AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 31, 2019

Attendance
Present: Marium Hamid (President, by phone), Max Holmes (VP Academic & University Affairs), Chris Hakim (VP Administration), Kuol Akuechbeny (VP Finance), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), Piers Fleming (Student Services Manager, arrived 2:40), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services, arrived 2:40), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda
• The agenda was approved (Max, Cristina).

Minutes
• The minutes were postponed.

U-Pass
• Cristina:
  o Agreement between TransLink, the U-Pass Advisory Committee, and the provincial government.
  o Recommending a U-Pass question with the fee frozen at the current rate of $41 until 2020, then going up to $42.50 in May 2020 and rising annually after that by 2% till it hits $46.

MOVED CRISTINA, SECONDED KUOL:

“That the Executive recommend the U-Pass question to Council for it to be put on the ballot as a referendum question.”

... Carried

SASC Fee
• Kuol:
  o The options for the sexual assault support services fee are for increases that will bring the fee up to somewhere between $8.50 and $9.50.
The VP Finance Caucus says it is fine with any increase that leaves the fee under $10.
The Finance Committee is still to discuss it and is awaiting Executive feedback before bringing forward a recommendation.

- Marium:
  - There should be a joint recommendation from Finance and the Executive.
  - Executives are the ones who can answer questions on this, the ones who know how SASC is run.
- Kuol:
  - Fincom members know how to answer too.
  - The Executive should come up with a number, but not impose it on Fincom.
  - Let Fincom make the decision.
- Marium:
  - This is not just about finances. It’s about what SASC offers.
  - We promised the community something.
  - It should be a joint recommendation.
- Max:
  - I don’t think $8.50 is appropriate.
  - It should be $9 or $9.50.
  - We need money for the SAIF (the Sexual Assault Initiatives Fund).
  - We need flexibility if we want to expand.
- Cristina:
  - I don’t want us to be in precarity.
  - We need SASC to run at its best.
  - So somewhere between $9 and $9.50.
  - I don’t think students will react negatively.
- Kuol:
  - Our members might be willing to pay as much as $12 or $15, but do we charge on the basis of willingness to pay or on need?
  - I’d go with need, and think slightly below $9 would be fine.
- Max:
  - We are all looking at need, but there are also future needs.
  - Right now SASC is not doing legal advocacy, but it might.
- Kuol: If we’re talking about expansion, what sort of expansion? If legal advocacy, what would that cost?
- Max:
  - We don’t know the cost of legal advocacy.
  - And what if SASC wants to expand education and training?
  - What if it decides it needs an elder present for Indigenous students?
  - We don’t know the cost of these things, and if we don’t pass enough, we may need to go to another referendum.
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of January 31, 2019

- Kuol: When we explain to people, I want to be able to tell people what the extra money will be for.
- Marium:
  - This is a very fast-growing landscape that we can’t predict.
  - To specify an exact cost is nearly impossible.
  - I object to lower than $9.
  - I won’t object to more.
  - Will we be there for students, or will we have to say, Sorry, we don’t have the funds.
- Max:
  - If we end up with surpluses, we can run a referendum to lower the fee.
  - I’d rather do that than run another one to raise it.
  - Let’s say $9.25 and provide an explanation, and be flexible.
- Chris: I worry if we go too high, we will get a negative response from the students.
- Kuol:
  - If we want to be flexible, let’s give a range.
  - My opinion is $8.75, but as a member of the Executive I recommend $9-$9.25, so Fincom doesn’t have to go against the Executive.
- Max:
  - If Fincom says $9, and we go along with $9, that’s not disagreement; that’s healthy discussion.
  - So let’s suggest $9.25, but listen to Fincom.
  - $9.25 with flexibility.

[Piers and Abdul arrived.]

**Services in the campaign**

- Max: We should ask Council to authorize campaigning by the Services only on the SASC referendum.
- Kuol: Maybe it should be for any question endorsed by Council.
- Marium:
  - SASC is happy to talk about the fee referendum affecting them.
  - Not sure they would be comfortable discussing the other fee referendums.
- Max:
  - Services should only get involved on questions affecting the Services.
  - The SASC question affects the Services; the other questions do not.
  - The Code rule means that in general the Services are not involved in referendum campaigns.
- Chris: Can individuals who work for the Services be involved?
- Sheldon: Yes, they can. The Code rule only prevents the Services as Services from taking part (unless Council authorizes it).
- Marium: We can mobilize Safewalk.
• Abdul: Hand out flyers, stickers.
• Chris: They won’t use their office space, will they?
• Max: They won’t do that.
• Marium:
  o This always comes up.
  o We need to trust the Services; they know what is appropriate.
  o They know that providing Services comes first; helping in the referendum is second.

Grad Class Fee
• Kuol:
  o The Finance Committee discussed this.
  o The $7 fee is too high; it should be reduced to $4.
  o We can use the other $3 to create a Student Initiatives Fee and, if the Indigenous Committee agrees, for an Indigenous fee.
  o Have consulted the VP Finance Caucus and the GSS.
  o Grad students don’t pay the Grad Class Fee; that’s why we consulted the GSS; this will mean a new fee for their members.
    ▪ They were more supportive of an Indigenous fee than the Student Initiatives Fee.
  o I have also spoken to Student Life; they’re looking at changing the Grad Class Code.
    ▪ They’re okay with reducing the fee.
  o I suggested that the Finance Committee oversee the fee.
• Max:
  o We should not be discussing an Indigenous student fee without Indigenous students present. We need to consult Indigenous students.
  o As to the Student Initiatives Fund, there’s no evidence it needs more money.
  o Yes, the Grad Class Fee is probably too large, but ...
• Kuol:
  o This year more money was used from the Student Initiatives Fund: $10,000.
  o We raised the cap on grants from the fund.
  o It’s a flexible fund; lots can apply.
  o Other funds are more restrictive: e.g., just for clubs.
• Cristina:
  o How important are the projects funded from the Student Initiatives Fund?
  o What is the money used for?
• Max: A lot is for professional development.
• Marium:
  o I’m fine with reducing the Grad Class Fee.
  o I can’t endorse increasing the Student Initiatives Fund: it’s largely funding people to go to conferences. There are multiple other sources for that.
The role of the AMS is to fill in gaps, not simply to add resources, but to add things that are not being done.
We need to look at all our fees. Have we done an assessment of them? I don’t think so.
The purpose of the Student Initiatives Fund is not fully articulated.

- **Chris:**
  - I don’t know enough about what the Student Initiatives Fund is.
  - As to an Indigenous fee, we need to consult the Indigenous Committee.
  - It’s inappropriate for this conversation to take place here without it first coming from the Indigenous community.

- **Kuol:**
  - We have a report being sent on all AMS fees.
  - Council can change the purpose of funds.

- **Marium:** Will you propose new terms of reference for the Student Initiatives Fund before we vote on this?
  - **Kuol:** I thought its terms of reference were good, but I will look at them.
  - **Cristina:**
    - Knowing the current terms of reference, I don’t support putting more money into it.
    - If you can propose a new plan for the Student Initiatives Fund ...

- **Max:**
  - For the Indigenous fee, we can ask the Indigenous Committee, and if they say they want the fee, then obviously we would go ahead.
  - But one rushed meeting puts them in a difficult situation: it’s not meaningful consultation.
  - We should have done this earlier. Or start now and do it later.

- **Marium:** Especially if we’re going to them with a suggestion.
- **Abdul:** We do need to alleviate the concerns for funding the Indigenous Committee next year.
  - **Max:** Yes, of course. We need to give money to the Indigenous Committee.
  - **Marium:**
    - I’m not suggesting we don’t run a referendum. If they want one, we’ll go ahead.
    - But I don’t want to go to them and say, Your funds should come from other funds.
    - There should be a fund for them on its own.
  - **Cristina:**
    - Meaningful consultation would have meant letting them lead what this would look like.
    - It should not be led by us, with us telling them these are your options.
    - We can offer this as one option, and if this is what they want, yes, support them and do it.
But if not, if they want to wait for next year, then we should wait – but still make it clear there’s going to be money for them.

- Max:
  - We can tell them we can run a referendum if they’d like one.
  - But if they decide they don’t want one now, we will tell them they will still get funding, e.g., from the Grad Class gift of $20,000 or out of the AMS student government budget.
  - We need to make clear they will get funding and not pressure them to take a position.
  - We need to say: No matter what, you will get funding.

- Cristina: And if they choose not to do a referendum this year, we’re still committed to discussions of future fee referendums.
- Max: And committed to having a fee for them.
- Marium: We will give them time, will not push them.
- Chris: We shouldn’t even be having this discussion now without any Indigenous presence.
- Max: Yes, I don’t think we should have been having this discussion.
- Kuol:
  - I’m just seeking perspectives and options about using the Grad Class Fee.
  - I appreciate the feedback.

**Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.