



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 16, 2018

Attendance

Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President, arrived 2:12), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Max Holmes (VP Academic), Sally Lin (VP External), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance)

Guests: Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External-elect), Chris Hakim (VP Admin-elect)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm with Sally in the chair.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Max, Pooja).

Minutes

- There was discussion of whether to switch to using initials in the minutes, but the Executive thought it would be too confusing.
- The minutes of March 9, 2018 (amended to replace the initials with names) were approved (Max, Sally).

SLFS (Student Legal Fund Society)

- Pooja: We have found a new place for them.

Ombudsperson

- Keith asked if we should post for a new Ombudsperson to be appointed in May or September.
- The Executive said it should be as soon as possible.
- Keith: And should we make it a permanent rather than a student position?
- It was agreed to wait until Alim and Alan were present to discuss this further.

[Alan arrived.]

UBC Sexual Violence Advisory Committee

- Max:
 - The committee had a robust discussion about the issues.
 - UBC is realizing this is a high priority and is dedicating more resources to it.
 - Going to Senate.
 - Frank discussion about lack of awareness about Policy 131 on sexual violence.
 - It's a good policy on paper, but implementation and communication an issue.
 - They're going to bring it to the UBC Executive to discuss better implementation.
 - The committee is meeting again in April and has committed to a review in a year.
- Sally: The BC Green caucus has reached out to us on the sexual violence issue. What Max has drafted is a good basis for what we can say to them.
- Max:
 - We need to discuss the role of the AMS (especially SASC) in this.
 - Education, club training, etc.
 - Students speaking up on this issue is appreciated.
 - We need to review how to continue doing that.

ISA (International Students Association)

- Max:
 - They're seeking to raise the profile of international students on campus.
 - International students now make up 25% of the undergraduates.
 - They were talking about getting a voting seat on Council and being designated a Constituency of the AMS.
 - I told them we do our Constituencies by School and there were issues of double representation.
 - They were also asking about another governance review. I said we wouldn't be doing one any time soon.
 - And they wanted to use Simply Voting for their club election, or wanted to postpone their election.
- Alan:
 - We might do a governance review in five years, or even sooner.
- Sally: They can have a voice through our new caucuses.
- Max:
 - They want to be part of consultation; they're seeking a role.
 - Mostly they're interested in advocacy, perhaps through the caucus system. The international student in caucus could be the President of the ISA.
 - As to Simply Voting, the ISA isn't a Constituency.
- Alan: That doesn't mean they can't have Simply Voting for elections.
- Sally: What about the advocacy issue?
- Max: They're included on every consultation email on international issues.
- Marium: Are all the international students in the ISA?

- Max: That's one of my concerns about international students voting.
- Sheldon: Historically we had a non-voting seat for international students on Council, but it didn't last long.
- Max: Mainly they're interested in advocacy. There's also the elections issue: if we try to make an agreement with them on elections, it could take a while. Should I keep talking to them?
- Pooja: It's not a big deal to allow them to postpone their elections or use Simply Voting.
- Sally: Advocacy within the University is one thing, but if they want to speak to government, there's a problem with multiple groups speaking; it decentralizes things.
- Cristina: We could do more collaborative advocacy with them.
- Max: They want to move from being a cultural club to an advocacy group. They want a seat on Council to bring international issues forward.
- Alan: We need to integrate groups like this so they'll feel part of the process and see how our advocacy is working.
- Sally: We need to do a better job of communicating with them. We are already advocating for international students.
- Max:
 - It's good to help other groups, like the Sustainability Collective; it's good to collaborate with them.
 - Elections agreement and advocacy agreement.
- Marium:
 - The Sustainability Collective is made up of groups opting in.
 - But the international students are different: not all of them want to be in; not all want to be involved.
 - And how many groups do we want to be using Simply Voting?
- Max: Also need to look at the agreement with UBC to see if we're allowed to use the membership list for club elections.

Lobbying

- Sally:
 - The trip to Victoria went very well.
 - Met with MLA's, members of the Opposition and the BC Green caucus, and government representatives.
 - Conversation with government ministers, MLA's, the Opposition, and Green representatives were fruitful. Opposition and Green Caucus willing to work with student societies to ask questions and advance certain asks.
 - Government is happy that we are happy over their housing commitments; the funding for housing is an unprecedented investment.
 - On tenancy rights the meeting was brief, but they indicated willingness to continuing the conversation via consultation, which is good.

- On needs-based grants they're doing research and we will need to continue advocacy to ensure that it is an up-front allocation.
- Gave the 1400 signatures we got on the Rent with Rights petition to government.
- Overall really happy. Have set up good foundations for the upcoming year to allow for more conversations. They are willing to speak to student societies.
- One thing to work on: AMS communications. We need to strengthen our PR. Perhaps do more in-person meetings. Could meet with our own MLA and staffers.
- Made more connections with ministerial staffers on this trip as well.
- Next steps include responding to follow-ups for more information, communicating our appreciation for housing funding, documenting what was discussed in meeting for transitioning, and requesting follow-up meetings with our MLA's to discuss what was missing in more depth.

Updates

- Alan:
 - Communications stuff.
 - Interview with the Ubysey about the RBC office in the Nest, which has now opened.
 - Built a wall near Storm the Wall.
- Max:
 - UBC Housing Action Plan meeting: getting everything we asked for:
 - Following Rent with Rights percentage increases.
 - Agreed to putting University student housing in the policy.
 - Number of student beds will be tied to the Campus Plan and the Land Use Plan.
 - Building out capacity: a rolling number.
 - A huge win.
 - Committee on Policy 73 (disability accommodation) is going to start meeting.
- Marium:
 - Shortlisted candidates for Student Services Manager, Assistant Student Services Manager, and the Service Coordinator positions.
 - Good candidates for almost all the positions.
 - Interviews next week.
 - Canadian Mental Health Survey: on panel developing questions.
- Pooja:
 - New signage at Art Gallery.
 - New Nest animation project: vinyl on windows saying No Place Like Home.
 - Just Desserts on Tuesday.
 - All-Presidents Dinner March 29,

- Max: Academic Experience is done; draft report coming out; 3097 respondents.
- Sally:
 - Housing Fair Wednesday.
 - Follow-up/write-up from lobby trip.
 - Mental Health policy draft.
 - Sexual Violence external policy.
 - Affordability policy.
 - Advocacy Committee minutes.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.