



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 31, 2018

Attendance

Present: Marium Hamid (President), Max Holmes (VP Academic & University Affairs), Chris Hakim (VP Administration), Kuol Akuechbeny (VP Finance), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Piers Fleming (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Cristina Ilnitshi (VP External), Jason Tockman (Policy Advisor)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:13 am in Nest Room 3529.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Max, Kuol).

Minutes

- The minutes of October 24 were approved as amended (Chris, Kuol).

Showpass

- Kuol:
 - This is the second year using it (for ticket sales to events).
 - We're negotiating a new agreement because the 7% fee they charge on tickets ends up being expensive on high-priced tickets.
 - They've agreed to lower fees in return for a five-year contract.
- Marium: Would we be able to terminate such a five-year contract?
- Kuol: Of course.
- Marium:
 - Five years seems a long time.
 - How much will the event planning scene change in that time?
 - It's important to talk about this to Asad (the AMS Events Manager).
- Keith: I'd like to check other options.
- Piers: In five years the whole way you buy tickets may be radically different.
- Keith: We'll have to look at the termination clause.
- **Action Item: Agreement to be sent to Keith, who will consult Asad.**

Academic Experience Survey (AES)

- Max:
 - Looking at new areas of focus.
 - Will still include questions on food insecurity, affordability, etc., but would like to add new questions on such things as:
 - Mental Health issues.
 - Services questions.
 - Communications.
 - Representations of minorities/equity.
 - Disabilities.
 - Also want to change the demographic questions.
 - And change the athletics question to ask how many games people attend.
 - Going to move some questions to a two-year timeline, i.e., ask them every two years instead of every year, because there's too many questions asked every year:
 - This will be for questions that don't change much from year to year, like questions on discrimination. Also some sexual violence questions.
 - We'll still ask about affordability and about the AMS every year.
 - Grad students say some of the questions are not relevant to them, but if we ask them separate questions, it will add to the price we pay for the survey.
 - We don't do separate Constituency questions anymore.
- Marium:
 - May want to look at the questions on equity.
 - Equity has a wide range of meaning.
 - Maybe better to get at equity through questions on trust and through cross-tabulation.
- Keith: Instead of reducing the questions on sexual violence, isn't this a good opportunity to go in depth on the effects of UBC's Policy 131 (on sexual violence)?
- Max:
 - We want to reduce questions that are not useful, questions that ask people about things they can't have knowledge about, e.g., questions asking them to compare UBC to other institutions.
 - On Policy 131 most of the questions last year were useful.
 - We'll still have questions on that, just not ones that ask for knowledge people don't have.
 - We can still use previous year's data for questions we ask every two years.
- Chris: Are we asking how the AMS is doing? For example on Communications or Business.
- Keith: That goes more in the Nest survey.
- Max:
 - Yes, we're trending away from asking about AMS services.

- Mostly looking to advocacy questions.
- On the AMS we will ask about trusting the AMS and an overall question about the AMS.
- Won't include a lot of internal questions.
- Also want to do a review of the AES policy:
 - Tweaking the section on Constituencies: it's not realistic.
 - Need to find a way to support Constituencies.
 - Maybe the VP Administration's office should run a Constituencies survey.
 - The AES is more for students' academic and university experience.
- Piers: It might be useful to figure out students' knowledge of mental health services.
- Max:
 - There are UBC Resources questions by categories: one on health and wellness, another on academic performance.
 - The one on Health and Wellness asks about AMS services like Speakeasy and SASC as well as UBC services.
 - It asks how helpful students find the services.
 - That doesn't change much year to year.
 - We may ask it only every two years.
- Marium:
 - Grad students are doing a survey.
 - We should find out what they're asking so we don't have to.
- Max:
 - At one point we were thinking of doing a joint survey with the GSS for grad students.
 - I still think the AES should be for all students, but there's also merit in doing a grad student survey.
 - It's important to do it with a market research firm.
 - Timeline for AES:
 - From February 1 till the end of elections, with a link to the survey on the ballot.
 - UBC's undergraduate experience survey is happening January-February.
 - There will be some overlap, which is useful, especially if they send a completion email saying check out the AES too.

Media Policy

- Marium:
 - A reminder that if you get media requests you should forward them to both me and to AMS Communications.
 - The Communications Department and I will be meeting with the Ubysey so they will know about the need to copy me and Communications on their interview requests.

- I need to know talking points for your interviews.
- The Ubysey should be sending all its interview requests to me.

Athletics and Recreation

- Marium is talking to UBC about the MoU on the new Recreation Facility.
- There is a separate quorum discussion for the management committee on the University Sports and Recreation Committee: we're waiting for them to get back to us on that.
- Max is working on discussions on club bookings and the fee review:
 - We give the University free space outside for Storm the Wall and free space inside for their bookings.
 - We'd like something in return, e.g., free space in the Student Recreation Centre.
- UBC's Kavie Toor is going to present to the Executive on the budget.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.