



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 10, 2020

Attendance

Present: Chris Hakim (President), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitshi (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)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Chris, Julia).

Minutes

- Chris and Cristina moved to accept two sets of minutes:
 - November 22, sent back by Council for revision
 - December 6
- Consideration of these was postponed till the end of the meeting.

Lobby Trip

- Cristina:
 - With the timing of the federal budget settled (it will be in March), we are going to Ottawa with UCRU in February.
 - We've finalized our briefs, which will come to the next meeting.
 - We've already sent them to some MP's.
 - We're emailing MP's to arrange meetings.
 - By the time we go, the budget will already be pretty solidified, so we're going to send some UCRU people early (mid-January) with the National Student Letter to advocate on budget asks.
 - This way we can influence what's included.
- Chris: SkyTrain?
- Cristina:
 - Not necessarily lobbying on SkyTrain, though we do have opportunities while there.
 - We're advocating at the municipal level, but TransLink needs provincial and federal money.

- Going to connect with the Mayor's office.
- Abdul: There were financial assistance commitments by various parties in the election campaign.
- Cristina:
 - Our brief will reflect that.
 - Mostly we're focusing on what didn't get taken up last year, but we will also refer to the election commitments.
- Chris: Anything else from the elections?
- Cristina:
 - Focusing on a couple of main areas.
 - No one else has been speaking about research: that's a highlight for us.
 - Our big ask is about affordability.
 - We will be consulting the Indigenous Committee about the lobby documents.
 - Another issue has to do with skills, which everyone is committed to boosting.

The Policy Formerly Known as Policy 131 (now SC17: on sexual violence)

- Julia:
 - It's official consultation month for this and other UBC policies.
 - Our campaign coffee sleeves are arriving today; we've organized a campaign to stand with survivors.
 - Instead of a typical Town Hall, we're going to break down the policy into sections.
 - We're inviting students to present online feedback to us instead of to the University because they may be more comfortable writing to us.
 - This feedback will get added as an appendix to our submission.
 - We're partnering with SASC on an event.
 - SASC is going to make its own submission, so there will be two submissions.
 - The official UBC consultation will include UBC coming to speak to the Executives and to SASC staff.
- Cristina:
 - There's an issue concerning the lawyered language of the policy.
 - The province has dedicated money to translating policies into plain language.
 - UBC did not sign on to that.
 - Have you heard anything more on that?
- Julia:
 - A plain language translation would be fantastic.
 - One thing discussed in committee was creating an FAQ.
- Cristina:
 - Will there be meetings between SASC and UBC's SVPRO?
- Julia:
 - There's a new SVPRO Director starting.

- Events that were planned to take place last summer will happen now; it's unfortunate they didn't happen in the summer.
- It looks like we'll be hosting something in late February in the Art Gallery: SASC will have art up there then.
- Chris: Is there going to be a respondents' support person?
- Julia:
 - UBCO has that type of role.
 - It needs to be completely separate.
- Cristina:
 - Faculty have been vocal on this.
 - Is there anything from their comments to consider?
- Julia: I will be able to articulate better on that next week.

Health and Dental Plan

- Chris:
 - Just had a meeting with TRG about the proposals on the administrative side of the plan.
 - We've had two proposals: from Studentcare and from Gallivan.
 - They're making presentations next week about prices, services, how they differentiate themselves, how they would benefit the plan.
 - Then the Health and Dental Plan Committee will vote.
- Several Executives asked if they could attend the presentations.
- Chris: It's open, yes.
- Cole: Does this go to Council?
- Lucia: Afterwards.
- Keith: It would be different if we were changing insurers.
- Lucia: This is just for the administrative end.
- Sheldon: If there is a contract, it will have to go to Council.
- Ian: I get lots of questions about who to contact about the plan: customer service issues.
- Chris:
 - Questions of customer service are absolutely relevant.
 - This is about administration: the front-facing part of the plan: the office, promotions, customer service, data collection. The front end.
 - Different from the insurance itself and the benefits (handled by TRG and Pacific Blue Cross). The back end.
- Cole: Could we do the front end ourselves in-house?
- Keith: Not with our current structure.
- Cole: Instead of paying an outside company, could we create something like SASC? Hire professionals.
- Chris: We could do that. It would require expansion.

- Cole: I'd like to see what Studentcare does: what is so specialized that we couldn't do it by hiring three staff persons?
- Cristina:
 - We still haven't had a Council presentation from Studentcare.
 - It's problematic that Council hasn't heard from them.
- Chris:
 - It was scheduled, but then the RFP took place and there was a blackout period.
 - We will get something later.

Ceridian Payroll System

- Keith:
 - Training this week as we prepare to switch over to the Ceridian payroll system next week.
 - Switching over to Ceridian for HR later.
- Cole: Can we do something nice for the HR team as thanks?
- Chris: They did a very good job.

AMSES (AMS Experience Survey)

- Chris:
 - Aiming to create a survey of the students about the AMS: the building, our businesses, advocacy, etc.
 - Right now we have the AES (the Academic Experience Survey), which is mainly about campus issues.
 - There's a small section in the AES on the AMS, but it's not enough.
 - Next year we'll have the AMSES to provide us more information on how well we're doing.
 - Speaking to Insights West, the polling company who do the AES for us, about the process and costs.
 - They're very excited to work with us on this.
 - At the end of the new survey we will have something that allows students to participate in other Insights West surveys and that will earn us some credit.
 - The Nest Experience Survey will be absorbed into the new AMSES.
- Cole:
 - This year is transitional; we're doing an AMS Nest and Experience Survey.
 - Next step will be to move on to finances, departments, etc.
 - There will be different subsections on subsidiaries, club bookings, etc.
 - Everything AMS-related will go into this survey.
- Julia:
 - Insights West has been a fantastic partner on the AES for years, but perhaps an RFP is called for in this situation.
 - We have a policy on the AES; we can make it more general.

- We don't want the new survey and the AES to compete with each other.
- Chris:
 - We're going to amend the AES Policy to be a general survey policy.
 - We have to set up the timeline so the new survey doesn't conflict with the AES.
- Cole: We would do the AMSES in the first term.
- Cristina:
 - The University also does surveys, e.g., the UES, but it's only for undergraduates.
 - Is there something for grad students?
- Julia:
 - I've been calling on the University to do something for grad students.
 - They know they need to do it, but no one's taking ownership of it.
- Abdul:
 - As part of the Services Review, there may be a recommendation for continuous assessment.
 - Every year a review instead of waiting for three years.
- Cole: Maybe we need a different name instead of AMSES.

Speakeasy/Vice

- Ian:
 - We're interested in changing Speakeasy to "Peer Support."
 - Vice operations are doing great, but Vice is not so good at efficiency and outreach.
 - We're going to combine the two services.
 - We're looking at models for that.
 - On a trip to New Orleans next week to see how other organizations structure themselves.
- Chris:
 - Make sure to go to Council.
 - Have to make sure the two services continue to do their work.
 - Speakeasy does not do much outreach; it's more service.
 - Vice is more outreach, workshops.
 - How can you keep all this working?
- Ian:
 - Speakeasy is good at service, Vice at outreach.
 - Vice does offer support, but is weak at that.
 - Speakeasy is weak at reaching out through booting.
 - That's why we want to combine them.
- Cole: Perhaps you'll want to separate co-Coordiators, a Peer Support Service Coordinator and an Outreach Coordinator.
- Julia: Replicating the SASC structure.
- Cristina: Will there still be capacity to do naloxone training and other events?

- Ian:
 - Not looking to cut any activities.
 - Saving money by ending duplication of training and promotion.
 - Synergy.
- Chris: Does the training cost really decrease? You'll still have the same number of people to train.
- Ian: Costs will go down because we can train a larger group once instead of having two sessions, e.g., one training session from the Canadian Mental Health Association.
- Abdul:
 - Speakeasy is good at one-on-one support.
 - Vice is good at group support.
 - How can we continue to promote peer support with a combination?

Mugshare

- Cole:
 - Mugshare mugs were recalled by Health Canada because they explode.
 - The bamboo gets too hot, it cracks, and there are spills.
 - We've stopped giving out Mugshare mugs.
 - What are we going to do now?
- Keith: Waiting to hear from Mugshare.
- Lucia: We're giving them funds to restart: a new Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) project.
- Cole:
 - I'd prefer not to give them more from SPF.
 - Maybe we should be buying Mugshare, or take 50% of them.
- Keith:
 - We can't own equity. We're a non-profit.
 - We could give them a loan.
- Lucia: We want to keep prices low for students.

Executive Goals

- Chris:
 - Please send in what was requested.
 - Need to finish presentation.

Minutes

- The revised minutes of November 22 and the minutes of December 6 (as corrected) were accepted (Chris, Cristina).

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.