



## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

### AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 14, 2017

#### **Attendance**

Present: Ava Nasiri (President), Louis Retief (VP Finance), Chris Scott (VP Administration, arrived 12:55), Kathleen Simpson (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor), Hussam Zbeeb (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Samantha So (VP Academic),

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:38 pm.

#### **Agenda**

- The agenda was approved by consensus.

#### **Minutes**

- The minutes of February 7 were deferred.

#### **Book Update**

- Sheldon, who has been away finishing the AMS history book, reported that we are close to signing a contract with a publisher, who would like to bring the book out in the fall, if possible on our birthday, October 15.
- Ava: Maybe we can do the time capsule then too.

#### **Survey**

- Ava: Insights West is looking for questions.

#### **Referendum questions**

- Ava:
  - The bylaw changes will be in one question. One package, one question, also a summary.
  - There will be two other questions: one on the art collection and one on athletics.
  - The art collection question limits the sale to three works from our collection.
- Keith: Those three are the ones of most value, equal to half the value of the whole collection.

- Louis: Not sure we should create a separate art endowment; we should put the proceeds in the general AMS Endowment Fund.
- Will thus have to amend the art sale question at Council.
- Ava: No time limit on the sale this time; we want to be thoughtful about it, take our time, get the best advice, use the right people to sell the works to save ourselves money on the sale fees.

### Financial transparency

- The Ubysey is talking of initiating a referendum to require the AMS to post a rolling budget of actuals every month.
- Ava: I think we should publish monthly reports.
- Louis:
  - But we can't release personal information; there would be personal information in the reports about reimbursements. We'd have to spend time removing those before posting.
  - The monthly idea is good in theory, but in practice we'd have to hire another staff member to remove the personal information. Students should be informed how much this would cost. Quarterly reports would be better.
- Kathleen: The monthly statements are misleading. For instance, we haven't received all our payments yet for SUDS, so it looks like it lost money, but it didn't.

[Chris arrives.]

### Block Party

- Super Early Bird tickets went on sale and almost instantly sold out. There have been complaints.
- Ava: We will send an email to Council members and staff about complimentary tickets. Also about blocks of tickets for Constituencies; they can still buy those and sell at discount.

### Council

- Will be at the Alumni Centre tomorrow night, because the Nest Forum is booked.
- Ava:
  - Want to encourage Councillors to engage in respectful communication.
  - We're being asked to endorse the BDS question, but I think we should not take a stance.
  - Have received a lawyer's letter warning us against going ahead with the referendum.
  - Spoke to SPHR: they're open to us amending the question wording to say "Do you mandate the AMS to boycott" instead of "Do you support the AMS in boycotting," so it doesn't look like the question is coming from us.

**BDS**

- Ava:
  - Chris has met with all potentially relevant groups and told them we won't tolerate any infringement of our Respectful Environment policy.
  - The BDS petition has received signatures, but we understand more are being collected.
  - As an Executive we are hoping this will not be a year of turbulence on campus.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.