THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 31, 2018

Attendance
Present: Max Holmes (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 4:11), Chris Hakim (VP Administration), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), Kuol Akuechbeny (VP Finance), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Piers Fleming (Student Services Manager), Jason Tockman (Policy Advisor, left at 4:30), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Marium Hamid (President)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm with Max in the chair.

Agenda
• The agenda was approved (Cristina, Kuol).

Minutes
• The minutes of July 27 were approved (Cristina, Kuol).

Trans Mountain Pipeline
• Cristina:
  o Thorough conversations at the Advocacy Committee.
  o Some conflicting opinions.
  o Where does the AMS come in?
  o Climate change is important for students to talk about, but right now may not be the best time for a statement.
  o Maybe the AMS should be hosting a forum for dialogue on pipelines and climate change.
  o There can be a lot that the AMS does: this forum, our policy, supporting the Climate Hub.
  o We should see where students are at before putting a statement out: create space for dialogue.
  o So the decision was to take a step back from putting out a statement.
New SUB Project
- Chris:
  - Expecting permit yesterday, but delayed because of fire alarm audibility issues.
  - Running audibility tests.
  - Hopefully those will be done by the end of the week, and then we can open.

Hiring
- Keith:
  - Interviewed for a financial processing assistant.
  - With Chris, interviewing for HR Manager.
  - Two good candidates for Senior Manager of Student Services: interviews next week or the week after.

Audit
- Keith: The audit is going well; on track to be done by the end of August.

Quarterly Reports
- Kuol:
  - Issues from the fee referendum.
  - Concerns about how money is spent.
  - The thinking is that those who receive dedicated fees will make quarterly reports that everyone can see to increase accountability.
  - Have been meeting with the relevant groups to discuss logistics and am looking to add something to Code that will be sent to the Governance Committee.
  - The reports would come to the VP Finance to be posted.
- Cristina: Why quarterly rather than twice a year?
- Kuol:
  - To better keep track of financial operations.
  - Most organizations do this.
- Keith: Maybe create a template.
- Kuol:
  - Good idea.
  - Something based on what the Sustainable Projects Fund uses.
- Cristina: Has there been pushback from the groups?
- Kuol:
  - They’ve raised concerns about extra labour (but we can provide assistance).
  - Also fear of AMS control (but we’re not controlling, just getting a report).
- Cristina: Did they have an alternative suggestion?
• Kuol: The best way to do this is a quarterly report.
• Cristina:
  o It may need context.
  o They could provide an executive summary of their activities and present it to Council, so they’re more involved.

Referendum Consultation
• Kuol:
  o Same context: the fee referendum.
  o Some are fearing a referendum next time might eliminate their fee.
  o They want something added to Code to say such a proposal would have to be discussed first.
  o We have a draft Code amendment that would require consultation with a group if it will be affected by a referendum.
• Chris:
  o That seems too broad. Lots of things indirectly affect groups.
  o It needs to be fleshed out.
• Kuol: Going to send this to Governance to see how it can be made feasible.
• Cristina: What will the proposed consultation mean? Will it be meaningful consultation? That will be one of the first questions.
• Kuol:
  o The point is to initiate discussion.
  o Last time the affected groups didn’t know until the last minute.
• Max:
  o The Bylaws are superior to the Code, and they lay down the requirements for referendums, so no Code change can stop a referendum from going forward even if the required consultation does not take place.
  o And who would be consulted? What does this actually mean?
  o The ultimate decision is still with the students.

Investment Policy
• Kuol:
  o Thanks for the input from everyone.
  o Met with the Investment Manager, and we’ve made changes in what will go to Council.
  o We’re trying move away from fossil fuel companies to fossil fuel free companies.
  o It’s not going to hurt our accounts.

[Jason left.]
Updates

- Max:
  - Hopefully an announcement soon about undergraduate research.
  - Teaching and Learning Enhancement.
  - SVPRO meeting: the first since the SASC decision.
  - Impact Grants.
  - Advocacy Committee has produced two policies for Council.
  - The final version of the Academic Experience Survey, with recommendations, is going to Council.
  - Sexual assault awareness campaign:
    - Two possible slogans for cup sleeves.
      - One about if you’ve suffered an assault, you’re not alone.
      - The other: “Sexual violence has no place at UBC, but you do.”
    - Concern that the first one might be triggering and it addresses just survivors.
    - The other option seems more inclusive and uplifting.
    - Everyone likes both, but the second one may be preferred.
  - Kuol: Can we use both?
  - Max:
    - It’s more expensive to use two.
    - And better to have a single message.

- Kuol:
  - Looking into using money from SAIF (the Sexual Assault Initiatives Fund) for SASC.
  - Discussing with SASC.

- Cristina:
  - Meeting with MLA David Eby about student loans, Open Educational Resources, completion grants.
  - Rent with Rights group meeting: discussing where it’s going.
  - Advocacy discussed the Trans Mountain Pipeline, including lots of nuance and discussion of the AMS’s role.
  - SUDS: Just three or four weeks till the conference. Presenters arranged. Lots of cool speakers.
  - Speaking to MP Joyce Murray about federal asks.
  - Phone meeting with UCRU (the coalition of Canadian student societies) about federal advocacy.
  - Municipal elections: looking to have an all-candidates debate.
  - Referendum on electoral reform: creating educational materials.
AMS Executive Committee

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- **Piers:**
  - My staff is busy hiring volunteers.
  - Food Bank moved into its new space:
    - Mixed reviews about its new distribution system.
    - Once we articulate the benefits, people will be fine with it.
  - Speakeasy waiting to move into its new space.
  - Dash com for Safewalk car to check on speeding.

- **Chris:**
  - Finished club deconstitution appeals.
  - Going to be planning Clubs Days and Club Executive orientations.
  - Making sure non-AMS departmental clubs get removed from Constituency councils.
  - Constituency Sustainability Strategy: talking to Constituencies about their own strategies.
    - SEEDS project for AUS, SUS, EUS
  - Art Gallery:
    - Heffel auction house
    - Volunteer program soon
    - Physical ad.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.