



## THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

### AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 18, 2019

#### Attendance

Present: Chris Hakim (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Cristina Initchi (VP External), Cole Evans (VP Administration, arrived 12:17), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager, arrived 12:35, left 12:52), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Keith Hester (Managing Director)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

#### Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm in Room 3511.

#### Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Cristina, Julia).

#### Minutes

- The minutes from October 4 were approved (Chris, Lucia).

#### Lobbying

- Cristina:
  - The AMS External team is going to Victoria, along with the BC Federation of Students (BCFS) and the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS).
  - We have three issues:
    - Up front needs-based grants system to reinvigorate financial aid; we're the only province without a grants system.
    - International students.
    - Sexualized violence policies and funding:
      - looking to the province to play an active role
      - using information from reviews to determine funding packages for institutions with fewer resources
      - accountability: asking the province to review policies and if students have concerns with the implementation, there should be a separate body in government that can hear those concerns.
  - Will be in Victoria all next week.

- Chris: What are your expectations?
- Cristina:
  - We've heard from the province that it may not be a big year for achieving goals via the budget, because the province is undertaking policy work, laying the groundwork for advocacy and actions in future years.
  - But it's actually an important year; it's important for us to be at the table for the conversations about the first steps that will lead to programs, legislation, and funding.
- Chris: Will we partner with the BCFS in the second term as well?
- Cristina:
  - For this trip we spoke to the BCFS, the ABCS (Alliance of BC Students), UVic, and SFU.
  - Our priorities and the timing lined up best with the BCFS.
  - Our partnership with them last year worked really well, so I'm excited to work with them again on this trip.
  - As to lobbying in Term 2, we have no partnership plans yet, but we are planning with the Indigenous Committee and following up on financial aid and sexualized violence.
- Chris: Will the Term 2 lobbying trip be different?
- Cristina:
  - Probably.
  - It will be less formal, more of a follow-up conversation, building on the work done in the October trip.
  - The second trip will be important because next year will be the year before an election year.
  - It's important to establish a foundation for our asks and give next year's Executive and VP External a platform.
- Chris: Is the success rate different when we go alone?
- Cristina:
  - We haven't gone alone in the time I've been here.
  - It might look very different.
  - We'll only be there for a few days on the second trip.

[Cole arrives.]

- Chris: How will you collaborate with UBC?
- Cristina:
  - We've chatted about collaboration and supporting each other.
  - Not on this trip, but there are lots of opportunities in the future on issues such as financial aid, graduate student support, sexualized violence.
  - We have lots of conversations with the UBC VP External before and after lobby trips.

- Abdul:
  - MSP payments for international students are going to jump.
  - Some students will be put in a vulnerable position.
  - Can you push advocacy on that?
- Cristina:
  - Just reached out to International Student Services to find out what they've heard before we decide on our next steps.
  - We did hear about this; there can be an impact.
  - We will follow up.
- Lucia: What happens during the lobby trip?
- Cristina:
  - We get there Monday, which will be a training day for delegates, going over talking points.
  - Between Tuesday and Thursday we have meetings.
  - Last year we met 60 people, including cabinet ministers (Advanced Education, Education, Health, Mental Health).
  - We ask them to send letters of support, to have conversations.
  - Last year we asked Premier Horgan to have a conversation about OER (Open Education Resources), and he did, and we got funding for OER's.

## Financial Quarterly

- Lucia:
  - Next quarterly (Q2) is coming up.
  - Will present in November.
  - I want to hear everyone's opinion on reaching out to the Constituencies.
- Chris:
  - Actually, it's not necessary to contact the Constituencies, as they're not fee-receiving groups in the sense of getting money passed on to them by the AMS.
  - The ones to reach out to are the Global Lounge, University groups generally, some clubs, and the Student Legal Fund Society.
- Lucia: Yes, I've already reached out to them.
- Chris:
  - They get money from all the students, whereas the Arts Undergraduate Society only gets money from Arts students.
  - There's also the issue of Q1, which got postponed.
- Lucia:
  - Q2 is going to cover Q1.
  - It's been quite hard to get the reports for the fee-receiving groups; they want to write good ones, but don't know how; they're asking lots of questions.
- Chris: Going to change these to quarterly reports.
- Cristina: And these reports are going back to last year?
- Chris: Yes, they didn't get done.

- Cristina:
  - Can we go to the Finance Committee and ask them what they want to see.
  - It's difficult for new treasurers to write these.
  - It seems like this was a misstep by us last year.
- Julia: I don't like the idea of brand new treasurers having to fix an old mess.
- Lucia:
  - There's been no training of the clubs.
  - And the various kinds of fee-receiving groups are different: Resource Groups, clubs.
  - It's difficult to standardize.
- Chris: It's good you've identified a gap: the clubs need training in budgeting.
- Cole:
  - I'm thinking of revamping the orientation for clubs.
  - It should be more conference-style: a full day with a general presentation and then different workshops.
  - Need to hybridize the Executive and Treasurer orientations.
- Lucia:
  - Another problem is the high turnover of treasurers: orientation is going on all the time.

[Ian arrived.]

- Chris: You need a handbook.
- Lucia: We have one.
- Chris: Or a video series.
- Lucia: Going to look into that: digital workshops. It would save labour time.

### **Policy 131 (Sexual Violence and Misconduct)**

- Julia: One last meeting before the review committee receives a draft.
- Cristina: Consultation?
- Julia:
  - It runs from December through January.
  - Two months instead of the usual one because of December exams.
  - This is good because January is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- Cristina: What engagement events is UBC planning?
- Julia:
  - They haven't decided yet.
  - There are thoughts of going to the First Nations House of Learning.
  - The AMS is going to do a Town Hall with SASC in January.

### **Federal Election**

- Cristina:
  - Wrapping up. Can do a debrief in the future.

- Today is the last day of classroom announcements.
- A little more boothing.
- On election day there will be a results watch party in the Gallery.
- Julia: I think you did a really wonderful job: there was so much engagement.
- Cristina:
  - Was hard to plan in the summer.
  - Learned a lot.
  - Classroom announcements worked really well.
  - Have information to pass on for next time.
- Abdul:
  - There were increased numbers of advance voters on campus.
  - Long lines at the Great Hall.
  - Good work.

## **AGM**

- Chris:
  - Some old business.
  - Can also discuss the Zero Waste program and the Strategic Plan to get feedback.
- Cole:
  - Why is that on the agenda?
  - People won't know anything about it.
  - It's a strange place to seek feedback.
- Chris: Communications identified sustainability as recent work of ours to bring up.
- Cole: What I would suggest is talking about the Sustainability Action Plan: it's more all-encompassing.
- Cristina: Can we combine this with engagement on the Strategic Plan?
- Chris: It will be discussion. Like in Council. Asking for feedback. On our values.
- Cristina: Have we thought about different ways to get feedback? Ask them to do a survey?
- Chris: Going to ask questions at the AGM.
- Cristina: I don't see students being comfortable with that format at the AGM; maybe have different engagement opportunities: we could have them put stickers on a board.
- Chris: The time for producing something like that has passed.
- Cole: We don't have time to produce the boards.
- Julia: It's a fantastic idea for the future.
- Cristina: I just mean list the values.
- Cole: I haven't been looped in on this.
- Chris: Council told us to bring topics to the AGM. That was just last week, so it's very last minute.

## **Services Review**

- Abdul:
  - Finalized the ToR.

- Looked at past reviews, working from past frameworks; added a couple of new terms around space and compensation.
- Including SASC for the first time: will look at them organizationally, trying to help them retain staff: what works, what's not working?
- There will be a working group including me, Keith, Chris, and a former Student Services Manager, Hussam Zbeeb.
- They will provide guidance, but I will lead, with the assistance of the Student Services Manager (Ian) and the SASC Manager (Annette).
- Last week the Exec asked for an earlier completion: I will probably be able to produce the recommendations and final report by the end of January or mid-February.
- Then there will be continuing discussion in March-April.
- Cole: Loop me in about space issues.
- Abdul: It's my intention to loop everyone in, e.g., the VP Finance on finances, and of course the VP Admin about space and the VP Academic & University Affairs about issues with the University.

[Ian leaves.]

## Health and Dental

- Chris:
  - The Health and Dental Committee met to discuss priorities and things we want to better evaluate, including:
    - Use of Empower Me
    - Increase in psychological coverage: the use of that.
  - We're renegotiating contracts, sending out an RFP.
- Cristina: What are the procedures for the RFP?
- Chris: TRG, Keith, and Lucia are spearheading it.
- Cristina: I'd love to see a presentation from Studentcare on usage numbers.
- Chris: They provide an annual presentation to Council.

## Conferences

- Julia:
  - I'm going to a conference at the U of T on preventing sexual, racial, Transgender violence.
  - Super excited.
  - Looking forward to bringing back information.
- Cole:
  - I also have a conference in Toronto for Colleges Ontario, a higher education summit discussing leadership, branding, talking to employers, indigeneity, and restructuring.
  - Edward Snowden will be speaking to us (by Skype).

## **RBC Workshops**

- Lucia:
  - They're doing well, but there's been a drop in attendance during midterms.
  - Next year we're looking to do larger sessions earlier.
  - There was a concern about RBC branding, but we made sure there would be no RBC logo used.
  - They're in the RBC space, but they advertise the AMS.
- Abdul:
  - Next time could seek collaboration with Events during First Week.
  - People are getting their first credit cards then; huge turnouts.
- Lucia: The budgeting workshop got great attendance.
- Cristina: What are the workshop themes?
- Lucia:
  - Budget
  - Debit and Credit/Loans
  - Taxes (next term around tax time)
  - Investments.
- Cristina:
  - Sounds great.
  - Plans for next year?
- Lucia:
  - This was a pilot and there's no monetary agreement in place.
  - We just let them use the AMS brand.
  - We could seek an MoU for next year.

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.