



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

## AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of April 11, 2019

### Attendance

- Present: Marium Hamid (President), Max Holmes (VP Academic & University Affairs), Kuol Akuechbeny (VP Finance), Cristina Initchi (VP External), Piers Fleming (outgoing Student Services Manager, arrived 2:14), Ian Stone (incoming Student Services Manager), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Keith Hester (Managing Director, left 3 pm), Patrick Meehan (Policy Advisor), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Chris Hakim (VP Administration)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm in Nest Room 3511.

### Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Kuol, Cristina).

### Minutes

- The minutes of March 28 were approved (Cristina, Max).

### Welcome

- To the new Student Services Manager (Ian Stone) and the new Policy Advisory (Patrick Meehan).

### Final Executive Report

- Marium:
  - Postponed till the April 24 Council meeting.
  - Send in your sections by April 15.
  - This is our last report to Council.
  - Discuss your achievements and note any reasons why any of your goals were not fulfilled or were changed.
- Sheldon: Also can include recommendations.

### Transition

- Marium:
  - Please have your staff give you their transition reports; don't rely on them to hand them on to their successors.
  - You also have your own transition reports to write.
  - Everyone should attend April 27-29 for the onboarding of Councillors and the last meeting with the VP Students.

### Credit Card Policy

- Kuol:
  - Want to take a credit card policy to Council to create a Council-approved Internal Policy.
  - Happy to take feedback.
  - Hope to improve our procedures.

### Club Gifts and Honorariums

- Marium:
  - I've asked Sheldon to alert the new chair of Governance and also the new VP Finance and VP Administration about the need for a policy on what sort of gifts and honorariums clubs can give out.

### VP Finance Caucus

- Kuol:
  - Looking to formalize the VP Finance Caucus as a body giving advice to the AMS VP Finance on loans, club funding, cheque limits, financial systems, etc.
  - It could be something like the Presidents Council.
- Max:
  - If it's just a consultative body, it probably doesn't need to be codified.
  - If it's like the VP Academic Caucus, it will change from year to year in what it does.
- Marium: Don't want blurring of lines of authority over who can make financial recommendations.
- Kuol: We've had trouble getting commitment, so we thought a formal Terms of Reference would help.
- Max:
  - We had this conversation about the VP Academic Caucus.
  - Just because you codify something or produce a ToR doesn't mean people will attend.
  - Better to talk to people at Orientations.
- Kuol:
  - Maybe it can just be something the Finance Committee approves.
  - It can be a body reporting to the Finance Committee.

### Cheque Signing

- Keith:
  - Currently, the Managing Director can sign cheques only if they're related to business and administration.
  - It would be good to expand what I can look at for control purposes.
  - I don't see club and Constituency transactions, which means I don't see most of the Society's financial transactions.
- Max: So it's not necessarily a question of signing, but of seeing?
- Keith: Sometimes it would be useful if I could sign the cheques (when other signing officers aren't around).
- Kuol: If you see all the transactions, that would be a lot more work. Maybe access to Constituency transactions, but not all 400 clubs.
- Keith: It's just a question of access. I wouldn't necessarily look at every cheque, but would be able to do so.
- Marium: This would be good especially for big ticket items. Some Constituencies write cheques for as much as \$20,000.
- Kuol: Constituencies submit budgets.
- Keith: I don't see those.
- Max: It seems a good idea to have another person with access.
- Everyone was in agreement on changing procedures to give access to the Managing Director.

### CERT (Campus Emergency Response Team)

- Marium:
  - Last year the CERT team approached us and wanted the AMS to run the service.
  - We considered the issues involved: the resources etc.
  - We could give them space, technology, and training, but as for providing the funding and running the service: we don't have the capacity.
  - We said this should be a University initiative.
  - The University did express interest, and there have been discussions between CERT and the University, but it seems progress has not happened, and then CERT came to Council and made a presentation.
- Max:
  - At Council the suggestion was that they be under the AMS.
  - There's an insurance issue here.
  - At Council some Councillors said insurance shouldn't be the reason to hold this up, but afterwards I heard pushback from some Councillors; some of them wondered how much such a service would help.
  - I wish CERT had come to us sooner; we could have advocated for funding for them from UBC. Now it will have to wait till next year.

- It would be a good idea to bring this up at the next VP Students meeting and then go back to Council.
  - It's a continuity issue now, for next year's Executive.
- Abdul:
  - We need a conversation on whether this should be an AMS Service.
  - We struggle to get \$25,000 from the University for Safewalk, and this service would cost a lot more.
  - The first step is advocacy to the University to take responsibility for CERT.
- Max:
  - Yes, this should be the University's responsibility.
  - If they refuse, then we can look at it.
  - This would be more expensive than any other AMS Service.
- Marium:
  - We don't have the expertise or the resources to take this on.
- Kuol:
  - This is an important service.
  - It could be set up like CiTR: we would give money to another organization that would run the service.
  - Or if the University takes it on, we could take on some of the costs.
- Max:
  - We need to look at a diversity of solutions.
  - The University is looking to the AMS to fund things UBC should be funding.
  - We need to tell them this has to stop.
  - The University can't depend on the AMS to fund services provided elsewhere by universities.
  - I don't think the issue has been well publicized on the University side: there are levels of advocacy the AMS can pursue to create awareness and get the University to do the funding.
  - We should also talk to the students to see if they want this sort of service.
  - We need to collect information.

[Keith left.]

- Marium:
  - There's also the issue of integration with UBC.
  - Phone calls, ambulance integration, road patrols: only UBC can provide those. We can't.
- Cristina:
  - It's great that they approached us and pointed out the gap.
  - We need to look at different options.
  - We need to do a better job of pursuing this and not let another year go by.
- Max: What is the basis for deciding whether the AMS or the University runs this?

- Abdul: CERT says that in Ontario student societies run this service.
- Max:
  - Just because it's done elsewhere one way doesn't mean that's the way we should do it.
  - And it seems partly they have come to us because they're having issues with the University.
  - They may need our help advocating to the University.
- Cristina: Next step?
- Max:
  - Execs should discuss who's going to own this next year.
  - The VPAUA can do advocacy, but I'm not sure it's the portfolio to take the lead on emergency services.
  - Should it be AMS Services? Policy? A permanent staff member, for continuity?

#### **Q4 (Quarterly Financial Report)**

- Kuol:
  - Need information from you for the next report.
  - You should work on it with your successors.

#### **Last Council**

- Marium:
  - Goals presentation: Keep it short, clear, good.
  - Cake.

#### **Sustainability Projects Fund/MoU's**

- Kuol:
  - Looking to develop a system of MoU's for organizations that apply for funding for several projects during a year.
  - The MoU's would go to the Finance Committee and then Council.
- Max:
  - Will they get guaranteed funding? That's not a good idea.
  - A year from now the organization may be different.
  - What would the time limit be?
- Kuol: There would be a one or two-year limit.
- Max: The MoU's would be for projects or for organizations?
- Kuol: For organizations, but they would have to meet criteria.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.