**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of March 16, 2018

**Attendance**

Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President, arrived 2:12), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Max Holmes (VP Academic), Sally Lin (VP External), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance)

Guests: Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External-elect), Chris Hakim (VP Admin-elect)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm with Sally in the chair.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was approved (Max, Pooja).

**Minutes**

- There was discussion of whether to switch to using initials in the minutes, but the Executive thought it would be too confusing.
- The minutes of March 9, 2018 (amended to replace the initials with names) were approved (Max, Sally).

**SLFS (Student Legal Fund Society)**

- Pooja: We have found a new place for them.

**Ombudsperson**

- Keith asked if we should post for a new Ombudsperson to be appointed in May or September.
- The Executive said it should be as soon as possible.
- Keith: And should we make it a permanent rather than a student position?
- It was agreed to wait until Alim and Alan were present to discuss this further.

[Alan arrived.]
AMS Executive Committee
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UBC Sexual Violence Advisory Committee
- Max:
  - The committee had a robust discussion about the issues.
  - UBC is realizing this is a high priority and is dedicating more resources to it.
  - Going to Senate.
  - Frank discussion about lack of awareness about Policy 131 on sexual violence.
  - It’s a good policy on paper, but implementation and communication an issue.
  - They’re going to bring it to the UBC Executive to discuss better implementation.
  - The committee is meeting again in April and has committed to a review in a year.
- Sally: The BC Green caucus has reached out to us on the sexual violence issue. What Max has drafted is a good basis for what we can say to them.
- Max:
  - We need to discuss the role of the AMS (especially SASC) in this.
  - Education, club training, etc.
  - Students speaking up on this issue is appreciated.
  - We need to review how to continue doing that.

ISA (International Students Association)
- Max:
  - They’re seeking to raise the profile of international students on campus.
  - International students now make up 25% of the undergraduates.
  - They were talking about getting a voting seat on Council and being designated a Constituency of the AMS.
  - I told them we do our Constituencies by School and there were issues of double representation.
  - They were also asking about another governance review. I said we wouldn’t be doing one any time soon.
  - And they wanted to use Simply Voting for their club election, or wanted to postpone their election.
- Alan:
  - We might do a governance review in five years, or even sooner.
- Sally: They can have a voice through our new caucuses.
- Max:
  - They want to be part of consultation; they’re seeking a role.
  - Mostly they’re interested in advocacy, perhaps through the caucus system. The international student in caucus could be the President of the ISA.
  - As to Simply Voting, the ISA isn’t a Constituency.
- Alan: That doesn’t mean they can’t have Simply Voting for elections.
- Sally: What about the advocacy issue?
- Max: They’re included on every consultation email on international issues.
- Marium: Are all the international students in the ISA?
Max: That’s one of my concerns about international students voting.

Sheldon: Historically we had a non-voting seat for international students on Council, but it didn’t last long.

Max: Mainly they’re interested in advocacy. There’s also the elections issue: if we try to make an agreement with them on elections, it could take a while. Should I keep talking to them?

Pooja: It’s not a big deal to allow them to postpone their elections or use Simply Voting.

Sally: Advocacy within the University is one thing, but if they want to speak to government, there’s a problem with multiple groups speaking; it decentralizes things.

Cristina: We could do more collaborative advocacy with them.

Max: They want to move from being a cultural club to an advocacy group. They want a seat on Council to bring international issues forward.

Alan: We need to integrate groups like this so they’ll feel part of the process and see how our advocacy is working.

Sally: We need to do a better job of communicating with them. We are already advocating for international students.

Max:
  - It’s good to help other groups, like the Sustainability Collective; it’s good to collaborate with them.
  - Elections agreement and advocacy agreement.

Marium:
  - The Sustainability Collective is made up of groups opting in.
  - But the international students are different: not all of them want to be in; not all want to be involved.
  - And how many groups do we want to be using Simply Voting?

Max: Also need to look at the agreement with UBC to see if we’re allowed to use the membership list for club elections.

Lobbying

Sally:
  - The trip to Victoria went very well.
  - Met with MLA’s, members of the Opposition and the BC Green caucus, and government representatives.
  - Conversation with government ministers, MLA’s, the Opposition, and Green representatives were fruitful. Opposition and Green Caucus willing to work with student societies to ask questions and advance certain asks.
  - Government is happy that we are happy over their housing commitments; the funding for housing is an unprecedented investment.
  - On tenancy rights the meeting was brief, but they indicated willingness to continuing the conversation via consultation, which is good.
On needs-based grants they’re doing research and we will need to continue advocacy to ensure that it is an up-front allocation.

Gave the 1400 signatures we got on the Rent with Rights petition to government.

Overall really happy. Have set up good foundations for the upcoming year to allow for more conversations. They are willing to speak to student societies.

One thing to work on: AMS communications. We need to strengthen our PR. Perhaps do more in-person meetings. Could meet with our own MLA and staffers.

Made more connections with ministerial staffers on this trip as well.

Next steps include responding to follow-ups for more information, communicating our appreciation for housing funding, documenting what was discussed in meeting for transitioning, and requesting follow-up meetings with our MLA’s to discuss what was missing in more depth.

Updates

- Alan:
  - Communications stuff.
  - Interview with the Ubyssey about the RBC office in the Nest, which has now opened.
  - Built a wall near Storm the Wall.

- Max:
  - UBC Housing Action Plan meeting: getting everything we asked for:
    - Following Rent with Rights percentage increases.
    - Agreed to putting University student housing in the policy.
    - Number of student beds will be tied to the Campus Plan and the Land Use Plan.
    - Building out capacity: a rolling number.
    - A huge win.
  - Committee on Policy 73 (disability accommodation) is going to start meeting.

- Marium:
  - Shortlisted candidates for Student Services Manager, Assistant Student Services Manager, and the Service Coordinator positions.
  - Good candidates for almost all the positions.
  - Interviews next week.
  - Canadian Mental Health Survey: on panel developing questions.

- Pooja:
  - New signage at Art Gallery.
  - New Nest animation project: vinyl on windows saying No Place Like Home.
  - Just Desserts on Tuesday.
  - All-Presidents Dinner March 29,
• Max: Academic Experience is done; draft report coming out; 3097 respondents.
• Sally:
  o Housing Fair Wednesday.
  o Follow-up/write-up from lobby trip.
  o Mental Health policy draft.
  o Sexual Violence external policy.
  o Affordability policy.
  o Advocacy Committee minutes.

**Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.