



## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

### AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 7, 2018

#### **Attendance**

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

Regrets: Piers Fleming (Student Services Manager), Jason Tockman (Policy Advisor)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:22 am in Nest Room 3529.

#### **Agenda**

- The agenda was approved (Max, Chris).

#### **Minutes**

- The minutes of October 31 were approved as amended (Max, Chris).

#### **Climate Hub**

- Chris:
  - The Climate Hub group is focused on sustainability and climate change.
  - It has funding and a commitment from UBC.
  - It is professionally structured, with paid staff, but is primarily a student organization.
  - They would like an MoU with us in which, like clubs, they would get free bookings, office space, and equipment rentals.
  - There's a concern about how we would exercise oversight over them.
  - We can exercise oversight with our clubs, but they're not a club.
  - They have offered us a seat on their advisory board to give us some oversight.
- Kuol:
  - They could be funded from the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF), but they would prefer a more efficient model providing them \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year.
- Keith:
  - The Sustainability Projects Fund was running out of money just a couple of years ago, and we stopped giving out money from it.

- Before committing to anything else, we should determine how much we have.
- Chris: We usually fund projects, not groups.
- Max: How much are they getting from UBC? Why should students pay if UBC is making a commitment?
- Chris: They're getting \$50,000 to \$60,000.
- Cristina: But that covers only half their costs.
- Marium: We run our services for much less. They're paying UBC wages, not student wages.
- Max:
  - If our money is going to pay staff members, is that what the SPF is for?
  - Isn't it supposed to be for projects?
  - Can't they apply for specific projects as others do?
  - Why should one group be guaranteed funding?
- Marium:
  - They're trying to consolidate various efforts.
  - This would decrease the amount of paperwork and processing.
  - I'm not against it. It would make our job easier.
  - We can add reporting mechanisms.
- Kuol:
  - We need a report on past spending from the fund.
  - We need to know how much money we have.
- Marium: We want caveats on who is getting the money.

### Club Expulsions Policy

- Chris:
  - Circulated a draft for consultation.
  - The Operations Committee will look at the feedback.

### Tuition Consultation

- Max:
  - Tuition is increasing:
    - 2% for continuing and new domestic students (the provincial cap).
    - 3% for continuing international students.
    - 4% for new international students.
    - The 4% is significantly less than new international students paid before (it was 13%, 13%, and 10% in the last three years), but it is still more than the other groups, and it compounds.
  - Meeting with the VP Students and the Provost.
  - Raised issues of financial insecurity, inflation, financial support, all part of the larger issue of affordability.

- Some students, e.g., grad students, have grants that are not increasing even though their costs are.
- We're finalizing our submission to the University:
  - Looking for their long-term enrolment plan (it's hard to understand their revenues without that).
  - Highlighting affordability in general.
  - Speaking about how the consultation process can be improved.
- For the first time they're going to respond.
- We've told them that in the past students have submitted feedback, and the University didn't respond.
- Marium:
  - We're looking for UBC to explain how the tuition increase is impacting each department.
  - The general student body does not get to know what their money is going for.
- Max:
  - They do highlight some things, but we want to see details on individual faculties and also on the central budget.
  - We'd like to set up meetings between our Constituencies and UBC Finance to see how the increases will affect their faculties.
  - We want to be part of these conversations.
  - There's a lot of pressure on the central budget costwise; that's a different conversation than about the faculty budgets. Want to separate those two.
- Marium:
  - Students don't know how the University is run.
  - Faculties don't know how the University is run.
  - Students should get to see how their money is used.
  - We are working with the UBCO SUO and the GSS.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.