



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 17, 2019

Attendance

Present: Marium Hamid (President), Max Holmes (VP Academic & University Affairs), Chris Hakim (VP Administration), Kuol Akuechbeny (VP Finance), Cristina Ilnitshi (VP External), Piers Fleming (Student Services Manager), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Keith Hester (Managing Director)

Regrets: Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Abdul Alnaar

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Max, Cristina).

Academic Experience Survey

- Max:
 - Taking away some questions because we've not used them in advocacy efforts.
 - Taking away others because we're going to be asking them only every two years (rolling basis).
 - New questions are also being proposed.
 - Two questions from the VP External.
 - Made some changes to questions around sexual assault and misconduct; have consulted with SASC members.
 - Disability experience: first time asking standardized questions.
 - Demographic information: modernized the terminology and hopefully we'll not need to update these questions going forward.

Fee Referendum

- Kuol:
 - The grad class fee is underutilized and I would like to propose a restructure.
 - Would reduce the fee and redirect the money to a couple of different initiative funds:
 - the existing Student Initiatives Fund and
 - a new Indigenous Student Fund.

- Terms of reference for the Student Initiatives Fund already exist, but they need a little update and my AVP is working on it.
- The Indigenous Student Fund needs a terms of reference to be developed.
- Marium:
 - We still have not had a discussion about how much money is owed for past gifts or the future standing of the Grad Class Council.
 - We have not consulted with the Student Life Committee.
 - The Grad Class gifts are closely linked to graduation; they're announced at graduation; we haven't consulted anyone at UBC convocation.
- Piers: Does the Student Life Committee have the authority to determine the future standing of the grad class fee?
- Marium:
 - We still need to look into that.
 - Also, do we have numbers on the utilization of the Student Initiatives Fund?
 - What kind of programs do we fund under the Student Initiatives Fund?
- Kuol:
 - I'll follow up with numbers, but the fund is not that big.
 - Individuals can apply to it; it's not for clubs.
 - It's in Code.
- Max:
 - It does not seem that we're ready for a change of this nature.
 - We lack information, we haven't discussed this with the Indigenous Committee, people involved have not been consulted. We're not there yet.
 - We also have a SASC fee referendum coming up; if there are additional fee referendum questions, it could impact our efforts for SASC.

SASC Fee Referendum

- Kuol presented options for what the increase in the fee could be, as presented to the Finance Committee.

WUSC Position

- Kuol:
 - At the beginning of this Executive's term, I brought a proposal to Council to approve a funding model for the AMS WUSC Student Refugee Program (SRP) position.
 - After the summer, for the eight months following (September-April), Work Learn funding was not received.
 - For that period there was a mixed funding model involving the AMS and UBC's VP Students.
 - Need to find long term solutions for funding, and who the role reports to within the AMS.

UNA (University Neighbourhoods Association)

- Cristina:
 - UNA bylaw amendments will mean the removal of AMS and UBC representatives from the UNA board.
 - The justification is that they want a board representing residents, elected by the residents, not including appointees from other organizations.
 - The bylaw amendments were approved by the board: I abstained.
 - There was a discussion about doing a consultation with UBC and the AMS about next steps: considering how the relationship will change moving forward.
 - Consultation with the AMS on this did not happen.
 - The UNA provides services to residents, including two community centres.
 - UBC will have observer status on the UNA board, and there is a Neighbours Agreement between UBC and the UNA.
 - Similarly, the UNA is looking to formalize their relationship with the AMS.
 - Next steps: A consultation period about what we want our relationship with the UNA to be.
- Max:
 - I'm concerned that they made these amendments without consulting with the AMS. Did they discuss this with any students before?
- Mariam:
 - The AMS should continue to review this.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.