta Dovgal (Vice-Chair, Student-at-Large)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:40PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Rodney

Seconded: Jude

That the agenda be adopted, with the amendment that the approval of the previous meeting minutes be deferred to the next meeting.

[The motion carries unanimously.]

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Ian to amend wording on pg. 6 of passed amendment to BIRT that UNECORN recommend that the AMS withdraws its membership from ABCS. Seconded by Jamiu.

[The motion carries. One abstention: Rodney]

Jude moves to postpone the approval of the minutes to the next meeting of UNECORN. Motion carries unanimously.

Affordability Policies
Gabby from Campus and Community Planning

- Quick introduction around the table

- What is C + CP?
  
  o Planning + Design (we act like a municipality)
  
  o Sustainability + Engineering (sustainability, green buildings)
  
  o Campus Development (such as the now notorious Harvest Feast, “animating spaces across campus)
  
  o Development Services (permitting, codechecking, inspection)
  
  o Public Consultation (Gabby leads this team)

- Historically, engagement with the AMS has always been a matter of contention. In the last year with the new AVP, we’ve developed new engagement principles and steps.

- Several ideas we want to discuss with the AMS:
  
  o Climate Action Plan (call for ideas was in September)
  
  o Library Garden re-design (based on 2009 public realm plan, to make campus more pedestrian friendly, adding large gathering spaces)
    
    ▪ Scheduled for redesign in 2018-19 originally, but development has now been sped up
    
    ▪ IRSHDC site: want to consider this purpose in its redesign
    
    ▪ First part of consultation is over (what are student’s needs? What should be accommodated in its redesign?)
    
    ▪ Two committees working in tandem for the redesign
    
    ▪ IRSS group working on what their building will look like
- Public consultation results: this area is valued for its quiet (getting away from the bustle of main arteries on campus)

- Features of library garden to be retained: Mother & Child sculpture, clock tower, Carriage art installation, first planted gardens on campus

- Principles: small events, quiet, relationship with two landmark libraries, should be safe and inviting, has a connecting with UBC’s history

- IRS building is only 5,000 sq ft, multiple access points, incl. accessibility ramp, two stories, construction starts next summer (2016), should last one year, more formal closer to the building, and blending into the landscape more
  - Water features: great when you’re not in drought generally, so this one will utilize rain, pebbles/rocks
  - Plaza, reflecting desire for more formal learning spaces
  - Meandering path way: hardscape and softscape, maintaining as much nature as possible
  - Central stairwell from the building: wood, natural materials
  - Clock tower: using it as a rain cover?
  - Area around fountain; finding ways to make people spend time around it
  - Carriage installation: sightline to Sequoia treeline
  - Robin: are the library doors going to be opened?
  - Gabby: That’s an unresolved issue currently
Robin: Why not a café?

Gabby: It’s a very open part of campus, and it will be very visible.

Rodney: space for ceremonies

Jude: council might want a price tag

Robin: where is the funding coming from?

Gabby: The public realm plan (same as Fairview commons, memorial road, agricultural road)

- It may not look like the current draft design concept, depending on approval process

- University Boulevard Fencing:

  - BoG asked for a way to recognize that this area would be an arrival point for the university

  - Intertwining of the Musqueam logo and UBC logo

    - There’s really no indication for visitors that they’re entering Musqueam land

    - More meaningful than advertising

    - 1-2 years longevity

- Sareena: is there any information/outreach on the meaning of the banner?

- Gabby: Yes, see the website.

- Gabby left at 5:13pm
VP External Business

Jude: federal elections campaign went very well, finalizing last bit of details on outcome of expenditures vs. voter turnout. Very successful campaign, didn’t come close to spending allocated budget

Lots of things requiring attention came up in the last week

Translink’s proposed route changes: student-at-large, Steven Price, brought forward a motion re: 258 bus route to oppose elimination of that bus route; important as it is the only direct connection between west side of north shore and UBC; public consultation ends Nov. 6th, statement being drafted for Monday, acted by Acting CEO of Translink Kathleen McLay; haven’t been able to schedule a meeting yet (will be outside the main consultation); solutions such as supplementary service or bringing it back; targeting general service optimization, Broadway Line (golden child), ridesharing app, at the start of Term 2 comms. piece on “Did you know your transit options to campus?”, borne out of Uber fiasco, helping people find the best service that works for them, transit generally cheapest

Progress on the Broadway line: met with George Hammond MLA for this area

Budget committee in BC Government making recommendation that universities can borrow money for building student residences and transportation

Question from Ian: from the government or private?

Jude: Both, increasing borrowing capacity; means a solution to UBC’s liquidity crisis. We can now work to push past issues like who pays for station? Likely the station would stop by the NEST, if the line would come all the way to campus.

Biggest lag we’ve identified: provincial government when it comes to listening to the mayors; they keep asking for raised municipal property taxes to pay for Broadway line. I agree that the taxes shouldn’t go up (average income is about $30,000 in the west side, while the cost of a house is over $1 million)

What are the immediate things that people are noticing in terms of needs?

Daniel: Skytrain in Surrey vs. light rail. I don’t feel Surrey residents like light rail

Robin: what are some of the concerns?
Daniel: reduction of 104 ave from 4 to 2 lanes, accident would entirely block and delay traffic, around Green timbers area road must be extended for light rail

Robin: that makes sense, same issue with Arbutus

Skytrain for surrey, Daryl De la cruz

Ian: transit into UBC: 41st, translink is discussing changing the 43 into a b-line bus, switching some 41 buses into 43, improving access to UBC

Robin: 43: parking should be banned after west boulevard, one lane

Ian: suggestion is to remove stop at Carnarvon

Daniel: eliminating some stops at UBC

Rodney: 44 from downtown, disrespect from students towards elders, students don’t move or show respect for their elders. It bothers me.

Robin: people just stay in their seats; they should know better

Rodney: 43 or 49 needs a stop at Crown to serve Musqueam nation

Daniel: 49, stops at Crown & Camosun

Sareena: many friends who commute with 49, but very bad in the mornings

Daniel: recommendation rush hour express to UBC on 49th

Rodney: This past month there was a public consultation on FB:

   1) Lobby to replace Translink board with actual riders
   2) Extend Skytrain to 24 hrs
   3) Cut executive compensation

   - Escalator at Surrey was closed for two years, parts from Germany
   - It’s time for students to speak up and change

   Rodney: You’re paying people a lot of money for people to make bad decisions

Rodney: consultation: posters from AMS, rise in international tuition affects us all at UBC. How does this address First Nations students?
Ian: I can answer this. Increases in tuition affects diversity on campus. More diversity on campus creates a better campus.

Rodney: The first thing I heard at that consultation was a lady speaking. “UBC prides itself on being a diverse community that prides itself on getting the best students.” With the communications material, there isn’t any representation of First Nation’s students.

The Perch and the Pit I have a problem with. If the university is welcoming to all, why do we need places with hosts?

Two developments one Downtown, one in Richmond, built for Asian students.

Robin: A lot of people have problems with the Perch. Many people miss the welcoming space of the Gallery.

Jude: the Perch is losing a lot of money. Selling our soul for a bit of cash, but it’s not very profitable, and leaves a sour taste in my mouth. We’re looking to convert the Perch into a more casual restaurant. As far as the Pit goes, it’s my first time hearing that sort of concern, but I’ll be sure to bring it up. Craig, the Food and Beverages Manager, is the best person to talk to about that sort of thing.

Sam: Is the Pit getting more traffic than the old Pit? Maybe they need a host to handle seating at boots

Rodney: But again, things like that, I would say to just make it more friendly to people that come from First Nations to come here. I’m living on $950/month

Daniel: the Perch: I have heard that the AMS has gone all out to attract people to come to UBC

Sam: people from outside the UBC won’t be coming out to visit just for this new restaurant

Margareta: question re: childcare availability – Robin answered that it will be available in the NEST.

Adjourn

Moved: Rodney  Seconded: Sam

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51PM.