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 Ilnitchi (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.
o Mostly looking to advocacy questions.
o On the AMS we will ask about trusting the AMS and an overall question about the AMS.
o Won’t include a lot of internal questions.
o 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:
o There are UBC Resources questions by categories: one on health and wellness, another on academic performance.
o 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:
o Grad students are doing a survey.
o We should find out what they’re asking so we don’t have to.
• Max:
o 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.
o 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:
o A reminder that if you get media requests you should forward them to both me and to AMS Communications.
o The Communications Department and I will be meeting with the Ubyssey 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 Ubyssey 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.