



**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:
  - The context is that this is something AMS Vice started.
  - The University opposed us boothing about Naloxone at Imagine Day:
    - They said it was inappropriate.
  - UBC told students to provide student numbers to get training.
  - So we didn't have much exchange with UBC; we went ahead ourselves; we provided the Naloxone training.
  - We saw an opportunity to do it through Vice.
  - 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:
  - Vice is looking into how to do Naloxone training this year.
  - Karmik focuses on the downtown Eastside.

## Services Review

- Abdul:
  - Working on the planning progress.
  - Have looked at past reviews.
  - Seeking out standards.
  - Looked at the self-assessment guide produced by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS).
  - Taking a measured approach.
  - Asking such things as:
    - Are we achieving our mission?
    - Do we have the needed technological and human support?
  - Using service industry standards.
  - 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.
  - The first meeting of the working group will be in the next couple of weeks.
- Julia: Councillors expressed interest in being involved.
- Abdul:
  - We are getting input from students at large.
  - Didn't want to burden Councillors.
  - But if Council would like a Councillor to be involved, that's fine.
- Chris:
  - We can amend the Terms of Reference.
  - 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:
  - 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:
  - We gave those free for them because they were a club.
  - If they're no longer a club, how do we do this?
  - 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:
  - If they're not a club, it would be like with any other group we do things with: through an MoU.
  - We would clarify whether they want equipment access from the Clubs Resource Centre.
  - We have MoU's with Common Energy and the Student Leadership Conference.
  - The IFC would be like the Student Leadership Conference: one time a year
- Cristina: Can you draft something and come back to us?
- Cole:
  - We need to establish what our relationship with the IFC will look like.
  - We will include benefits to hold them to account.
  - 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.

- 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:
  - It's not enough.
  - We went from a seat for an AMS representative to a seat for any student to any one-year seat.
  - This is putting equity on the backburner.
  - It's not acceptable.
- Cristina:
  - We'll put forward some suggestions.
  - We need to provide an update to the Board committee.
  - I would recommend telling them that we can't compromise this much.
  - We need to find a creative solution.
  - It's not about appeasing the AMS; it's about creating a relationship.
  - 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:
  - The UNA is only a service provider; they're not involved in development and land use.
  - 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:
  - The MoU is a sign of good faith.
  - On Board representation, they want to replicate municipal practice (three-year terms) for efficiency and experience.
  - We disagree. You need orientation, of course.
- Cristina:
  - And they are also concerned about cost-saving.
  - Elections cost \$50,000, which is a large cost for them.
  - We did offer to run the elections, but that was not considered.

## Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm.