THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AMS Student Life Committee

Minutes of June 10th, 2019

Attendance

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

Guests: N/A

Regrets: Monika Jadu (Member-at-large, awaiting confirmation of contact information)

Recording Secretary: Kevin Zhang (Chair)

(Shadi and Andrew attending via teleconference)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm.

Introductions

No major updates.

Chris introduces himself

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Chris   Seconded: Julia

BIRT the minutes of May 21st, 2019 be approved as presented.

The motion carries unanimously.

Chris: Quick suggestion about the agenda: be careful with including personal member email addresses. I have received death threats before, and these documents are public record.

Kevin: Will keep that in mind for future iterations of our agendas, and will no longer include member email addresses. I appreciate this input.

1) Quick overview of our current goals so far, and any further goal planning ideas/discussion

Kevin: I was able to bring the *Goal Setting Process for Standing Committees* document to Steering Committee, and presented on the rough goals we arrived at last meeting.

- We have free agency to come back any time to alter, remove, or add goals to this list as we see fit.

Council social:

Kevin: One of these goals included a cost-effective council social to be utilized as a teambuilding event.

Ian: I agree with this goal, number of places we could consider including Richmond night market, etc.

Cole: What constitutes as cost-effective?

Kevin: We need to be cognizant of price-per-head.

Cole: Because there's an expensive hotel downtown that would cost us a significant amount of money, it sounds facetious but that would hypothetically be "cost-effective" in terms of the value we get out of bonding/teambuilding.

Kevin: I was thinking more along the lines of bowling.

Julia: We should work out how budgeting is going to look like.

Ian: Budget reforecast might be needed, not sure if we can make more additions.

Cole: Might need to touch base with Fin Comm to determine this addition to the budget.

Chris: I usually try to push for a 500$ misc item to account for these things.

Kevin: What would a reforecast look like?

Chris: Reach out to finance committee?
- To offer context, in 2015-2016 we had a large retreat. It is far easier to take out money from a retreat than to put in
- Need to be cognizant about public optics too, as this may reflect poorly on us

Kevin: We need to keep in mind that the primary goal of a council social is to build a working relationship. We need to be able to disagree in council civilly without having it affect our personal lives.

Chris: The Executive team does have a retreat line item.

Ian: Last year there was talk of council being combative as a whole, we want to be able to prevent these things and structure a social with that in mind.

Chris: Yup, I agree, definitely need to be thinking about this.
-         Btw a line item like this would likely go to finance committee

Julia: This definitely could be pursued for the future. We should come up with a list.

Kevin: Cool. I will create a Google doc, each of you will hopefully find 1-2 potential locations. Research costs/capacity, and we can go over this list at the next meeting.

Student engagement strategy:

Kevin: So last meeting, Cole brought up the subject of generating a *Student Engagement Strategy.* After meeting with the Steering Committee and briefly bringing this up, Chris mentioned that the AMS is currently in the stages of creating this year's *AMS Strategic Plan.* We'll likely wait until that plan is generated, and then we can proceed here.
- We are technically mandated by code to create one annually, however I was unable to find any previous examples of such a strategy from this committee.
  - o The secondary goal pertaining to consulting students about the existing array of AMS Events can fall under this engagement strategy.

Cole: I might have an old copy of the SES to work off of. Although from what I remember reading it might be better just to start from scratch.

Kevin: Awesome. Yeah if you could see if you can find it, might be something we can use.
- Does anyone else have further input/questions?

(No further discussion)

Councilor consultation:

Kevin: We originally had the Speaker of Council as the designated person to conduct any councilor-requested check-ins, at Steering we brought up the idea of having Nick Pang (Executive Projects Assistant, Policy and Governance) serving that role.

Chris: He would be down to do that.

Julia: For the results/data we should get a neutral party to review the data and present to council.

Chris: I see Nick as the most appropriate person to do that too. When do you hope to implement this?

Kevin: I was hoping midway.

Chris: I usually aim to have these things around near the end of something (e.g. end of the term)

Julia: We could potentially have two surveys, one as an initial check-in and another as a follow up.

Chris: I don't think we should survey them at the beginning of September.

Shadi: I agree with the idea that the survey should come at the end of semester 1.

Chris: What specific areas were you hoping to survey?

Kevin: Understanding of procedure, interactions with the Executive and other office staff, council dynamic and how it could be improved, and further avenues for seeking support regarding any of these items.

Julia: We could potentially get the executives to give questions.

Kevin: That's a good idea. Individual portfolios could ask for feedback.

Chris: We should focus more on council dynamic/bonding/working culture for the survey. Something like that might stray from the purpose.

Kevin: You're right, I would have to agree. Anyone else have more input before we move on?

Andrew: I think it's good.

Kevin: Cool. I will create a separate Google doc for us to contribute questions. We'll likely be operating on a multiple choice model, *(strongly agree, somewhat agree, neutral, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree)*.

- o I'll delineate separate categories for questions.
- o Survey service will likely be **UBC Qualtrics**

Grad Class Subcommittee:

Kevin: One other item I had on the list was earlier recruitment this year for the Grad Class Subcommittee. Last year's late code change regarding GCS potentially gave us difficulties finding members to fill the subcommittee.
- Would also help with more resources dedicated to planning the grad class gifts.

Chris: I liked last year's gifts and felt they were really well-placed.
- Was able to attend the Tiananmen Square ceremony for example and spoke directly with individuals that were directly involved in both the ceremony, and construction of the statue.

Kevin: I completely agree that last year's gifts were great, I was happy that we were able to pass all of them; however my understanding was that the gifts were essentially hashed out in one subcommittee meeting last year.
- It's a substantial item, and I think more thought and time needs to be put into future iterations of these gifts, spread out over more discussion.

Chris: I agree.

Ian: Did we reach out to the GSS last year? They could help this year in getting us members.

Julia: Yup we could delegate spots for graduate students as well. They could have a stake in this.

Kevin: Cole what do you think

Cole: I am completely in agreement with everything that has been said at this table.

Other goals:

Kevin: Anyone have any more suggestions for goals?

Julia: More socials, more informal.

Kevin: Do we want to operate off the Jerome model from last year?

Ian: More involvement with non-constituencies. Food service is putting on long-table events, events like these we could look into sharing. Should also think about ways that we can work further with the university + services

Cole: We should have a general brainstorming session for how to make the AMS more fun.

We could potentially do something with golf carts.

Ian: We should look into fostering our relationship with our head of events.

Cole/Ian: We can definitely tell him what to do but we don't want to be overbearing.

2) Regarding next meeting

Kevin: I will be starting my contract helping to manage/supervise an English summer camp in late June-early August. I won't be sending out another wide-branching When2Meet, it'll be based on specific day(s) instead.

- I will do my best to find out what day of the week I have off, and schedule meetings accordingly.
- Given I'm in a managerial/supervisory role, I'll likely need to be on-call a lot.
- There will unfortunately be a tighter turnaround time for When2Meet responses, if you live far away from campus I encourage you to call into meetings in case the meeting gets cancelled last minute
- If this significantly impedes our ability to schedule future meetings however, I'll step down as chair and let council appoint another one.

Cole: You could also delegate chairing responsibilities temporarily to Vice-Chair.

Kevin: Definitely. We'll see what happens here.

(General committee assent to maintain current frequency of meetings.)

Tasks Assigned

- Kevin to send two separate Google doc links:

  o One link will be for generating questions for the councilor consultation survey

    ▪ Come up with survey questions (at least 1-2) for each category

  o The other link will be for finding potential retreat/social locations.

    ▪ Come up with 1-2 suggestions and research cost, capacity, location, etc, (try keeping costs low)

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be called by the chair.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.