



# AMS Annual General Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2019

Lower Atrium in the Student Nest  
(12:00pm – 2:00pm)

*The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm, with President Chris Hakim chairing.*

## **Chris Hakim:**

- AGM's are an opportunity for an organization to conduct its formal business.
- It's also an opportunity for our Executives to provide information on what's going on in the AMS and what will be going on.

## **Territorial Acknowledgement:**

Chris Hakim:

At this time, we wish to acknowledge our presence on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territory of the həŋqəmínəm-speaking Musqueam people.

In addition, we wish to recognize the fact that learning happened in this place where we are gathered long before this institution was established. It is important that we understand and respect our privilege to be living, working, and learning on Musqueam territory.

We hope that this acknowledgment inspires each and every one of us to reflect on the reconciliation yet to be achieved, and the challenges yet to be overcome by Canada and First Nations peoples.

## 1. MOVED CHRIS HAKIM, SECONDED NICK PANG:

“That the agenda be adopted as presented.”

... Carried

## **President & Managing Director Report**

### **Chris Hakim:**

- We had an amazing fiscal year.
- We are developing a five-year strategic plan.
- We created our first sexual violence policy and also a respectful community policy.
- We're bringing in Ceridian Dayforce, a new HR and payroll system.
- We are reviewing the Ombudsoffice and building up more awareness of it.
- We are expanding our Communications and Marketing Department.
- We negotiated with UBC to have them take over all the costs of the Empower Me counselling service:
  - That's a big win for students.
  - The service is now also available to all students.
- Collective bargaining with SASC was successfully completed.
- Work is underway towards creating an Indigenous seat on Council.
- We are working with the Indigenous Committee on setting up the Indigenous Student Fund.
- We are changing our budgeting process and will bring a Code change forward on that to create more accountability and transparency and to make sure we are investing in student priorities.

- We had amazing artists at a successful Welcome Back Barbecue, and sold out despite the rain.
- We are negotiating with UBC about athletics and building the new recreation facility, for which funding was approved by students.

## **Executive Updates**

### **VP Finance – Lucia Liang**

- We are on track for this year.
- Fostering student engagement through better communication with club treasurers and a financial newsletter.
- Increased the efficiency of our online secure e-transfer system.
- Alleviating student financial struggles.
- Revamped our Sustainable Projects Fund policy.
- Not investing in fossil fuels.
- Hosted financial literacy workshops with RBC.

### **VP Administration – Cole Evans**

- Revamped administrative procedures for such things as sustainability.
- Updated club rules to increase efficiency and make sure we're not hindering them.
- Opened the Commons/Clubs Resource Centre: brand new space.
- Super excited to announce that the Norm Theatre will be reopening soon:
  - Am talking to clubs about programming for the Norm.
  - Looking ahead to a Phase 2.
- Sustainability:
  - Now have a new Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy in line with UBC's.
  - Revised our Student Driven Sustainability Strategy, making it the Sustainability Action Plan.
- Hatch Art Gallery has had record turnouts at openings:
  - Right now it's showing the S Project.
  - More exhibits will be coming.

### **VP Academic & University Affairs – Julia Burnham**

- My role is to be the point person between students and the University.
- I do advocacy work.
- I liaise with the Board of Governors:
  - Presented to them on student priorities.
  - Led to a fruitful discussion.
- On many UBC hiring committees:
  - Good to have input into UBC governance.
- Co-chair of the Student Senate Caucus, a strong voting bloc for students.
- 7<sup>th</sup> annual Textbook Broke campaign, including:
  - Open Education Resources (OER) champions event.
  - There's now an OER fund, and I am making sure it is used to align with student priorities.
- Policy 131 (sexual violence policy):
  - Fought successfully for a student seat on the review committee.
  - Public consultation period coming up.
    - Working with the Sexual Assault Support Centre on this.
- Academic Experience Survey:
  - Submitted report to Council.
  - About to start the next survey.

- Thanks to my incredible staff.

### **Student Services Manager – Ian Stone**

- Seven Services.
- Strong start to the year.
- 115 Student Volunteers and 43 paid staff.
- We have seen an increase in usage: 2300 interactions between May and September.
- The three-year services review is underway.
- Last reviews were done in 2013 and 2017.
- Doing consultation about our peer services: Speakeasy and Vice.
- Using surveys to improve offerings.
- We want our Services to be in line with student needs.
- We use data analysis to improve our Services and outreach.
- Seeking to improve accessibility.

### **VP External – Cristina Ilnitchi (read by Chris Hakim)**

- In Victoria on a lobbying trip.
- Bringing student voices to every level of government.
- Encouraging voting.
- Working with other student unions, non-profits, across Canada.
- Our goal is to make sure your post-secondary education is affordable and accessible.
- We worked to eliminate interest on student loans.
- Also, with the provincial government, on reducing sexualized violence on campus.
- Affordability:
  - Not just tuition.
  - Told the government to invest in OER's and encouraged institutions to adopt them.
  - Negotiated a five-year U-Pass agreement.
- Advocating to government for the SkyTrain to come to UBC.
- Advocating for an upfront needs-based grants system.
- Hoping to make the Permanent Residency process for international students easier.
- Calling on the provincial government to roll out programs in support of student mental health.

### **2. MOVED COLE EVANS, SECONDED VERONICA STOLBA:**

“That the Alma Mater Society membership accept the President and Managing Director’s Annual Report as presented.”

... Carried

### **Auditor’s Report and Financial Statements**

#### **VP Finance – Lucia Liang**

- Total Assets \$124 million.
- \$100 million for this building.
- Other assets include:
  - The art collection
  - Investments
  - Property and equipment

- Funds.
- Liabilities of \$95 million, consisting mainly of debt on this building (\$65 million).
- Also owe money to Clubs and Constituencies.
- And there's a \$24 million deferred capital contribution from UBC.
- We had a surplus of \$1.969 million this past year, the highest ever.
  - Businesses and investments did really well.
  - We were able to reduce our loan interest.
- We still have an accumulated deficit of \$4 million because of past years in which the businesses operated at a deficit (2016-17, 2017-18).
- In 2018 we brought in revenue, but we overspent in building this building and in doing the renovations in the basement next door.
- Debt:
  - Originally we owed the money to UBC.
  - We switched to RBC and started paying more to pay off the debt faster.
- We're on target for reducing our deficit.

Max Holmes:

- Did the AMS think it was hypocritical to ask the University to lower their surplus while the AMS has a \$900,000 operating surplus?

Chris Hakim:

- The operating surplus resulted in part from receiving more investment income than we expected:
  - We had higher rather than lower returns after we divested from fossil fuels.
- But it's a good point about the surplus.
- With the new budgeting process, we will get better at allocating fees coming in.
- We want to ensure that any surplus is used for student priorities.

3. MOVED CHRIS HAKIM, SECONDED LUCIA LIANG:

"Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society Membership accept the Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2019, as presented.

"Be it further resolved that the Society approve the Financial Statements as of April 30, 2019."

... Carried

4. MOVED LUCIA LIANG, SECONDED RISHAV JASROTIA:

"That the D&H Group be retained as the Auditors for the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver for the ensuing fiscal year."

Keith Hester:

- We've been with D&H for fifteen years.
- They send fresh people every year.
- We think they're great.

5. MOVED LUCIA LIANG, SECONDED RISHAV JASROTIA:

"That the D&H Group be retained as the Auditors for the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver for the ensuing fiscal year."

... Carried

**AMS Strategic Plan**

Chris Hakim:

- There's a lack of quorum, so we can't do this business.

**Adjournment**

6. MOVED CHRIS HAKIM, SECONDED TYRA PHILLIPS:

“That there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 pm.”

... Carried