

THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



AMS Student Society
6138 SUB Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
www.ams.ubc.ca

AMS Education Committee

Minutes of March 14, 2012

Attendance

Present: Justin Yang (Chair), Shikha Kelkar (Member at-Large), Andrew Lavers (Member at-Large), Kiran Mahal (VP Academic and University Affairs)

Guests: Sean Cregten (AVP Academic), Pierre Cenerelli (University & Government Relations Advisor)

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Justin Yang (Chair)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

Introductions

African Studies Program

- Shikha commented on the ongoing progress of the committee's work on the African Studies Program with the African Awareness Initiative (AAI) and noted that the previous Chair, Bahador Mousavi, had drawn a list of actions to be completed
- Shikha further commented that transition material should indicate that future members of the committee should be advised to continue working with Mehak Tejani (AAI)
- Justin will follow up with Bahador regarding what progress has been made on this initiative

Summer Semester Policy

- Kiran noted that Bahador has submitted a policy framework for consideration but that this policy will require further refinement

- Justin noted that the timing of the policy is somewhat problematic considering that the Senate would be considering a motion pertaining to the Summer Semester later in the evening and suggests that perhaps the AMS policy can seek to be more proactive about suggestions regarding the implementation of the Summer Semester
- Kiran and Sean noted that they have worked with Associate Dean Paul Harrison regarding this policy
- Pierre noted the problems with working with individual departments because of the highly distributed nature of the Summer Semester
- Problems arising from the current implementation of the Summer Semester that the committee wished to see remedied in the new format included:
 - perception of the summer semester as “discount” due to the high percentage of courses taught by sessional lecturers
 - course selection can vary significantly among departments with many offering few courses that can substantively ease a student’s courseload during the winter terms
 - students demands on the summer semester are varied (*e.g.* some seek remedial coursework, others want to fast-track their degrees)
- Justin asked whether Kiran and Sean had thought of working with the Registrar’s Office to obtain data for use in policymaking
 - Kiran noted that this method seemed promising and would follow up
 - Pierre mentioned that this might be somewhat problematic considering the autonomous nature of the AMS with regards to the University
 - Justin commented that utilizing the Student Senators as liaisons to the Registrar’s Office may offer a solution to this problem
- Questions that Kiran and Sean will be looking at included:
 - What is the purpose of the summer semester?
 - How are students using the summer semester?

- Justin drew the committee's attention towards the consideration of UBC Policy J-52 at Senate that evening and wished to solicit feedback from committee members to share at the Student Senate Caucus meeting
- Pierre responded that for practical reasons, a failure to pass this motion would detrimentally affect UBC's ability to attract and retain the top students in the BC/Yukon region as a result of early offers from other provinces and around the world
- Pierre further clarified the job actions by BCTF and the effects it may have had in UBC's response
- Kiran asked about the response of other post-secondary institutions to this issue
 - Justin noted that he would ask this at the Student Senate Caucus meeting as well as on the Senate floor
- Justin clarified that the Chair of the Senate Admissions Committee noted that ~100 students might be unfavourably affected by this policy change
 - Pierre mentioned that 100 students is still 100 too many
- Kiran asked questions regarding the use of broad-based admissions to ameliorate the problems arising from the implementation of Policy J-52
 - Justin mentioned that he would follow-up with this on the Senate floor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

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6138 SUB Boulevard
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AMS Education Committee

Minutes of April 11, 2012

Attendance

Present: Justin Yang (Chair), Kiran Mahal (VP Academic & University Affairs), Justin Chang (Science), Jennifer Law (Applied Sciences), Armin Rezaiean-Asel (At-Large; Commerce), Cole Routtenberg (At-Large; Commerce); Niloufar Keshmiri (At-Large; Commerce)

Guests: Sean Cregten (AVP Academic & University Affairs), Pierre Cenerelli (University and Government Relations Advisor), Daniel Kong (EagerKeener)

Regrets: Anees Bahji (Medicine)

Absent: Mona Maleki (Science); Montana Hunter (Arts)

Recording Secretary: Justin Yang (Chair)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06pm.

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Justin Yang

Seconded: Kiran Mahal

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

VP Academic and University Affairs Office

Kiran introduced herself and her AVP, Sean, and briefly remarked upon several projects currently being undertaken by her office that may interest members of Education Committee:

- implementation of the new Learning Management System (LMS);
- review of broad-based admissions processes and practices;

- initiatives relating to mental health and wellness;
- implementation of a new Early Alert System to help identify at-risk students requiring intervention;
- completion of the long-term academic strategic plan initiated by her predecessor;
- support work for academic lobbying efforts by undergraduate constituencies in their respective faculties;
- implementation of the collegia program;
- initiation of the Pathways program intended to support the transition to the university learning experience for international students;
- moving forward with the exam database in concert with work from the Student Senate Caucus.

Various members of the committee expressed interest in projects raised by Kiran. Interested members should contact Kiran directly to discuss the ways in which they may contribute to her ongoing work. Alternatively, Kiran has commented that she will bring topics to the committee for discussion.

EagerKeener

Daniel Kong, a fifth-year Commerce student presented EagerKeener (<http://eagerkeener.com>), a community-based web service intended for filesharing of notes and other related academic files. EagerKeener is not intended to replace or to duplicate the functionalities of existing exam databases (*e.g.* by the AMS, the Department of Mathematics).

Daniel further commented that there was opportunities for EagerKeener to offer additional services, such as forums, textbook sales, and/or an events calendar.

Justin Y asked what Daniel intended for the AMS to do with regards to EagerKeener. Daniel replied that there were two primary asks:

- 1) for the AMS to formally endorse EagerKeener or;
- 2) for the AMS to integrate EagerKeener into its own website and continue to support it.

Questions were raised regarding the particular operations of the website. In response, Daniel clarified that:

- files may be stored and separated by class;
- rating and commenting systems are in place to provide feedback regarding the quality of uploaded materials;
- analytics demonstrate that student use increases during assessment periods such as the formal examination period;
- students outside of UBC may access files currently on the system

Armin asked whether there might be the possibility of providing access to files that students normally would not or should not have access to. Daniel indicated that this is a possibility and that manual intervention is possible. He further alluded to an instance of a takedown request from an instructor. Justin C further asked whether it would be possible to have a moderation process in place. Daniel confirmed that this would be possible.

Kiran asked whether there may be the possibility of facilitating potential instances of academic dishonesty through the website, particularly in cases where students upload past assignments. Daniel noted that there is the possibility of enforcing limitations on uploads but that they had not been implemented due to the desires of the organizers to maintain openness of the service. Daniel further noted that the stance of the organizers is that it is the responsibility of individual instructors to create new assessment tools every year and that filesharing by students does not change this responsibility.

In response to Kiran, Daniel noted that he had not approached the University formally regarding EagerKeener. He indicated that this would be the purview of the AMS, if they chose to do so.

Kiran asked regarding the differences between EagerKeener and other services such as NoteSolution or NoteWagon. Daniel commented that the model of service is completely different – students are not selling notes on EagerKeener.

The committee expressed some concerns with the way in which the service was run and indicated a dissatisfaction with either option presented. The committee agreed to table this topic until a later date and for Kiran to keep the committee updated of new developments as they occur.

Policy Guidelines

Pierre presented the policy guideline document and commented that the University and External Relations Committee had already adopted. Justin Y indicated that the best course of action was a motion to adopt the guidelines for the committee and for him to present this to Agenda Committee for consideration by the Executives for adoption for council at-large.

Moved: Justin Y

Seconded: Armin

That Education Committee adopt the policy guidelines for internal use as presented.

The motion carries unanimously.

Exam Database

Sean presented on the history of the Exam Database and presented a revised proposal after consulting with the Senate Teaching and Learning committee.

Members of the committee were largely supportive of the initiative and praised the ways in which it promoted equity of access to study materials.

Moved: Kiran

Seconded: Jennifer

That Education Committee direct its Chair to bring the Exam Database as a priority for the Student Senate Caucus to consider for the 2012-13 term, particularly for senators on relevant committees.

The motion carries unanimously.

Collegia

Moved: Justin

Seconded: Armin

Thirded: Niloufar

That Education Committee go *in camera*.

The motion carries unanimously.

Moved: Jennifer

Seconded: Kiran

That Education Committee remain *in camera*.

The motion fails unanimously.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm.

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AMS Student Society
6138 SUB Boulevard
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AMS Education Committee

Minutes of June 20, 2012

Attendance

Present: Justin Yang (Chair), Kiran Mahal (VP Academic & University Affairs), Montana Hunter (Arts), Mona Maleki (Science) Jennifer Law (Applied Sciences), Cole Leonoff (At-Large; Commerce); Niloufar Keshmiri (At-Large; Commerce), Mary Leong (Senate)

Guests: Sean Cregten (AVP Academic & University Affairs), Pierre Cenerelli (University and Government Relations Advisor), Maiyatree Dhaka (At-Large; Applied Sciences)

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Justin Yang (Chair)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Mary Leong

Seconded: Kiran Mahal

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Access Copyright Motion

Moved: Mona Maleki

Seconded: Jennifer Law

Whereas a balanced approach to copyright in Canada, in which the interests of both creators and users of works receive equal recognition, is in the fundamental interest of society;

Whereas Access Copyright has proposed a tariff before the Copyright Board of Canada to cover the reproduction of copyrighted works at post-secondary institutions that imposes unjustified fees, restrictions, and surveillance on the postsecondary community;

Whereas AUCC and Access Copyright have entered into a model copyright licensing agreement for the reproduction and use of works at post-secondary institutions that substantially resembles the tariff before the Copyright Board of Canada;

Whereas AUCC has withdrawn its objections to the proposed Access Copyright tariff before the Copyright Board of Canada; and

Whereas the University has decided not to sign a license agreement with Access Copyright in spite of the decision of the AUCC;

Be it resolved that the AMS congratulate the University for its decision to not sign a license agreement with Access Copyright for the decisions indicated in a broadcast email on May 15, 2012, entitled “UBC is not signing a license agreement with Access Copyright”; and

Be it further resolved that the VP Academic be directed to communicate to the University the importance of ensuring continued support to staff, faculty, and students regarding matters of intellectual property that may negatively affect the overall learning experiences of students at UBC;

Be it further resolved that the VP Academic be directed to communicate to the University the opportunity to consider this decision as a “teachable moment” with regards to issues of civic policy, intellectual property, and academic freedom by providing students with the necessary curriculum and resources.

- Various Committee members and guests commented on the ways in which copyright has negatively affected their academic experiences
- Some questions were raised regarding the final resolution clause about the opportunity for a “teachable moment”
 - the Chair explained that the terminology is common in pedagogical discussions and that this moment marked a significant opportunity for UBC to not only act as a leader in intellectual freedom but also a responsibility to educate its students about the ways in which its decision was important
- ***The motion carries unanimously.***

Academic Experience Survey

The Committee reviewed and provided the following comments on the Academic Experience Survey:

- Why were there no questions about sexual orientation?
 - Survey was written to be quite similar to another one at McGill which did not contain questions about sexual orientation; this was an oversight and questions should/will be asked in the Fall
- Why was the survey timed for the Spring as everyone was leaving for summer?
 - Offered preliminary results; survey to be repeated in the Fall with much greater expected intake rate

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

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AMS Education Committee

Minutes of July 18, 2012

Attendance

Present: Justin Yang (Chair), Matt Parson (President), Jennifer Law (Engineering), Mary Leong (Senate), Cole Leonoff (At-Large, Commerce), Niloufar Keshmiri (At-Large, Commerce)

Guests: Sean Cregten (AVP Academic & University Affairs), Pierre Cenerelli (University and Government Relations Advisor)

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Justin Yang (Chair)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Jennifer Law

Seconded: Kiran Mahal

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Research Grant Program

Matt highlighted the pilot research grant program to provide small research grant funding for issues pertaining to student affairs. Some notable points included:

- an adjudication committee consisting of:
 - representation from the AMS
 - representation from the GSS
 - faculty representatives from the University from a variety of academic backgrounds

- the policy prompted by a lack of consistent research in the Canadian post-secondary education field

The Committee provided a number of questions to Matt, the answers of which are provided herewith:

- What kinds of disciplines would be represented in the adjudication group?
 - Ideally, a social scientist, a policy analyst, and someone with a more practical background (such as a statistician)
- Is this adjudication committee only for this purpose?
 - Yes
- Would there be a lot of work anticipated for members of this adjudication committee?
 - Yes, but it will probably be front-loaded. It would be less work as processes are documented and implemented.
- Couldn't the adjudication committee simply consist of Education Committee and three faculty representatives?
 - Yes and no. This is a possibility we can explore but wasn't the original idea.
- In terms of general disciplinary focus areas, what have been considered?
 - Mental health, for instance, is a huge focus.

A number of additional points were raised after the question and answer period:

- Matt noted that there might be possibilities for fund-matching from the University but Mary noted that it may be problematic to have funding available when it is politically aligned with the University's goals
- Justin noted that there exist other programs such as the Arts Undergraduate Research Award (AURA) that this could fit well with
- Matt raised the point of focusing on funding undergraduate research rather than graduate work
 - Jennifer commented that the best most meritorious research, regardless of researcher, should be funded
- Matt asked the committee what it might consider for metrics for research grant success
 - Cole noted that there should be an emphasis that are long-term rather than short-term
 - Mary commented on the importance of the level of impact as well as originality
 - Justin added that the ability to establish partnerships with other groups, both within and without the University should be a factor

Bill C-11

The Committee was updated on the process of Bill C-11 through the House of Commons.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm.

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Call to Order

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Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Jennifer Law

Seconded: Kiran Mahal

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

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