



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AMS Student Life Committee

Minutes of May 21st, 2019

Attendance

Present: Kevin Zhang (Chair), Andrew Huang (Councilor), Shadi Saberian (Councilor), Julia Chai (Councilor), Cole Evans (VP Administration), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager)

Guests: N/A

Regrets: Chris Hakim (AMS President)

Recording Secretary: Kevin Zhang (Chair)

Location: Room 2521 – AMS Student Nest

(Shadi and Andrew attending via teleconference)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

Introductions

Introductions/Round Robin updates held

Question of the day: If you had to rename the UBC Alma Mater Society, what would you name it?

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Cole

Seconded: Andrew

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

N/A

2) 2019 Grad Class Gifts – Discussion and Vote

*Note that the following gifts had been proposed by the previous Grad Class Subcommittee and also discussed by the previous Student Life Committee.

Last year's committee came up with:

- i. \$5000 AMS Food Bank Donation
- ii. \$2500 Hygiene Products Fund (toward AMS Food Bank)
- iii. \$5000 Indigenous Committee Donation (for capital improvement projects)
- iv. \$5000 toward the revitalization of the Goddess of Democracy Statue
- v. \$1000 toward the AMS Archives Department to digitize old student handbooks

Questions/Discussion:

Kevin: Can Cole elaborate on the logistics of the revitalization of the statue?

Cole:

- Liaising with external organization
 - o Organization will:
 - Power wash
 - Remove mold
 - Paint it white
 - Total cost of project: \$2000 for immediate revitalization
- Statue was not originally painted white, Michael Kingsmill expressed some concerns
 - o Will first test trial some paint

Kevin: What was the name of the 3rd party organization?

Cole: **Organization name:** *Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement (VSSDM)*

Kevin: How will the remaining \$3000 be put to use after the initial revitalization?

Cole: Additional funds for the statue itself will likely be carryover.

Ian: Was the Food Bank told about the Hygiene Products Fund?

Kevin: My understanding was that the Food Bank was aware of the amount and consulted on for logistics; however I can reach out to Jerome for the meeting minutes and get him to send them over.

Ian: No worries, I can ask him directly.

(No further questions asked).

Call to vote: *BIRT the AMS Student Life Committee approve all listed 2019 Grad Class Gifts contained in the 2019 March-April Student Life monthly report.*

All gifts approved unanimously with no dissent.

*Note that this will need to be a joint approval with the AMS Finance Committee.

3) Last year's Student Life recommendations for better council dynamic – discussion

- i. Check-ins and feedback*
- ii. Council Retreat*
- iii. Councilor handbook*
- iv. Clarifying how Councilors promote AMS events*

(Julia Chai enters the room at this time)

Check-ins:

Kevin: We should determine whether we want to set up a framework for this now, and pursue this further.

Cole: I think individual check-ins by the committee is a bit tribal, a survey might be better for distribution.

- Recommendations made by Councillors could be potentially forwarded to Governance or other relevant parties

Julia: I think a face-to-face aspect is still important, it might be beneficial to have councillors opt-in for check-ins.

Cole: We could potentially talk to Kareem, he would be a good guiding voice for any procedural questions councillors might have.

- Can we get some input on how the new councillors felt about their first meeting?

Julia: I definitely felt that there was a separation felt between new councillors and old ones, socials would be a good idea.

Cole: We could distribute drink tickets.

Shadi: Attended first meeting, I completely agree with Julia's statement in regards to socials.

Andrew: Did not attend first meeting but as for feedback:

- Feedback should be anonymous

Cole: Pre-council socials would likely be more successful as opposed to post-council.

- Even this past year we did a constituency social, that'd be more successful

Ian: We can encourage councillors to come to the office more.

- Staff have cake once a month, we could invite councillors to birthdays, etc.

Cole: I benefitted greatly from being around the offices, execs, staff, etc.

Julia: Should be some incentive to come to office, (cake, food, dinner, etc.)

(Goal) Student Life Committee to create an anonymous Councilor consultation survey, and an additional option for councilors to opt-in to an in-person check-in if they request it. Potential person to conduct check-in could be Speaker of Council

- Could also look into future options for increasing Councilor interaction with office staff/exec

Council retreat:

Kevin: I expressed concerns last year about using student funds toward a council retreat, might look bad from a public viewpoint.

Cole: We could pursue lower-cost alternatives; 15-20 per person would be reasonable for such a retreat.

- Good for teambuilding, making people feel special

Shadi: I agree that this would be beneficial for council. Good to get people acquainted.

Julia: UBC Rec has a banquet at the end of the year for example.

Kevin: How would logistics look like for this?

Cole: Would likely go back to President's office in conjunction with us.

- We could come up with 3 viable options and present them to council

(Goal) From what I'm gathering, Student Life Committee could look into future lower-cost retreat options for councilors to partake in, with the end-goal of building a cohesive team dynamic conducive to discussion.

Council handbook:

Cole: I can offer some context. Current council handbook is a little too thicc, we were working last year on streamlining it more.

- This year we're a little late to the ball, as handbook has already been emailed out.

Julia: Even if we work on it now, releasing it next year might be a good idea still

Cole: Might not be priority right now, but maybe in the fall.

Kevin: What would the working group consist of?

Cole: Any way we want to approach it.

Kevin: Shadi/Andrew did you get a chance to read the handbook?

Shadi/Andrew: Not yet.

(Goal) Student Life Committee, (post-September) to look into forming an informal working group for streamlining the existing AMS Councilor Handbook.

Advertising AMS Events:

Kevin: Did we find that last year's model for this worked? Anything we want to change?

- AMS Block Party for example gave free tickets to councillors who shared/commented on the event.
 - o Other events could operate on a similar model with free stuff being offered to councillors for assisting with marketing

Ian: We need to remember for events where free items/perks aren't possible, this model won't work.

Kevin: We could potentially pursue raffles/draws.

Julia: Could potentially look into distributing/raffling gift cards.

Cole: I'm opposed to council uniformly sharing everything, as everyone has different circles/personalities. Could also cause more attention fatigue.

- For things like block party we can continue our current model
- For something like Brewfest/smaller events we don't necessarily need to promote

Kevin: I agree with all the points that were mentioned.

Andrew: I agree. And raffles are potentially feasible, good promotional tool.

Ian: I agree as well.

Kevin: Who's our point of contact here?

Ian: Contact Erick Lowe for advertising avenues.

4) Goal-setting:

(Transition report and March-April report distributed at this time)

Kevin: Would like to increase the breadth of AMS Events, currently majority of events pertain to extroverts and concentrated demographics, a constituent expressed concern about this to me.

- How much influence do we have over AMS Events? I think I spoke to Assad at most once last year.

Cole: Writing up a report with recommendations could potentially help, to be submitted to AMS Events/manager.

- I think it would be a good idea to dedicate an entire separate meeting just for goal-setting/planning.

Ian/Julia: Some events too are geared toward introverts. They exist however aren't as well-known.

Cole: We should buy a plane/yacht.

Shadi/Andrew: I agree.

Cole: In all seriousness, a lot of this pertains too with general student society engagement.

Julia: Undergraduate societies too have been losing engagement over time

Cole: We can introduce new events with the resources that we already have.

- **We really need a codified Student Engagement Strategy**

Ian: Can we tack some questions onto the AES?

Kevin: Who do we contact for that?

Cole: Julia (VP AUA).

- Might also be beneficial to make a survey to be included in a newsletter.

(Goal) Student Life Committee could look into options for conducting wider consultation on existing AMS Events, and what students would like to see for the future.

5) Appointing a Vice-Chair

Kevin: To offer some context, Vice-Chair would be given the responsibility of chairing the committee in the absence of the chair.

Cole: Also responsible for taking minutes.

BIRT Ian Stone be appointed as the AMS Student Life Committee Vice-Chair until the first committee meeting in September.

Motion by Cole

Seconded by Julia

Motion passes unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be called by the chair in consultation with the committee through a When2Meet poll.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at **4:04pm**.