THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 23, 2018

Attendance
Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Max Holmes (VP Academic), Sally Lin (VP External), Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager, arrived 2:35), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm.

Agenda
• The agenda was approved (Alim, Sally).

Minutes
• The minutes of March 16, 2018 were approved (Max, Pooja).

Ombudsperson
• Alan:
  o Last year we didn’t have one till September-October.
  o When Waged came in as Ombudsperson, she found lots of emails and cases waiting for her.
  o We had also reduced the hours.
  o Waged has suggested increasing them again.
  o Questions:
    ▪ Should we hire for May 1?
    ▪ Should we explore hours?
• Keith: There’s also the issue of qualifications and pay. Are they underpaid at Tier 2?
• Alan:
  o Do we want to go to full-time?
  o If a student, we can’t break from the Tiers, but if not, we can.
• Keith: If we do, then they’ll need qualifications.
• Pooja:
  o Yes to May 1.
  o Helpful for the club issues that come up over the summer.
Also would be helpful to be permanent: cases carry on.

- The Executive agreed to hire for May 1.
- Sally:
  - Lots of value in making it a permanent staff position.
  - Staff members have gone to the Ombudsperson.
  - We need someone with a legal/conflict resolution background.
  - Need strong recruitment.
- Alan: So we’ll hire for May 1 for sure and let the next Executive decide on whether to make it a permanent position.
- Keith: What about the budget?
- Alan: We have till June 30 to prepare the final budget.
- Keith: But who hire on May 1?
- Alan: It will stay as is for May 1 and we’ll leave it for the next Executive team.
- Max: Can we raise them to Tier 3?
- Alan: Tier 3 is for supervisory positions.
- Max: We want to make the job more attractive.
- Alan:
  - Let’s do the review first.
  - We could try to do something for the April 25 Council meeting.
  - We could ask the HR Committee and the HR Department to look at this.
  - But I suggest status quo for May 1.
- Alim: We can budget for 20 hours a week in case we increase to that many.

GSS Referendum

- Alan:
  - Over the summer term I did research on services we provide to the Graduate Student Society.
  - It’s hard to quantify.
  - Jeanie Malone asked about the GSS referendum at the last AMS Council meeting.
  - She shared some information from the Grad Students.
  - Max said, truthfully, that we’d set up meetings and the GSS didn’t show up.
  - Max also said the President would handle it, meaning I (and later Marium) will coordinate discussions about services.
  - We’ve received good feedback from the GSS about our efforts this year on advocacy, on specific asks for grad needs. Our efforts should continue this way.
  - They’re still mandated to hold a referendum.
  - I will discuss with Marium.

SASC (Sexual Assault Support Centre)

- Alim:
  - We’ve been funding SASC out of a reserve: $176,000.
o The budget now is at $282,000 to cover hospital accompaniments.
o The SASC fee increase didn’t pass.
o We need to figure out what SASC looks like next year and in the years to come.
o It can operate out of the reserve, but then it will cease to be able to provide hospital accompaniments.
o Do we look at a separate referendum to raise the fee?
o Do we look to UBC’s SVPRO (Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office)?
o We’ve been building up the reserve for 15 years; do we want to use it up in three to pay for the hospital accompaniments?
  • Alan: So maybe budget as before, but hold conversations with UBC:
    o Max will explore this.

[Marium arrives.]

**Our Turn**
  • Sally:
    o Placeholder motion on Council agenda for us to be a signatory (to the national action plan against campus sexual violence).
    o We wrote a letter of support.
    o We used Our Turn as a policy checklist for our submissions.
    o Their advocacy is useful.
    o A lot of what is called for in the action plan is already done here by SASC. We’ve gone above and beyond.

**Academic Experience Survey**
  • Max:
    o Good amount of respondents: 4700 started, 3,097 completed. (We don’t look at results from the non-completed ones because we can’t weigh the demographics.)
    o Significant amount of graduate students: 22% (almost doubled from last year and about equal to their percentage on campus).
    o Good amount of first years and international students.
    o Lots of sexual assault reported.
    o Final report by end of April. Could present to Council.
    o The number who are aware of us and trust us with finances is steady or better than before.
    o Around the same or better on advocacy etc.
    o 45% think we do well on mental health advocacy: that’s great.
  • Keith: Only 260 responses to Nest survey; going to offer better prizes.
  • Keith: The people who don’t finish: which questions stop them?
  • Max: I think it’s more the time than the nature of the questions.
Updates

- Alan:
  - 4 pm today is Robyn’s farewell (Robyn Tung in the HR department)
  - Next week Storm the Wall (Alan is participating and is encouraging others to come out and cheer).
  - When Women Rise MoU to be signed; construction will begin.
  - Student Volunteer Emergency First Response Team.

- Marium:
  - Hiring. Full team done soon.
  - Wrapping up, transition.
  - Funding for Safewalk.

- Alim:
  - Met Resource Groups to talk about the fee restructure.
    - Their concern was the lack of consultation, which is fair: we didn’t consult them.
    - I did explain my concerns.
    - Talked about them doing quarterly reports and improving their relationship with the AMS.
  - Budget: Working with Kuol (the incoming VP Finance) to make him familiar with things.

- Pooja:
  - Just Desserts: Alan did a great job.
  - Club Executive orientation.
  - Still working on I-7 (the expulsion policy). Not for this Council meeting, but for the last meeting: give me your feedback.
  - All Presidents Dinner next Thursday, including the Great Trekker award.
    - Two after parties: Drag and an Engineering party (Alan’s band is playing).
  - Constituency elections: some concerns.

- Max:
  - Sexual violence consultation (the working group):
    - Working with SASC.
    - A Town Hall to hear what people think needs to change.
    - Also talking to staff.
  - UBC Housing Action Plan: got all our asks: big win.
  - Cancellation of recent Senate meeting prompted a letter from me and the co-chairs of the Student Senate Caucus (Kevin Doering and Marium) about the need for more resources for Senate.
  - Going to Sexual Violence committee meeting.

- Sally:
  - Policy Advisor interviews.
  - Follow-ups to government.
AMS Executive Committee
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- Transitioning Cristina (the incoming VP External).
- Staff are wrapping up research reports.
- Supporting Millennium Line extension.
- AMS Housing Fair was successful.
  - MP Joyce Murray and MLA David Eby are coming to campus to talk about housing.
- Federally, an interview about the budget. There’s going to be millions of dollars of investment in research and an attempt to ensure gender diversity and inclusivity; also a plan to support research by 8,000 students, including undergraduates.

Councillor of the Year
- Sheldon read out the Code rules on choosing a Councillor of the Year.

The meeting went in camera at 3:11 pm.