



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 23, 2018

Attendance

Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Max Holmes (VP Academic), Sally Lin (VP External), Alim Lakhialov (VP Finance), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager, arrived 2:35), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Alim, Sally).

Minutes

- The minutes of March 16, 2018 were approved (Max, Pooja).

Ombudsperson

- Alan:
 - Last year we didn't have one till September-October.
 - When Waged came in as Ombudsperson, she found lots of emails and cases waiting for her.
 - We had also reduced the hours.
 - Waged has suggested increasing them again.
 - Questions:
 - Should we hire for May 1?
 - Should we explore hours?
- Keith: There's also the issue of qualifications and pay. Are they underpaid at Tier 2?
- Alan:
 - Do we want to go to full-time?
 - If a student, we can't break from the Tiers, but if not, we can.
- Keith: If we do, then they'll need qualifications.
- Pooja:
 - Yes to May 1.
 - Helpful for the club issues that come up over the summer.

- Also would be helpful to be permanent: cases carry on.
- The Executive agreed to hire for May 1.
- Sally:
 - Lots of value in making it a permanent staff position.
 - Staff members have gone to the Ombudsperson.
 - We need someone with a legal/conflict resolution background.
 - Need strong recruitment.
- Alan: So we'll hire for May 1 for sure and let the next Executive decide on whether to make it a permanent position.
- Keith: What about the budget?
- Alan: We have till June 30 to prepare the final budget.
- Keith: But who hire on May 1?
- Alan: It will stay as is for May 1 and we'll leave it for the next Executive team.
- Max: Can we raise them to Tier 3?
- Alan: Tier 3 is for supervisory positions.
- Max: We want to make the job more attractive.
- Alan:
 - Let's do the review first.
 - We could try to do something for the April 25 Council meeting.
 - We could ask the HR Committee and the HR Department to look at this.
 - But I suggest status quo for May 1.
- Alim: We can budget for 20 hours a week in case we increase to that many.

GSS Referendum

- Alan:
 - Over the summer term I did research on services we provide to the Graduate Student Society.
 - It's hard to quantify.
 - Jeanie Malone asked about the GSS referendum at the last AMS Council meeting.
 - She shared some information from the Grad Students.
 - Max said, truthfully, that we'd set up meetings and the GSS didn't show up.
 - Max also said the President would handle it, meaning I (and later Marium) will coordinate discussions about services.
 - We've received good feedback from the GSS about our efforts this year on advocacy, on specific asks for grad needs. Our efforts should continue this way.
 - They're still mandated to hold a referendum.
 - I will discuss with Marium.

SASC (Sexual Assault Support Centre)

- Alim:
 - We've been funding SASC out of a reserve: \$176,000.

- The budget now is at \$282,000 to cover hospital accompaniments.
- The SASC fee increase didn't pass.
- We need to figure out what SASC looks like next year and in the years to come.
- It can operate out of the reserve, but then it will cease to be able to provide hospital accompaniments.
- Do we look at a separate referendum to raise the fee?
- Do we look to UBC's SVPRO (Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office)?
- We've been building up the reserve for 15 years; do we want to use it up in three to pay for the hospital accompaniments?
- Alan: So maybe budget as before, but hold conversations with UBC:
 - **Max will explore this.**

[Marium arrives.]

Our Turn

- Sally:
 - Placeholder motion on Council agenda for us to be a signatory (to the national action plan against campus sexual violence).
 - We wrote a letter of support.
 - We used Our Turn as a policy checklist for our submissions.
 - Their advocacy is useful.
 - A lot of what is called for in the action plan is already done here by SASC. We've gone above and beyond.

Academic Experience Survey

- Max:
 - Good amount of respondents: 4700 started, 3,097 completed. (We don't look at results from the non-completed ones because we can't weigh the demographics.)
 - Significant amount of graduate students: 22% (almost doubled from last year and about equal to their percentage on campus).
 - Good amount of first years and international students.
 - Lots of sexual assault reported.
 - Final report by end of April. Could present to Council.
 - The number who are aware of us and trust us with finances is steady or better than before.
 - Around the same or better on advocacy etc.
 - 45% think we do well on mental health advocacy: that's great.
- Keith: Only 260 responses to Nest survey; going to offer better prizes.
- Keith: The people who don't finish: which questions stop them?
- Max: I think it's more the time than the nature of the questions.

Updates

- Alan:
 - 4 pm today is Robyn's farewell (Robyn Tung in the HR department)
 - Next week Storm the Wall (Alan is participating and is encouraging others to come out and cheer).
 - When Women Rise MoU to be signed; construction will begin.
 - Student Volunteer Emergency First Response Team.
- Marium:
 - Hiring. Full team done soon.
 - Wrapping up, transition.
 - Funding for Safewalk.
- Alim:
 - Met Resource Groups to talk about the fee restructure.
 - Their concern was the lack of consultation, which is fair: we didn't consult them.
 - I did explain my concerns.
 - Talked about them doing quarterly reports and improving their relationship with the AMS.
 - Budget: Working with Kuol (the incoming VP Finance) to make him familiar with things.
- Pooja:
 - Just Desserts: Alan did a great job.
 - Club Executive orientation.
 - Still working on I-7 (the expulsion policy). Not for this Council meeting, but for the last meeting: give me your feedback.
 - All Presidents Dinner next Thursday, including the Great Trekker award.
 - Two after parties: Drag and an Engineering party (Alan's band is playing).
 - Constituency elections: some concerns.
- Max:
 - Sexual violence consultation (the working group):
 - Working with SASC.
 - A Town Hall to hear what people think needs to change.
 - Also talking to staff.
 - UBC Housing Action Plan: got all our asks: big win.
 - Cancellation of recent Senate meeting prompted a letter from me and the co-chairs of the Student Senate Caucus (Kevin Doering and Marium) about the need for more resources for Senate.
 - Going to Sexual Violence committee meeting.
- Sally:
 - Policy Advisor interviews.
 - Follow-ups to government.

- Transitioning Cristina (the incoming VP External).
- Staff are wrapping up research reports.
- Supporting Millennium Line extension.
- AMS Housing Fair was successful.
 - MP Joyce Murray and MLA David Eby are coming to campus to talk about housing.
- Federally, an interview about the budget. There's going to be millions of dollars of investment in research and an attempt to ensure gender diversity and inclusivity; also a plan to support research by 8,000 students, including undergraduates.

Councillor of the Year

- Sheldon read out the Code rules on choosing a Councillor of the Year.

The meeting went in camera at 3:11 pm.