



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 7, 2018

Attendance

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

Regrets: Marium Hamid (President)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm with Max in the chair.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Chris, Cristina).

Minutes

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

Tuition Consultation Guidelines

- The Executive had a discussion about the upcoming tuition consultation and the University's proposal about the consultation guidelines.

Bangladesh/Saudi Arabia

- Cristina:
 - Student protests in Bangladesh over road conditions.
 - Some students have been asking us to post a statement.
 - The situation indirectly affects our students; we need to say something, but perhaps not a formal statement.
 - We may share posts on social media; we recognize the importance.
 - On Saudi Arabia:
 - 300 Saudi Arabian UBC students have been affected by the Saudi government's decision to cut off funding to Saudi students in Canada.
 - Canadian universities are saying they are going to support the students, but there is no clarity over what can be done.

- This issue does require a statement; it affects UBC students here on campus.
- Even students paying for themselves are being told they have to leave Canada.
- Max: We should say something to follow up on our previous statement.
- [The AMS in May issued a statement calling for the release of a Saudi woman who had been arrested. More recently Canada's foreign minister, Chrystia Freeland, tweeted about Canada's concern about the arrest of other Saudi human rights activists. This led to the actions of the Saudi government.]
- Cristina: Not clear what can be done.
- Max: There is emergency funding.
- Cristina: But they're being asked to leave.
- Max: We need to talk to the authorities, see what support the University can offer, what the government will do.
- Chris:
 - On Bangladesh, it does affect students here.
 - It's important we stand in solidarity.
 - There are people here with friends and family there.
- Cristina:
 - It's more a question of what we can do.
 - We can't do much about road safety in Bangladesh.
 - We should say the AMS stands in solidarity with these students.

Ministry Mental Health Initiative

- Cristina:
 - The Ministry of Advanced Education is interested in something 24/7 for students who need mental health support.
 - This comes out of discussions with us and other student societies.
 - They recognize the need for more of a mechanism and may propose a hotline with counsellors.
 - It could be like Empower Me.
- Chris:
 - The numbers hired will be important.
 - Is this for students only?
- Cristina:
 - It's a postsecondary initiative.
 - It's to address the lack of accessibility for after-hours care.
 - An addition to what the University is doing; it won't take anything away.
- Chris:
 - Will they be making referrals?
 - To a specific centre? Psychologists?

- Cristina: This is in the preliminary stages.

New SUB

- Chris:
 - Done mostly, except for Sprouts.
 - Permit is done; people can just walk in now.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.