



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 Initchi (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:
 - Thorough conversations at the Advocacy Committee.
 - Some conflicting opinions.
 - Where does the AMS come in?
 - Climate change is important for students to talk about, but right now may not be the best time for a statement.
 - Maybe the AMS should be hosting a forum for dialogue on pipelines and climate change.
 - There can be a lot that the AMS does: this forum, our policy, supporting the Climate Hub.
 - We should see where students are at before putting a statement out: create space for dialogue.
 - 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.

[Max arrives.]

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:
 - It may need context.
 - They could provide an executive summary of their activities and present it to Council, so they're more involved.

Referendum Consultation

- Kuol:
 - Same context: the fee referendum.
 - Some are fearing a referendum next time might eliminate their fee.
 - They want something added to Code to say such a proposal would have to be discussed first.
 - We have a draft Code amendment that would require consultation with a group if it will be affected by a referendum.
- Chris:
 - That seems too broad. Lots of things indirectly affect groups.
 - 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:
 - The point is to initiate discussion.
 - Last time the affected groups didn't know until the last minute.
- Max:
 - 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.
 - And who would be consulted? What does this actually mean?
 - The ultimate decision is still with the students.

Investment Policy

- Kuol:
 - Thanks for the input from everyone.
 - Met with the Investment Manager, and we've made changes in what will go to Council.
 - We're trying move away from fossil fuel companies to fossil fuel free companies.
 - 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.

- 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.