AMS Annual General Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 20, 2017
Great Hall in the Student Nest
(11 am - 1 pm)

Call to order – Alan Ehrenholz, President

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am. Quorum was not present.

AMS Presidential Address – Alan Ehrenholz

- Excited to have you here. Thank you for participating.
- Our year has started strong, and the Executive team is excited for the next six months.
- We’ve moved from governance review to the phase of stability.
- As our Communications Manager says, The institution should outlast the individual.
- Upcoming:
  - Faculty Cup
  - AMS Strategic Plan
  - UBC Strategic Plan
  - Student life initiatives to support our clubs and Constituencies.

Questions

- Jack Hauen: How much did the Iwana Taco T-shirts cost?
- Alan Ehrenholz: Don’t know the answer to that.
- Chris Coulson: Can you talk about the food truck?
- Alan Ehrenholz: It’s called Stellar Dogs and is coming later this fall outside the Nest.

AMS Executive Updates – AMS Executives and Student Services Manager

VP Academic and University Affairs – Max Holmes

- By-election last month. I’ve just come in.
- Textbook Broke Campaign got huge engagement (over 1,000 students).
- Open Education Resources (to lower textbook costs).
- UBC Strategic Plan: just got AMS representation on all seven working groups. Happy with that.

Questions

- Jack Hauen: Can you talk about alternative housing?
- Max Holmes:
Looking at models that will allow UBC to borrow externally. More details still to come.

- We want to ensure proper student representation on bodies discussing this and also consultation with students throughout the process.
- We’re looking for affordability and quicker building so there can be more and cheaper buildings to deal with the housing crisis.

**VP Administration – Pooja Bhatti**

- Restructuring our support of Constituencies: following last year’s ad hoc committee’s recommendations.
- Reviewing club policies, especially on departmental clubs.
- Working on Old SUB construction.
- Sustainability initiatives. Strategizing. Rewriting our Lighter Footprint Strategy.

**Questions**

- Chris Coulson: Can you talk more about the Student Life Building?
  - Pooja Bhatti:
    - The UBC Life Building (new name for the Old SUB).
    - The AMS is leasing the basement, mostly for club space.
    - Also we’re bringing back the Norm Theatre.

**VP External Affairs – Sally Lin**

- I’m the government relations person for the AMS.
- I advocate for your concerns to various levels of government.
- Created an engagement map to reach out to members, clubs.
- Setting up Student Issues and Equity caucuses.
- Working on student tenancy rights.
- Made a budget submission to the province, calling for:
  - Reduction in interest rates on student loans
  - Grants
  - Support for measures against sexual violence
  - Housing affordability
- Travelling to Victoria to meet ministers to pursue non-financial goals, like tenancy rights: we have a Rent with Rights campaign against the lack of legislation protecting student renters.
- Transit is a huge priority:
  - Advocating for a rapid transit line to UBC.
  - Also advocating about bus routes and pleased to note that there are no longer plans to cancel the 480 bus.
  - U-Pass: There is a letter of extension so that the U-Pass will continue at the current price until 2019.

**Questions**

- Jack Hauen: Anything federally?
- Sally Lin:
  - Yes, going to Ottawa with our informal lobby coalition (UCRU, or Undergraduates at Canadian Research-intensive Universities).
Seeking funds for Indigenous students, study permits for international students, a grants program, and a tuition tax credit.

- Jack Hauen: Is UBC in support of the Broadway Line?
- Sally Lin: It’s well known that the line would bring benefits to the whole UBC community, and I’ve been engaging in conversation with UBC (the Campus & Community Planning department).
- Chris Coulson: What reception did you get from the provincial government to your budget submission?
- Sally Lin: I think quite favourable; we got compliments on our professionalism, and several MLA’s congratulated us on raising the sexual violence issue. But we’re waiting to see the formal report.
- Chris Coulson: TransLink’s President is reported as saying the line to UBC is a priority. Have you spoken to him?
- Sally Lin: We have been having conversations with various stakeholders. The AMS has run numerous campaigns to support the line. We’re adopting a different approach this year; we’re looking for opportunities to voice our support.

**VP Finance – Alim Lakhiyalov**
- We receive $2 million in student fees, along with $650,000 business revenue, and investment revenue of $350,000.
- Our main expenditures are for student government and student services.
- My goals include financial sustainability, based in part on successful business operations and investments.
- We have been able to introduce a new investment policy thanks to a referendum and can now shift to getting a higher annual return.
- I have been working on financial technology, including restructuring our credit card program.
- A big focus has been financial literacy: providing workshops to help students learn how to manage their finances.
- A new focus in the Health and Dental Plan: the Empower Me program, a 24/7 counselling service.

**Questions**
- Jack Hauen: Can you explain how Block Party went from losing $200,000 to making $1,800?
- Alim Lakhiyalov: One thing was location. The previous location was hard to sell out. We moved to right beside the Nest, and that made it easier. It also meant lower overhead costs, and we got sponsorship. We’re planning to use the same location this year.
- Chris Coulson: Can you explain Empower Me?
- Alim Lakhiyalov: It’s with Studentcare: a 24/7 hotline. You can speak to counsellors up to seven times on any given topic. It can mitigate waiting times for other services.
- Jack Hauen: What was the $45,000 on legal fees?
- Alim Lakhiyalov: That was for the BDS referendum.
Student Services Manager – Marium Hamid

- I oversee the seven Student Services, the biggest ones being Safewalk and Tutoring.
- Two new ones:
  - Vice: We just had 120 people to a naloxone event, training people to deal with overdoses
  - eHub (entrepreneurship) started to function in September, will fully launch in January.
- Tutoring: Now in six different locations.
- Safewalk: Reverted to a mix of walking and driving teams, and have had no problem keeping up with the volume. Getting volunteers from Varsity sports teams.
- Food Bank: Because of rising food insecurity, increasing the money for this.

Managing Director – Keith Hester

- Last fiscal year was tremendous. We turned around a $1.25 million loss from the businesses, and made $200,000.
- High points: Pie R Squared up 47% over budget; Honour Roll up 32% even though we carved out part of it to create Ph Tea.
- Brought back the Gallery Lounge, and it’s been a roaring success since it opened.
- We renegotiated the loan for construction of this building and will save our members $60 million over the coming years.

1. MOVED DANIEL LAM, SECONDED BRADLEY BALATON:

   “That the Alma Mater Society Membership accept the President’s and the Managing Director’s Annual Report as presented.”

- Alan Ehrenholz: We’ve been setting the mindset of our institution.
- Jack Hauen: Have the businesses really been 1,000% better?
- Alan Ehrenholz: Yes, we went from $2 million loss in 2015-16 to a $200,000 contribution in 2016-17.
- Jack Hauen: Why was 2015-16 so bad?
- Keith Hester: Block Party contributed to that, and the Perch restaurant didn’t resonate with students. The businesses didn’t do as well generally: teething problems in the new building. We’ve made a lot of changes.
- Chris Coulson: What has happened with the brewery?
- Alan Ehrenholz: This fall we’re going to sign an MoU to move things forward. The lack of an MoU had been the sticking point for three years.
- A member: When is Palate going to reopen?
- Alan Ehrenholz: A new outlet called the Porch is going to replace Palate. It will open in November and serve hot vegan food.
- Jack Hauen: What happened to the Garden Grove name?
- Alan Ehrenholz: That was just an idea we kicked around.
- A member asked about the reduction of Events costs.
- Alan Ehrenholz: We reduced overhead and made operational efficiencies.
A member asked what was going into the Qoolah space.
Alan Ehrenholz: We have a potential client going into that space, but can’t say who yet.

2. MOVED DANIEL LAM, SECONDED BRADLEY BALATON:

“That the Alma Mater Society Membership accept the President’s and the Managing Director’s Annual Report as presented.”

… Carried unanimously

3. MOVED CHRIS COULSON, SECONDED NATASHA RYGNESTAD-STAHLE:

“That the Alma Mater Society Membership accept the Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements as of October 13, 2016 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017, as presented.”

“That the Society approve the Financial Statements as of April 30, 2017.”

… Carried unanimously

4. MOVED ANANYA SINGH, SECONDED ADAM TATELMAN:

“That the D&H Group be retained as the Auditors for the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver for the ensuing fiscal year.”

- Alan Ehrenholz: They do a good job. They’ve been our auditors for a number of years.
- Bradley Balaton: Isn’t it a good idea to switch auditors every few years?
- Keith Hester: That’s something we’ll be looking at next year. Because of our complicated nature, it’s difficult to change auditors, but we will be looking into it.

5. MOVED ANANYA SINGH, SECONDED ADAM TATELMAN:

“That the D&H Group be retained as the Auditors for the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver for the ensuing fiscal year.”

… Carried

**Announcement**

- The President announced that the Executives will be wearing Iwana Taco shirts promoting the Iwana Taco food outlet. Anyone posting a photo of an Executive in their shirt will have a chance to win 10 free tacos.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.