



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of December 6, 2019

**Attendance**

Present: Chris Hakim (President, arrived 12:15), Cristina Ilnitich (VP External), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Cole Evans (VP Administration), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm in a very cold Nest Room 3511, with Cristina Ilnitich in the chair.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted (Cole, Lucia).

**Minutes**

- The minutes from November 22 were approved (Cole, Lucia).

**MSP (Medical Services Premium)**

- Cristina:
  - With the ending of the MSP, domestic students will no longer pay, but international students will be paying more: their fee will rise from \$30 to \$71.
  - We have been talking to the Graduate Student Society (GSS) about preparing a letter speaking to the hardship for international students concerning affordability.
    - Calling for extra support to be provided.
  - Had conversations with International Student Services; they say they have not received any expressions of concern from international students.
  - The GSS has received some inquiries asking for clarification.
  - UBC has a fund for emergency relief.
  - It may be different at other institutions.

**Athletics & Recreation MoU**

- Keith:
  - We've received a request from UBC Athletics & Recreation for the money from the \$21 AMS fee, but before paying, it would be good to see the MoU signed.
  - Work has been underway on the MoU for three years.
  - Where does it stand now?
- Cole: This is more a Chris and Julia question, and they're not here.
- Cristina: I believe it's at the stage of feedback on the first draft.
- Keith: We'll hold onto the money till it's signed.
- Cole:
  - There is another MoU about space for us in exchange for the space we give UBC for Storm the Wall.
  - That's in a holding pattern now.
  - We want space for a pool party.
  - May also seek ice time and gym rentals, an equitable exchange of services.
  - Not super pressing because they are giving us a refund for the pool party.
- Keith: They've actually been ignoring us about the refund for the pool party.
- Cole: They told me they would process it.

[Chris arrived.]

- Lucia: Why two MoU's instead of one combined one?
- Chris:
  - Actually three:
    - 1) MoU for the new recreation building;
    - 2) MoU for the \$21 fee we transfer to UBC Athletics & Recreation (A & R);
    - 3) MoU about space exchange.
  - They are on different issues.
  - It would muddy things to try and combine them.
- Cole: It was considered, though.
- Chris:
  - We're still negotiating with A & R.
  - They don't want to budge on clauses we don't want to budge on.
  - We want approval powers on their budget, since we provide one-ninth of it.
  - We also want approval powers on what they do with additional general operating funds that they get.
  - If we don't get this, we won't give them the money.
- Cristina: It's only one-ninth.
- Chris: It's still a significant amount (over \$1 million).
- Cristina: Are we seeking sole say?
- Chris: Our position is that they will need our say.

- Cole: We want something that requires consensus building.
- Chris said he would provide an update.

### Ombuds MoU

- Keith:
  - Again, we give money to UBC every year, but we don't have an agreement.
  - We could use the money for our Ombudsoffice instead of UBC's.
- Chris:
  - The UBC Ombudsperson will be back soon.
  - I will be in touch with her.
  - I'll have to get the numbers.
- Keith: It's about \$50,000 a year.
- Cole: Can we create some universe in which, say, \$30,000 goes to UBC and \$20,000 stays with us for our Ombudsperson?
- Cristina: Does the money have to go to UBC?
- Sheldon: The referendum merely said the money should go for ombuds services for UBC students, though there was an understanding that we were introducing the fee to help pay for UBC's office.
- Keith: That was never put in writing, though.
- Cristina: What happens at UBCO?
- Abdul: It's modelled on us; the students pay for the University's office.

### Surveys

- Keith:
  - Going to be running a bunch next term:
    - Nest Experience Survey (NES).
    - Services survey.
    - Academic Experience Survey (AES).
  - Am worried about survey fatigue.
- Sheldon: We also have policy limiting us to two surveys a year.
- Keith: Can we combine the AES and NES?
- Cole: It would make more sense to combine the NES and the Services survey.
- Cristina: UBC is also going to be running some surveys next term.
- Chris:
  - Going to be speaking to Insights West about a survey about AMS businesses: that would provide a useful data set and free up questions on the AES.
- Cole: For next year we can look at a hybrid survey, an AMS Experience survey.
- Abdul: The Services survey will be a high level overview rather than a satisfaction survey.
- Cole: The NES is also more about awareness.
- Abdul: It would be good to remove overlapping questions.

- Cole: This year there will still be some. I'm just now building the new survey.
- Abdul:
  - Survey fatigue is a real issue.
  - Let's look at consolidating questions.
- Cristina:
  - We should connect with Julia.
  - I think she's removing AMS questions from the AES.

## Bookings

- Cole:
  - Looking at changes to how bookings are done.
  - Not just new software, but a change in policy.
  - Working with Conferences & Catering.
  - There's been an increase in complaints from clubs.
  - Hoping to implement something new by January.
  - Trying to make it work for everybody.
  - Minimize conflicts for clubs.
- Lucia: What software?
- Cole:
  - Still preliminary.
  - Did an RFI but got limited response.
  - Want to probe further, but lots of companies are not interested in an RFP process.
  - Not rushing: want to find something that works.
- Cristina: There have been conflicts between clubs?
- Cole:
  - No, it's rooted in policy and capacity.
  - Going to put out a questionnaire to clubs about managing bookings.
  - Maybe we need a quota system, limiting the number of bookings per club.
  - Hopefully have this done by January.

## Lower Level Lounge

- Cole:
  - The pocket lounge across from Grand Noodle: the thoroughfare to the Life Building.
  - Mentioned this at Council.
  - Looking at sprucing it up.
  - Will introduce an environmental/sustainability theme.
  - One big mega-project for the area.
  - Budget of \$30-40,000 for new furniture, mural work.

- Hope to take some of the money from SUB Repairs and Replacement and some from Capital Projects.
- Will bring some renderings next week.

**Open Policy Consultation**

- Chris:
  - UBC is consulting on Policy 131 (sexual misconduct), Policy 14 (at risk behaviour), and a new policy on retaliation (ethical as well as financial retaliation).
  - Consultation will continue till the end of January.
  - We should produce a first draft of our submissions by January 17 so we can all look at them.
  - It will be good to get everyone's thoughts.

**UBC Budget**

- Chris:
  - One of the most important parts of student advocacy is input on the budget, which (along with the Excellence Fund) allocates money for food insecurity, mental health, etc.
  - It's important that student voices get heard.
  - We haven't made our budget submission yet; we need to do one within two weeks.
- Cristina: Will this come back to Exec Com?
- Chris: Not sure there'll be time, but all Executives will see it beforehand.
- Cristina: We can do offline conversations.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.