



# THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

## AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 10, 2018

### Attendance

Present: Marium Hamid (President), Chris Hakim (VP Administration), Max Holmes (VP Academic & University Affairs), Kuol Akuechbeny (VP Finance), Cristina Initchi (VP External), Piers Fleming (Student Services Manager), Jason Tockman (Policy Advisor), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Keith Hester (Managing Director)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

### Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Max, Kuol).

### Minutes

- The minutes of June 19 and June 27 were approved with a minor correction to the June 19 minutes (Max, Chris).

### Ben Shapiro

- Max:
  - We have an interview request from the Ubysey.
  - We can advocate that he shouldn't be allowed on campus because of UBC policy, but UBC's policy is conflicted:
    - Senate policy only forbids unlawful speech.
    - UBC's Policy 3 (on Discrimination and Harassment) doesn't apply to visitors.
    - The recent statement on freedom of expression from the President's Office is not a policy and is vague.
    - So we would probably get the same response from the UBC Provost that others have gotten: he'll be allowed on campus.
- Marium:
  - There's also UBC's Policy 14 (on At-Risk Behaviour), but the threshold for invoking that is high, and it would need the RCMP.

- Max:
  - We can still explore the situation.
  - We can take the interview and refer to our Constitution, which calls on us to promote unity and goodwill.
  - We think an event like this (a speech by Ben Shapiro) would not promote unity and goodwill; it would provoke hate.
  - We can say the AMS does not support the event
  - If individual Executives want to do so, they can join any potential protests: it would be an individual choice.
  - We can point out that the event promotes hate and divisiveness.
- Piers: We can mention Speakeasy and our other services.
- Marium:
  - On the argument about free speech, this event is not being done in the spirit of discussion: it's a non-academic giving a speech promoting his point of view.
  - We understand it will be in the Chan Centre at \$60 per ticket.
- Jason: If we can show a regular pattern of hate speech, there would be grounds for banning him from campus.
- Max:
  - He has shared at least one video that is disrespectful to Indigenous peoples.
  - He's talked about there being 800 million radicalized Muslims.
  - He refuses to use people's preferred pronouns.
  - He supported ideas that universities are supporting a gay agenda.
  - He's clearly divisive and has the potential to promote hate
  - I can research what he has said that could promote hate.
  - I don't think we want to get into a debate on freedom of expression; what we want to say is that he goes against the values of the AMS.
- Piers: We can say we support the free speech of those protesting the event.
- Max:
  - I don't know how much we want to bring free speech into the argument.
  - We want to focus on what we disagree with and of course support the right of people to protest his appearance here.
  - We don't support creating a climate of fear.
- Kuol: We don't know what he's going to say?
- Max: No, but based on what he's said at other universities, he could promote hate.
- Kuol: If students say they want to listen to this person, what is our response?
- Max:
  - This is someone who makes other community members uncomfortable and creates a climate of fear for many students.
  - We're not trying to tell students what to think, but we're not going to support an event at which hurtful things will be said about gender, race, and other historically marginalized groups.

- If students want to see what he says, there are lots of resources on the Internet.
- We can do the interview and then issue a statement before he comes (in October).

### Resource Groups

- Chris:
  - Met yesterday with the Resource Groups about their concerns, demands.
  - They want us to go over their demands and let them know which we want to take on or, if we've done any of them, how we have done them.
  - They'd like a meeting next week.
- Kuol: They want to know who to connect with.
- Chris: The VP Admin.
- Marium:
  - Also the Senior Student Services Manager.
  - We need to look over the demands thoughtfully and then respond, but in the meantime we can continue meeting with them.
  - We'll produce a formal response and if they want a meeting, we can have one.

### Trans-Mountain Pipeline

- Cristina:
  - The Advocacy Committee has been considering a statement of opposition to the pipeline and a call to action on climate change.
  - However, we're concerned about being reactive and also about timing: right now a statement would just go into the void.
  - We're looking for something actionable.
  - Want to discuss with the committee.
  - Want to get rest of the community involved.
  - Want to stand in solidarity with Indigenous people, supporting free and informed consent from Indigenous peoples on policies.
  - We also want to do something on the environmental aspect, since students and youth will be the ones bearing the burden.
  - But not sure now is the best time for a statement, though we should do one at some point. We need to tie it to a purpose.
- Marium: Reaching out to the Sustainability Collective to get their input would be important.
- Jason:
  - Twenty cases of First Nations are at the BC Supreme Court now.
  - That will be the decision focus, more than the protests.
  - Prime Minister Trudeau is also asking the Canada Pension Plan to invest in pipelines.

- But it is a good time to make a statement. If enough groups say something, it could have an impact. It would be timely now.
- Cristina: I can raise this at Advocom.

### Food Bank

- Piers:
  - There's been crazy usage of the Food Bank.
  - Worrying how fast we're burning through our purchasing powers.
  - Have to be more strict on enforcing the rules for people using the Food Bank.
  - People are taking a lot.
  - Proposing to introduce wire frame baskets and allowing people to take only as much as fits.
  - This will also allow us to see what they're taking to make sure it's not inappropriate.
  - Also, we are going to hold back the more expensive items and only release them on request.
  - This will be easier in the new area in the New/Old SUB.
  - Adopting these procedures will make it easier to enforce the rules and be fairer to those who obey the rules.
- Max: Does the Food Bank lack space? Cash?
- Piers:
  - We're going to have more space once we move: there will be a storage room so not everything we get in will have to be on display.
  - We can release things gradually.
  - If there is less on display, people will likely take less.
- Marium:
  - The more you put out, the more will be taken.
  - You need inventory control.
- Piers: A mini-fridge would be useful.

[Max leaves.]

- Cristina: How do we differ from other food banks?
- Marium:
  - They're really large; they don't rely on donations.
  - We can look into adding a small barrier to deter people who are just shopping as opposed to those who need.

[Chris leaves.]

- Piers:

- But that could deter people who need.
- I think just enforcing the rules more will help: limitations on the number of visits per week and the number of items per food type.
- Also keeping some items behind the counter.
- We will have to do a campaign about our move and can also present our values.

### **Council/Town Hall**

- Marium:
  - Sending a document on SASC finances and hiring to Council.
  - There will be a presentation.
  - There will be a package with other things later (on SASC).

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.