



**THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER**

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 22, 2019

Attendance

Present: Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), 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), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Chris Hakim (President)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:23 pm in Nest Room 3511, with Cristina Ilnitchi in the chair.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Lucia, Julia).

Minutes

- The minutes from November 15 were approved as amended (Cole, Lucia).

Food Bank Fridge and Freezer

- Ian:
 - Current freezer on its last legs and inaccessible.
 - Don't have enough storage capacity in fridge.
 - Getting more donations and going to purchase more perishables.
 - To buy a new fridge and freezer would cost between \$3600 and \$5300.
 - Looked at two units, got quotes.
- Keith: You'd keep the existing fridge as a back-up?
- Ian:
 - Yes.
 - Like to get the high end units, costing \$5300 total.
- Lucia: Lifespan?
- Keith: Seven to ten years
- Ian: Five-year warranty.
- Lucia:
 - Will this come out of the Food Bank budget in the future?

- Or in five years will we go back to the fund (SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund)?
- Keith: Capital items shouldn't be in the operating budget.
- Cole: Does Services have a line item for capital expenditures?
- Ian: Some budget for small equipment purchases: Safewalk car tires, but not the car itself.
- Cole: Maybe there should be a line item of \$10-15,000 to replace the fridge.
- Keith: No, that's what the fund is for.
- Cole: How much is in the fund?
- Keith:
 - \$300,000.
 - It's replenished every year, in part from CPF.

MOVED IAN, SECONDED JULIA:

"That the Executive Committee recommend to Council that it allocate funds of up to \$5500 from the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund to purchase a fridge and freezer for Food Bank."

... Carried

Managing Director's Signing Authority

- A proposal from Governance Committee to expand the Managing Director's signing authority.
- Keith:
 - From a finance point of view I have to see everything.
 - Currently, Code says I can't sign for contracts or cheques to do with the Services; just for business and finance.
- Cristina: Why?
- Keith: Political reasons.
- Sheldon:
 - Two issues here:
 - Adding the Managing Director as someone who can sign all contracts and cheques, not just ones for the business side.
 - Ensuring that the Managing Director sees all the cheques.
 - The first issue came up at the Executive last April; the discussion then was mostly about extending the Managing Director's authority to sign Club and Constituency contracts and cheques, but there's also the issue of signing for Services.
 - The Executive was in favour of extending signing authority, but nothing happened.
- Keith:
 - I won't literally have to look at every cheque.
 - They come in folders with a list on the front.
 - I can just scan the list.

- Cole: So the proposed change would allow the Managing Director to sign for Services?
- Sheldon: For everything.
- Lucia: We had a Constituency wanting to release \$15,000, and there was no one in to do it.
- Julia:
 - Increasing number of cheques.
 - It would be good to add another body who can sign them.

Iranian Students

- Julia:
 - GSS Council had a discussion about the Internet shutdown in Iran, the effect of which is that Iranian students trying to apply to UBC face difficulties.
 - The deadlines are this week.
 - There's a need for us to do something to help the students.
 - Going to get in touch with the Dean of Graduate Studies to ask for leniency so people can still get their applications in.

Services Review

- Abdul:
 - At Council last time the idea came up of adding a Councillor to the working group.
 - Councillor consultation is usually at the end of the process, in this case in February-April.
 - If we follow that procedure, folks on the frontline who deal with the Services will do the review; then there'd be consultation with Council afterwards.
 - I've offered to do an update to Council.
 - Looking for direction.
- Cristina:
 - Last time in Exec we said multiple things.
 - We can add a Councillor, but everyone on the working group now is there for a reason.
 - You said you're happy to go to Council to give an update, do consultation.

[Julia leaves.]

- Abdul:
 - Yes, consultation with Council after making a presentation to them.
 - My preference is not to delay.
 - Don't want to hold up the budgeting process.
- Cristina: Was there a Councillor on the last Services Review?
- Abdul: Yes, because last time it was under the Student Life Committee.

- Cristina:
 - I think Council just wanted to be part of the process.
 - I think we can address this at Council when the ToR is presented.
 - Let's do a formal motion now to approve the ToR, and it can go to Council as a submission.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED LUCIA:

"That the Terms of Reference for the working group for the Services Review be approved as presented and sent to Council as a submission."

... Carried

Policy I-9 (Executive Goal Setting)

- Cristina:
 - The Governance Committee wants to amend Policy I-9 to require Executives to attach their campaign materials to their proposed goals.
- Cole:
 - The Governance Committee is looking at greater campaign accountability measures for campaign promises and is looking for Executive feedback.
 - I'm not opposed in principle, just opposed to how the proposal is currently worded.
 - I'm the Executive representative on Governance and said that to them there.
 - The rest of the Governance Committee was in favour or neutral.
 - It's not clear what the method of collecting the campaign materials would be.
 - Does the proposal mean I would have to attach every single piece of campaign material?
 - I suggested instead that successful candidates attach their official campaign platform.
 - But someone said you don't have to have a platform to run in the AMS elections.
 - The existing I-9 policy already does a satisfactory job on promises and goals.
- Cristina:
 - Executives already have to identify campaign promises.
 - I don't think it's too much extra labour to add actual campaign materials.
 - It would be up to each person to decide what to add.
 - It's flexible.
- Lucia: I agree with Cole. I don't think we should add this.
- Cristina: Is it too difficult?
- Cole:
 - It's not been well thought out.
 - I'm not against the idea of attaching; I just don't see a process.
 - Will this become just something else that's not followed?
- Lucia: It doesn't add anything not already in I-9.

- Cristina: You already have to submit your campaign materials to the Elections Committee.
- Cole:
 - Once in office, it's your goals that matter.
 - The purpose of the Board is not to keep you accountable to your campaign promises but to your goals.
 - Keeping us accountable to our campaign promises is something the media does or the electorate.
- Lucia: What if the situation has changed since you made your promises?
- Cristina: You already have to explain if your goals differ from your promises.
- Lucia: It's just additional work for the Chief Electoral Officer.
- Cristina: Maybe we can ask the Governance Committee what materials they have in mind and what the process for collection will be.
- Cole: Will we have to attach our campaign posters, our websites, our campaign ads?
- Cristina: We can ask these questions and provide feedback to Governance. I will do that.

Transit Strike

- Cristina:
 - Full strike next week.
 - We've put out a statement recognizing the challenges students will face.
 - Bus operators play a critical role in getting students where they need to go.
 - It's critical that conversations resume and students not face additional difficulties.
 - UBC just created an ad hoc Senate committee on labour relations to look into how to respond to transit strikes. (I'm on that.)
 - There are still issues with UBC on concessions for students: they're putting the onus on students: we want that to change.
 - It will be challenging to operate next week.
 - Want to support staff and students.
- Keith: Eric (the AMS Communications Manager) is putting together a Google doc on carpooling.
- Cole:
 - OpsCom is discussing keeping the building open 24/7.
 - Discussion of providing rooms to sleep in.
- Keith:
 - The insurers are fine, depending on what we do.
 - We would need security overnight.
 - Money needs to be authorized.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED LUCIA:

“That the Executive Committee recommend to Council that it suspend Code to authorize spending from the Contingency to cover the costs involved in keeping the Nest open 24 hours during the transit strike.”

... Carried

- Cole:
 - Concern about sleeping in the Great Hall.
 - Concerned about theft and people doing something physically inappropriate.
 - OpsCom is going to discuss the potential problems.
 - Maybe we shouldn't have a designated sleeping area.
- Keith: We wouldn't open bookable rooms.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.