THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 8, 2019

Attendance

Present: Chris Hakim (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), Cole Evans (VP Administration), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager, left 12:50), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm in Room 3511.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Chris, Julia).

Minutes

- The minutes from November 1 were approved as corrected (Chris, Cristina).

Speakeasy Renaming

- Ian:
  - The Speakeasy team expressed interest in renaming the Service to market and promote it better.
  - The suggestion is to call it AMS Peer Support.
- Chris: Is there a possibility it could be combined with Vice?
- Ian: We can look into that.
- Abdul: Vice essentially split off from Speakeasy.
- Julia: Vice is very different.
- Cole: Can we look at renaming E-Hub too? Perhaps after the Services Review.
- Julia: Speakeasy is the name of an Ontario-based student nightlife organization.
- Sheldon:
  - In the past the name was Speakeasy Peer Support.
  - Officially, the name in Code is Speakeasy Student Support.
- Ian: I’d love to follow Cole’s suggestion about combining this with the Services Review.
- Chris: This might relate to how we might want to change Speakeasy as a Service.
- Abdul:
The name change suggestion comes from the Speakeasy team, the Coordinator.
Perhaps while we wait for the Services Review, we can begin adding the words “Peer Support” in brackets.
We want to align all the Service brands: they’re using various colours now.
Would start that with social media, then move to a more robust rebranding.

- Cristina: What are you going to do with the other Services?
- Abdul:
  - We’re looking for relevance.
  - We want to know what the students know.
  - Do they know what this Service does?
- Chris: It’s important to be clear in the name.

**Tuition Surplus**

- Julia:
  - Last year UBC made a $7.9 million surplus as a result of tuition increases.
  - The Board of Governors told them the money should be directed to student priorities.
  - $6.8 million of the surplus is for UBC Vancouver (the rest goes to UBCO).
  - We can have a fun time figuring out what it should go to.
    - Perhaps endowing: then $250,000 a year could be distributed, and a committee would determine what to spend it on.
    - Or spend it one swoop: $6.8 million towards, say, scholarships.
  - It’s important to see immediate benefits.
  - Do you have any ideas now?
  - You can think about it.
- Chris:
  - It’s not great that there’s a surplus in the first place.
  - It means students overpaid.
  - An endowment is a good idea:
    - $250,000 a year for students.
    - Useful if there’s a tough budget year.
    - Maybe talk about Endowment idea.
- Cristina: Why was there a surplus?
- Julia:
  - The current UBC system is bad at projecting tuition revenue.
  - For instance, the amount of revenue from international students was not known till November 1.
  - They go by best guess.
- Cristina: Is this an Enrolment Services issue?
- Julia:
  - It’s a UBC-wide software issue.
They’re trying to bring in new software, but there have been delays:
- Student-related software has been delayed till 2023 (software for things like classroom bookings).
- Enrolment Services software is supposed to be ready by 2021.

- Cristina: Are we part of the conversations on the surplus? Is there a survey? Is there a timeline?
- Julia: Just conversations now.
- Chris: Another factor in producing the surplus is that UBC under-spent. They are hyper-conservative in their spending.
- Cristina: Because the surplus comes from tuition, it should go back to supporting students financially.
- Julia: 100% agree.
- Cristina: Things like financial aid.
- Lucia: What is the University doing to engage with students?
- Julia: I doubt there will be a survey.
  - We are at the table; we get to represent student needs.
- Chris:
  - We can follow the Academic Experience Survey data:
    - Food insecurity
    - Affordability
    - Financial aid
- Keith: Maybe UBC can set up a food insecurity program associated with the AMS Food Bank.
- Julia:
  - We should tell them you can’t raise tuition if you want to combat food insecurity.
  - The focus should not be on band-aid solutions.

**Campus Security**
- Cristina:
  - There are some inconsistencies.
  - It turns out they’re not all trained to administer Naloxone, which is problematic.
  - There is substance use; we can expect a need for Naloxone.
  - Vice and our Services shoulder the work, which is fantastic, but students don’t know Campus Security doesn’t have full capacity to administer Naloxone.
  - There’s an expectation that students bear the burden.
  - It’s important to have a conversation about this.
- Julia:
  - Campus Security is being reorganized, getting a new Associate Vice-President.
  - I’m looking forward to connecting with them.
- Chris: And they should connect with Vice.
• Abdul: If it’s under a new portfolio at UBC, they will be in transition.
• Chris: We need a conversation with UBC about Naloxone training.
• Abdul:
  o The context is that this is something AMS Vice started.
  o The University opposed us boothing about Naloxone at Imagine Day:
    ▪ They said it was inappropriate.
  o UBC told students to provide student numbers to get training.
  o So we didn’t have much exchange with UBC; we went ahead ourselves; we provided the Naloxone training.
  o We saw an opportunity to do it through Vice.
  o We’ve told UBC that we provide training.
• Chris: Do we train non-student groups?
• Ian: We work with Karmik, an off-campus organization.
• Abdul:
  o Vice is looking into how to do Naloxone training this year.
  o Karmik focuses on the downtown Eastside.

Services Review
• Abdul:
  o Working on the planning progress.
  o Have looked at past reviews.
  o Seeking out standards.
  o Looked at the self-assessment guide produced by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS).
  o Taking a measured approach.
  o Asking such things as:
    ▪ Are we achieving our mission?
    ▪ Do we have the needed technological and human support?
  o Using service industry standards.
  o Hoping to get input from the Executive; asking you to rate us, tell us where we’re good and where need more support or where we need to improve a service.
  o The first meeting of the working group will be in the next couple of weeks.
• Julia: Councillors expressed interest in being involved.
• Abdul:
  o We are getting input from students at large.
  o Didn’t want to burden Councillors.
  o But if Council would like a Councillor to be involved, that’s fine.
• Chris:
  o We can amend the Terms of Reference.
  o As to feedback from the Executive, we’re pretty far removed from the day-to-day in the Services.
• Keith: Can provide feedback on the self-assessment guide.
• Abdul:
  o We’ll produce a framework, establish goals and metrics, and then the steps will be:
    ▪ Establishing scope and purpose.
    ▪ Designing evaluation.
    ▪ Gathering evidence.
    ▪ Evaluating, doing the actual writing, making recommendations for a January meeting of the working group.
    ▪ Bringing the recommendations to Council.

IFC (Inter-Fraternity Council)
• Cole: What do we want in an agreement with the IFC (once they’re no longer a club)?
• Cristina: Maybe we should discuss process.
• Cole: I will draft, liaising with the IFC, the Operations Committee, my office, SASC, and the Executive.
• Julia: I recommend adding Alex Dauncey from SASC: he does workshops for the IFC.
• Abdul:
  o We gave those free for them because they were a club.
  o If they’re no longer a club, how do we do this?
  o We charge non-AMS groups.
• Julia: We need to see if SASC wants to do the extra labour.
• Cristina: Let’s look at what we want to keep and what not.
• Cole: The IFC wants booking privileges
• Chris: They kick the door down when they’re here.
• Abdul: And they’re quite loud.
• Lucia: Have we asked different faculties how they do it: how they handle non-faculty groups?
• Cole:
  o If they’re not a club, it would be like with any other group we do things with: through an MoU.
  o We would clarify whether they want equipment access from the Clubs Resource Centre.
  o We have MoU’s with Common Energy and the Student Leadership Conference.
• Cristina: Can you draft something and come back to us?
• Cole:
  o We need to establish what our relationship with the IFC will look like.
  o We will include benefits to hold them to account.
  o We’ll probably want a termination clause, so if we ask them to do something to make the environment safer and they don’t, we can terminate.
[Ian leaves.]

- Chris:
  - We’re in a position of leverage here.
  - We want to ensure they follow certain principles.
  - We will provide what support we can, but we want to be careful.
  - Clubs get certain things because they’re clubs.

### Council governance

- Chris:
  - Council created an ad hoc committee to review Council governance, how Executives work with Council, etc.
  - Aiming to develop a synergistic relationship.
  - We need to appoint an Executive to serve on this.
- Julia nominated Chris. It was agreed.
- Chris:
  - They will consult other Executives too.
  - The aim is efficiency and equity.

### Provincial sexual violence work

- Cristina:
  - The province is embarking on a lot of work in collaboration with postsecondary institutions.
  - They’re creating a working group with the postsecondary institutions to look at the sexual violence policies.
  - This raised some flags for us:
    - We were concerned there was no student or community representation.
    - Often the institutions need to be pushed by the students to be more progressive.
  - The government has agreed to a suggestion of ours to create a parallel process for consultation with students and community services.
  - It’s quite a big deal to get this separate body; it gives us a say; creates accountability.
  - I’ll be involving SASC in the conversation.

### Dynamic Point

- Keith:
  - Just came from a demo of the system.
  - Based on Sharepoint and Dynamics.
  - It will allow clubs to submit online.
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- Lucia: Clubs will get automatic emails.
- Julia: Excited by this: anything to make the process simpler.
- Keith: And it’s part of the war on paper.
- Cristina: What’s the process?
- Keith: We will have to upgrade to Office365.
- Lucia:
  - There will have to be a transition period to upload data from the old system.
  - It will mean a shutdown for a week.
  - Will have to send out notice.

UNA (University Neighbourhoods Association)

- Cristina:
  - Met with some members of the UNA who are on the joint committee on their bylaws.
  - This is about the bylaw change that will remove the AMS seat on their board.
  - They presented some options for our relationship that could be included in an MoU:
    - The ability for us to put forward motions for their agendas and make submissions (no other group can do this).
    - We would be able to provide monthly check-ins.
    - We could take part in quarterly meetings with them and UBC.
    - There would be two UNA-AMS meetings a year to discuss concerns.
    - The AMS could have a voting seat on committees, e.g., the finance committee.
  - Those provisions would be sufficient to allow the AMS to contribute and to continue advocating for students and short-term residents in the UNA area.
  - Our communication concerns were heard; we will have a direct impact on the finance committee.
  - However, there is still a lack of representation on the UNA Board and a heightening of barriers to students and short-term residents.
  - They’re increasing the Board term to three years, to improve institutional memory.
  - But that’s a problem for students who are here only four years; it gives students much less opportunity to be represented.
  - We suggested creating a one-year position to lower the barriers.
  - They said that would be too costly.
  - While the proposed MoU is sufficient, we also want a seat on the joint UBC-UNA Committee, but we were told we can only have observer status.
  - This is a good start, but we’re not getting the whole package we need.
  - We’re making concessions, but it doesn’t seem like they’re willing to come up with creative suggestions on this matter.
• Chris:
  o It’s not enough.
  o We went from a seat for an AMS representative to a seat for any student to any one-year seat.
  o This is putting equity on the backburner.
  o It’s not acceptable.
• Cristina:
  o We’ll put forward some suggestions.
  o We need to provide an update to the Board committee.
  o I would recommend telling them that we can’t compromise this much.
  o We need to find a creative solution.
  o It’s not about appeasing the AMS; it’s about creating a relationship.
  o We’re losing our seat; it’s taking away the chance for students and short-term renters to have a say.
• Lucia: What does this mean about development?
• Cristina:
  o The UNA is only a service provider; they’re not involved in development and land use.
  o The issue is that taking away the AMS voice means they won’t get varied perspectives: no renters, no students.
• Abdul: Why is the UNA creating obstacles? Are they negotiating in good faith?
• Chris:
  o The MoU is a sign of good faith.
  o On Board representation, they want to replicate municipal practice (three-year terms) for efficiency and experience.
  o We disagree. You need orientation, of course.
• Cristina:
  o And they are also concerned about cost-saving.
  o Elections cost $50,000, which is a large cost for them.
  o We did offer to run the elections, but that was not considered.

Adjournment
• The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm.