



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of September 12, 2018

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Dylan Braam (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large), Andy Wu (Councilor)

Regrets: Kate Burnham (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor)

Guests: Jason Tockman (AMS Policy Advisor), Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability), Rodney Little Mustache, Jacob Fischer-Schmidt (Social Justice Centre)

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order

Called to order at 3:05pm

Approval of Agenda

- Rodney adding discussion item of HIV/AIDS in other business
- Approved with unanimous consent

Approval of Minutes

- Dylan expressed concerns about length and content of last meeting's minutes, not as long as they typically are.
- Dylan abstains the approval of minutes, otherwise approved by all of the committee.
- 3:10 Jacob Fischer-Schmidt arrives

VP External Affairs Updates

- Cristina:
 - Busy first week of meetings and hiring
 - Had a booth at the First Nations Longhouse (FNHL) Resource Fair to talk to students about transit and resources
 - Team is working on financial assistance proposals and research
 - Prepping for municipal election, marketing and outreach plan to engage student voters. Partnering with GSS and UBC Debate Society to put on a mayoral debate.
 - Working on a letter on Rent With Rights campaigns, working with different provincial groups.
 - Connecting with student unions in BC on lobbying for an upcoming October provincial government visit
- Daniel asks for an update on the PR referendum. Cristina updates that they are doing a campaign on "Get Out The Vote", also trying to get David Eby to come out and talk to students.
- Dylan and Rodney ask if AMS will be endorsing a position in the referendum, Cristina says the AMS will be non-partisan. Reason being that AMS does not know what student political stances are on this issue, just wants to encourage students to make informed decisions.
- Rodney brings up supporting Chief Ian Campbell, committee confirms that Ian Campbell has dropped out of the race two days prior. Rodney stresses importance of Indigenous

representation in politics, both in municipal and AMS politics, and encouraging Indigenous voices to speak up.

- Rodney advocates to include residential school survivors and their families, also low-income students, in the affordability requests. Cristina is unsure of how long this process will take, confirms need to advocate for financial aid to low-income students.
- Rodney highlights an event about postsecondary Indigenous education upcoming in Vancouver, will send information to the committee.
- Jacob clarifies that students can only vote for Electoral District A, but they can vote for school district representatives.
- Rodney leaves 3:23
- Andy asks for elections campaigns to go beyond basic education of electoral process, wants campaign to be prescriptive not descriptive. Cristina agrees to include the possible advantage and disadvantages to both options.

VP Academic and University Affairs Updates

- Max:
 - Met with Chair of BoG
 - Sitting on cannabis policy committee, seems to be guided mostly by provincial legislation.
 - Undergraduate Research Working Group has been making a lot of progress.
 - Had a meeting with representatives of the fraternity village to discuss the relationship between the AMS and the fraternities
 - Despite zero councilors volunteering for the second year in a row, Textbook Broke ran a successful campaign engaging with students about OERs.
 - BoG committee meetings upcoming
 - Working with Senate on Academic Concession Policy
 - Sitting on UBC VP External search committee
- Rodney returns 3:30
- Michelle: Will you be highlighting the AMS decision to divest at the Board of Governors?
- Max: Yes
- Rodney: Would like to start more programs for Indigenous people, like an Elders program.
- Max: Advocating for this in particular would be perhaps better suited to Senate or speaking directly to faculty and associate deans. Also within the Indigenous Strategic Plan.
- Rodney: How long will it take for Indigenous students on Senate, BoG?
- Max: Your proposals have helped to guide the October 2nd Indigenous Community Circle discussion.
- Rodney: It seems you are restarting the process that you started at the meeting in the Nest in March.
- Max: I can't say how long it will take, but ultimately those seats are decisions made by the university and province. When it comes to AMS decisions, we think it is important to do broad-based consultation.

Board of Governors Submissions Discussion

- Max:
 - We sent three submissions to the BoG. One for increased housing and tower height in the Stadium Road Neighbourhood. Would like to maximize trees and park space.

- Second submission was about the Life Building and Brock Commons Phase 2. There needs to be a short term (1-4 years) space allocation and a long term space allocation (beyond 5 years)
- Third submission on Policy 131, very satisfied on workshops this summer. We also called for the policy to be reviewed a year early, there are issues with policy rather than procedures to amend.
- Jacob: Was SASC a key stakeholder on Policy 131?
- Max: Yes
- Rodney: Can anyone make submissions to the BoG?
- Max: Yes
- Dylan: The purpose of committee is to assist, not oversight, therefore why are we talking about these after they have been submitted?
- Max: We included this discussion to inform the committee. The Stadium Road Neighbourhood was discussed at council. The Policy 131 was consulted with SASC. The Life Building submission was a reactionary submission, usually not enough time to circulate reactions to committee. Going forward would like to include these submissions and let the committee review.
- Rodney: I would like to submit that the Ubysey should be removed from this building and to cut the office in half to make space for Indigenous students.
- Max: This would be a conversation to have with the VP Administration. We do have a contract for that space with the Ubysey.
- Jacob leaves 3:55pm

Student Issues and Equity Caucus Terms of Reference Discussion

- Max:
 - The Student Issues and Equity caucus has been dormant for a while, it is a labour intensive process to join the caucus. We would like to consult many groups on changes.
- Andy: Two years ago, I was supposedly a member of this caucus. We met once and did not hear from the VP External's office afterwards. Reading through the TOR now, I still do not understand the purpose this caucus serves.
- Max: We have this caucus because of the governance review from two years ago. Historically marginalized groups do not feel as represented by the AMS. Governance review did not detail what the caucus would look like. Advocacy committee has already voted to have the creation of this structure created in its goals.
- Michelle: Consulting with marginalized groups will be key, especially resource groups. I am personally opposed to an application process, it should be accessible. This can also be seen as tokenistic to have specific positions, is not intersectional. I would like to see a discussion circle open to anyone that has concerns to come and voice concerns.
- Dylan: I am concerned by the application process. Needs to have a variety of views, appointment and application process internal to AMS is problematic. Would be good to get groups external to the AMS to put names forward, will need to be careful.

Adjournment

The meeting time was exhausted and adjourned at 4:05PM before other business.