THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 8, 2017

Attendance
Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President), Max Holmes (VP Academic), Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council, arrived 2:40)

Regrets: Sally Lin (VP External), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor)

Guest: Isabella Picui (AVP External)

Recording Secretary: Alan Ehrenholz/Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm.

Agenda
• The agenda was approved (Pooja, Max).

Minutes
• The minutes of November 1 were postponed pending edits.

AES/UES Timeline
• Max:
  o Met with UBC’s Ben Pollard; also Dale from Insights West.
  o The University is doing an Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES) January 5 to mid-February.
  o We may want to run our Academic Experience Survey (AES) earlier than usual.
  o Options:
    ▪ Jan. 29 – Feb. 16
    ▪ Jan. 29 – March 9
    ▪ Feb. 26 – March 30
    ▪ March 12 – March 30
  o Earlier time period allows for earlier results: New Execs could use the results for their goals.
  o If AES runs at same time as UES, then it could be linked to the UES.
• Max recommends January 29 – March 9. Alim and Alan agreed.
• Max: This would require the Academic Office to move very quickly. Also Constituencies.
• Alan: You can present to Constituency Presidents at Presidents Council.
• Max:
  o First draft by end of November, early December.
  o Lori is in the loop for AES communication
• Keith: What about the Nest Experience Survey (NES)?
• Max: Concern about survey fatigue. Could add it to the election ballot or run it at the end of the AES.
• Alan: Proposed timeline March 5 – April 6.

Musqueam Communication Policy
• Max:
  o The policy (from 2015) says we’re supposed to talk to Kelsi before we talk to the Musqueam nation.
  o It’s up for review in February.
  o The Academic Office will review the policy and bring it back to Exec Com.
  o We’ll consult Linc Kesler (UBC’s senior advisor on Indigenous affairs) and other experts.

Food Bank
• Marium:
  o Numbers are up.
  o Budget was increased, but is still not enough: Food Bank is having trouble keeping the shelves stocked.
  o Looking at new purchasing methods.
• Alim: We should increase the purchasing budget. Am looking into ways of doing that.
• Marium:
  o Attempting to form AlumniUBC partnership.
  o Abuse of the service is also up somewhat:
    ▪ Not looking to deter legitimate users, but want to ensure proper use.
    ▪ One idea is to check with ESP’s.
    ▪ Could develop an MoU.
• Max and Alan thought an ESP MoU was a good idea.
• Alan: Food drives?
• Alim: The frats did one.
• Pooja: SLSC is doing one.
• Alan: Will have staff write a proposal for what an AMS-wide food drive could look like. It seems to be generally supported by the Executive.
• Marium: Do an add-a-dollar partnership?
• Alan: Maybe.
Thrift Store
- Alan: Been approached by a group wanting to use the space downstairs beside the Delly as a Thrift Store. Exploring this.
- Max: There are lots of thrift stores in Vancouver.
- Alan: None that close to UBC.
- Marium:
  - Is that space big enough?
  - Would the AMS manage it?
- Alan: The plan is not fully developed yet, but it seems it would fulfil some social, economic, and sustainability goals.
- Isabella: There wouldn’t be room for clothes, but it could stock kettles and other household items.
- Alan: Funding from U-Hub (student initiative on sharing). Can work out the rent.
- Alim: Interesting, but could be a big mess and may affect the image of the Nest.
- Alan: Better than just keeping it as a fenced-off storage area.
- Isabella: Stuff could just be dumped there.
- Max: Especially when students are moving out of residence. Could we hire someone to oversee?
- Alan:
  - We could take on a role. They thought it would be volunteer run.
  - I’m hearing a lot of concern. Is that a No from the Executive?
- Max: I’m willing to continue discussing this. Do we need a business plan?
- Alan: They are producing data, a survey. We should see what it says. They have a lot of passion for this.

Mental Health Initiative
- Alan:
  - This issue has been at the forefront lately.
  - May be a good idea to go on the front foot to support mental health.
  - I’ve asked my assistant Ian to prepare a second term charity-style event to support a charity.
  - I know Marium is already looking at something.
- Marium:
  - Maybe an AMS-wide initiative, and not just one event, but a week, and connected to an ask.
  - It’s great to have events, but they’re over and the conversation ends.
  - Cultural shifts need bold statements.
  - A big commitment from AMS leadership would help.
Alim: Why not throw a fundraiser?
Alan: Perhaps a week ending with a fundraiser.
Alim: A campus-wide initiative.
Marium: Good to connect to UBC Wellness.
Alan:
  o Need to make another Block Party or Storm the Wall. A UBC staple.
  o Though there is a concern about over-programming, and some might ask why would people care?
  o Need to strike a chord with people’s beliefs.
Marium: Elsewhere people do things like a run for mental health. We don’t have to do a run, but something symbolic.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.