



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

### **AMS Steering Committee**

*Winter Report: November 2018 – February 2019*

*Chaired by Marium Hamid (President)*

To AMS Council,

The following is a summary of the work completed by Steering Committee over the course of three meetings, taking place in November, January, and February:

#### **November 28, 2018**

A review and assessment of each committees' goals was conducted for approval. When discussing the HR Committee's progress on Council Orientations for the following year, it was approved by all Steering members that the responsibility should be that of Steering Committee due to the size of the task, and input of its member chairs. All committees had several deliverables to report and goals in progress for the new semester. They were approved in principle upon their formatting for Council. Additionally, Steering Committee's own goals were developed, with a focus on more frequent meeting as well as the development of an AMS wide calendar/timeline by the end of the academic year to codify recurring goals and events within committees and Council. Finally, we began discussion on the format of a new AMS Strategic Plan.

#### **January 12, 2019**

Steering was set to have a new recurring time biweekly on Thursday evenings for 90 minutes. We codified our goals as including the development of 2019 Orientations, the AMS Timeline, and a new formatted AMS Strategic Plan. Items were discussed after feedback to add to the Timeline including hiring, referenda dates, Orientations, and dates regarding the new Advisory Board. The Strategic Plan and current AMS Mission Statement was discussed, with the consensus being that a Strategic Plan is unwise for a board with yearly turnover in operations, and therefore we should develop instead a set of "Guiding Principles" to supplement more comprehensively the Mission Statement. It was motioned and passed that at the next meeting, these Principles be discussed and codified.

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Additionally, there was discussion regarding the necessary requirements for a successful Council Orientation, as well as that of incoming executives and student staff, with several ideas approved to make the Orientations more appealing and engaging. There was consensus that attendance should be mandatory unless specific circumstances are approved by the President, and that the material should be filmed and available to councilors throughout the year. The dates were set and approved. Finally, there was an update on the status of the Advisory Board, and a discussion of its objectives.

### **February 14, 2019**

Committee Goal Setting was discussed, and it was highlighted that the process was convoluted and difficult to coordinate; evident in the time it took to finally approve the goals for this year. It was approved that a new template should be developed, to include the goals in each committees' first report to Council (June), and that they should be updated in the September report following the new appointments to committees. This interim report would also include timelines and progress updates for the June goals. It was passed that this new template should be amended and reviewed at the following meeting for approval. The AMS Guiding Principles were developed, with their length being 3-5 pages, and a two-week consultation period occurring following Steering's presentation of the Principles to Council, before their approval by Council. It was noted that these principles should be values based, and non-prescriptive, so they do not reflect individual demands, but instead a consensus on the values of the society in all its actions. They were articulate as "Accessible Advocacy, Meaningful Engagement, Supportive Communities (AMS)" and were tabled for approval at the next meeting.

Any other questions or feedback regarding the work of the Steering Committee is welcome and can be referred to the Chair.

Best,



Mariam Hamid  
AMS President, Chair of Steering Committee  
February 25, 2019