



## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

### AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 11, 2019, Room #3511

#### Members

Present: Chris Hakim (President), Cristina Ilnitshi (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Julia Burnham (VP AUA), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Services Manager), Terrina Chan (Assistant to the President)

Regrets: Sheldon Goldfarb (Clerk of Council & Archivist), Cole Evans (VP Administration)

Recording Secretary: Terrina Chan

#### Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:24PM.

#### Approval of the Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Cristina, Julia)

#### Equity and Inclusion Office Review

- Julia:
  - Cristina and I met with UBC on the external review of the UBC Equity and Inclusion Office.
  - The Office is generally unsupported and under resourced.
- Cristina:
  - There also needs to be more agency to do all the things the Office wants to accomplish.
- Abdul:
  - The Human Rights Advisor falls under the Equity and Inclusion Office, right?
- Julia:
  - Yes.
- Abdul:
  - Did UBC hire a second Human Rights Advisor?
- Julia:
  - Yes, I sat on the Search Committee for the second Human Rights Advisor.
  - There was funding to add another, but it ended as a failed search.
  - I am waiting to hear back from the Committee on how they intend to change the application to attract different people.
  - A good thing about the Human Rights Advisor position is that it deals with 300 reports/year from UBC and UBCO, which resolves 80-90% of cases without further legal action.

## **Annual General Meeting**

- Chris:
  - A reminder that the Annual General Meeting is going to be on October 23 at 12PM in the Lower Atrium of the Nest.
  - My Office and the Communications & Marketing department are going to create a list of topics that can be added to the agenda to attract more attention to the AGM.
  - We will also include our regular business such as the AMS Financial Statements and the President & Managing Director Report.
  - The Executives will present on the work they have completed so far.
  - In addition, Lucia will give an additional presentation on the breakdown of the Financial Statement.
- Keith:
  - A cannabis store as a discussion item will attract people.
- Chris:
  - Feel free to connect with me if you have any ideas.

## **Executive Goals Report**

- Chris:
  - Congratulations everyone, you've reached just about the half-way point of your Executive terms.
  - As per Policy I-9, the Executives are required to submit a progress report on our annual goals along with a presentation to AMS Council.
  - I emailed everyone earlier this week with their assigned permanent staff member, who they will go over their goals with.
  - Since we do not have a Policy Advisor, I can do the reviews with Julia and Cristina.
  - I'll check-in with everyone later this month to see how our progress is on the report.

## **Provincial Lobby Trip**

- Cristina:
  - Heading out next week to Victoria for our first provincial lobby trip
  - We will be meeting with relevant MLAs, staff members, and important stakeholders.
  - We will also have a meeting with UBC, who are also coming along to Victoria for their lobby trip.
  - We are doing this trip collaboratively with SFSS, UVSS, and the BCFS.
  - We have three main topics that we are lobbying on this trip:
    - Student financial aid;
    - International student support;

- Supporting and funding post-second institution through their sexual violence support offices.
- Chris:
  - How did we choose the BCFS? Did we consider other groups such as the ABCS?
- Cristina:
  - We had conversations with both the ABCS and BCFS about their priorities and our priorities, and we concluded that our priorities best aligned with the BCFS.
- Chris:
  - Are we working with other lobby groups apart from student unions?
- Cristina:
  - No, other advocacy goals will be collaborated on with external groups.
  - We will also be meeting with UBC about what potential asks they will put forward this lobby trip; we will try to include graduate student scholarship and student financial aid within these conversations.

## **Stratagem**

- Julia:
  - I recently went to the Stratagem Conference.
  - It was a great opportunity to learn about equity and inclusion in the workplace.
  - I sat down with the Human Resources Committee to discuss the things that I have learned during the Conference.
  - Some points of focus were regarding Muslim friendly spaces, along with diversity instead of tokenism.
  - I would love to talk to you more about this if you are interested.
- Cristina:
  - It would be great to include some of the things you learned into our Executive orientation.
- Keith:
  - Would be good to touch base with Praneet.

## **Services Review Working Group**

- Abdul:
  - Will submit the terms of reference for the Working Group for the Services Review next week.
  - I am compiling all the feedback I received from our last draft.
  - I am hoping to complete the Services Review by late February.
- Chris:
  - It would be better to complete it by mid-January since we are likely to change the budget process so the Services Review recommendations should come in before we finish budgeting.
- Abdul:
  - Will figure out if that timeline is feasible.
- Cristina:

- I would love to see an update on if the new timeline is feasible and whether you have enough support to complete on time.

## **Hecht and Duchene**

- Cristina:
  - I wanted to debrief about putting up that statement on behalf of the AMS that we stand against this event.
  - I would like Julia to give an update at some point regarding the active role we will be playing surrounding the review of the UBC Bookings Policy, the Academic Freedom Statement, and a potential Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Policy.
- Chris:
  - The AMS is working with the Student Senate Caucus on the Academic Freedom Statement.
  - We are waiting to see the developments of a potential EDI Policy.

## **Holidays**

- Keith:
  - Happy Thanksgiving weekend!

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:51PM.