



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 5, 2019

Attendance

Present: Chris Hakim (President), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Cole Evans (VP Administration), Cristina Initchi (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Patrick Meehan (Policy Advisor), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Julia, Lucia).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 14 were approved (Chris, Cristina).

SUDS

- Cristina:
 - One month to go, and the student union reps will be here for professional development.
 - One challenge we've had is with the Ontario schools over the Ontario Student Choice initiative, the government policy that has left the Ontario student unions unsure about their revenue for the coming year.
 - We are trying to support them.
 - It's important that they come out.
 - We're looking at various sponsors who may be able to offer funding to allow us to subsidize some Ontario representatives.
- Julia: How many would be subsidized?
- Cristina: This is just for the Ontario reps. We're aiming to support 10 students.

Policy 131 (UBC's policy on sexual violence)

- Julia:
 - The AMS now has a seat on the UBC committee reviewing the policy.

- Originally the AMS was not included, but successful lobbying has resulted in a seat which I will be filling.
- I will be working with SASC to bring SASC experiences to the table.

CERT (Campus Emergency Response Team)

- Julia:
 - This looks really good.
 - Been meeting with the VP Students and CERT with a view to having CERT become a University service.
- Cristina: What is happening with the issue of support and insurance?
- Julia:
 - Still working on the insurance issue.
 - Other universities house the service in a hospital and that brings insurance coverage.
 - At UBC the plan was to work through Student Housing and Campus Security.
 - There is an ongoing conversation about this, and I am really hopeful: everyone is in the same room.
- Abdul: Will it start in September?
- Julia:
 - Technically, they can recruit and train now.
 - It's a long process, so they can start that.
 - Aiming for April 2020 for the launch.

U-7

- Cristina:
 - U-7 mirrors the G-7 of countries.
 - France is bringing university presidents to France from the G-7 countries to tackle the world's five biggest problems.
 - The idea is that universities will be global actors.
 - At the moment there is no student involvement.
 - We're preparing a letter that Santa Ono has agreed to submit.
 - We're trying to get other student unions to sign on.
 - Seeking a commitment to include students.
 - A lot of the student unions are excited.
 - We're trying to spread information and awareness and ensure there are student voices.

Ceridian Dayforce

- Chris:
 - Council approved a new HR/Payroll software system to combine all our platforms into one.

- We've hired a new HR assistant to work on implementation.

Academic Experience Survey

- Julia:
 - Working on compiling the AES recommendations.
 - Hoping to bring them to the July 31 Council meeting.
 - We've already talked informally to Executives.
 - As the recommendations evolve, we'll contact you again.
- Cristina: Any surprises?
- Julia:
 - Mostly pretty standard year to year.
 - We did add some new questions this year, and it will be interesting to see that data.
- Cristina: Do you plan any changes to the AES?
- Julia:
 - We'll need a conversation later about what to add on.
 - The real value of the AES is to see the same questions every year and to see any differences from year to year.

SVPREP (Sexual Violence Prevention and Respectful Environment Policy)

- Chris:
 - Just got all the legal feedback and will send it to the working group.
 - Everything looks positive.
 - Aiming to go to Council July 31 for approval.

Strategic Plan

- Chris:
 - Been setting up meetings to get going on a 5-10 year strategic plan.
 - First want to start discussions internally, then go out to the community: the staff and students.
 - Other student unions have 1-3 year plans with lots of details and metrics.
 - But the feedback we've gotten says that if you set specific targets for the next Executive, they may have different priorities and will not follow what the strategic plan says.
 - A broad plan is better. Without metrics. Setting the broad direction, setting out where we want to be 5-10 years from now.
 - We've had shorter plans ourselves in the past that weren't followed.
 - We're looking for something longer term.
- Cristina: Will the plan focus on values or be more operational?
- Chris:
 - Overarching values and themes, but also operational goals.

- Not to say we should have a 25% expansion or whatever, but to say, for instance as an HR goal, that we want the AMS to become a leader among student unions as an employer.
 - Then it will be up to the departments to figure out how to meet that goal.
- Cristina: Tracking mechanisms?
- Chris:
 - Hoping to do research and explore further.
 - Benchmarking with other student unions.
 - Looking at data points.
- Cole:
 - It would be very high level; may not have Key Performance Indicators.
 - More a vision, a direction, a guide.
- Cristina:
 - It's good to have pillars and values, but we also need actionable items.
 - Maybe not KPI's, but milestones.
- Chris: We would do performance tracking to see how we're doing so far.
- Cristina: How do you see the Strategic Plan and Executive Goals aligning?
- Chris:
 - Council is the body of accountability, including goals.
 - Executives will need to show how their goals will fulfill the strategic vision.
- Cristina: How will you ensure a refresher of the plan so it doesn't become irrelevant?
- Chris: The Executives will have to show how their goals align with the plan.
- Cole:
 - Realistically, the plan won't be 100% binding.
 - There has to be a balance of high-level vision and the shorter term.
 - But what if a new Executive hates the strategic plan?
 - We can say here's the vision now, but in 2029 ...
- Cristina: That's why you'll need a refresher.
- Patrick:
 - I've seen a lot of strategic plans.
 - Very few succeed.
 - It's not a question of creating a good one, with good rules.
 - It's the culture. It changes.
- Sheldon: Will we be able to amend the plan if the culture shifts?
- Chris: What we're trying to capture is a vision for the long term derived from students and staff.
- Cole: We can have high level goals, for instance that we should be invited to ministerial meetings.
- Cristina: There are lots of campaigns in September. How will working on the plan fit in with the schedule?
- Chris: We will need to align things.

Budget

- Lucia:
 - Two modifications to the budget:
 - Adding provisional actuals.
 - Fixing a typo in the U-Pass revenue.
 - We've noted some discrepancies (about Executive salaries, wrong account codes).
 - We'll be sending out the provisional actuals.

UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities)

- Cristina:
 - Getting off the ground for the federal election.
 - Perhaps drafting a national letter to ensure every party has student issues in its platform.
 - Creating UCRU campaign materials.
 - Seeking to establish UCRU: a transformational year for it.
 - I'm the UCRU Chair now.

Norm Theatre

- Cole:
 - UBC Properties Trust says that to get the theatre up to code, we're \$16,000 in the red.
 - The Finance Committee has approved taking the \$16,000 from the Contingency Fund and is sending a motion to Council next week.
 - We're also exploring further enhancements.
 - If everything goes according to plan, we hope to have a soft launch/reopening in the fall.
 - One issue is asbestos in the walls; we're avoiding the asbestos in doing our renovations; it's not a problem if you don't disturb it.
- Keith:
 - It's more than \$16,000, really.
 - We're also forgiving \$67,000 worth of recoverables.
- Cole:
 - The total cost to bring the theatre up to code is \$311,000.
 - That's to get basic functionality.
 - It's a huge space; lots has to be done.
- Abdul: Will Filmsoc be ready for the fall?
- Cole:
 - I want the AMS to regain control of the space, with a staff member in charge.
 - Filmsoc will of course be a main user.
 - Also looking to increase functionality and go beyond showing movies.

- But to do more – to prepare the space for live performances – would require more funding. That’s not what’s happening now.
- Conferences and Catering are also excited about the space.
- Eventually we could have theatre, dance, concerts, music, but that would be Phase 2.
- Cristina: Will we establish a deferred maintenance fund to avoid letting the theatre run down in the future?
- Cole:
 - It’s actually relatively low maintenance.
 - We definitely need a maintenance plan.
 - Need to know where the money’s coming from.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.