THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 16, 2020

Attendance
Present: Chris Hakim (President), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Cole Evans (VP Administration), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm.

Agenda
• The agenda was adopted (Chris, Cristina).

Minutes
• The minutes of January 10 were approved (Chris, Julia).

Wet’suwet’en and NVDA Training
• Julia:
  o We’ve been asked if we will make a statement in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en Indigenous Nation near Smithers who are opposing the RCMP’s illegal access to their land.
  o Because of the issues of solidarity, reconciliation, and consent, it is appropriate to make a statement.
  o In accordance with our policies, the AMS should take a stand when an Indigenous group is facing this sort of issue.

• Cristina:
  o Somewhat similar issue: Non-Violent Direct Action training for activists to know their rights.

• Lucia: When will the statement be made? How long has this situation been going on?

• Julia:
  o Will make the statement as soon as possible.
  o The situation has been going on for a year, but has escalated in the past week.
Policy 131 (sexual violence), Retaliation, and At Risk Behaviour

Retaliation Policy
- Julia:
  - There’s a new UBC policy coming on retaliation to protect whistleblowers.
  - We weren’t included on the committee looking into this.
  - We’ve raised issues, such as that this new policy should apply to Senate policies. Also that it should apply to the at risk policy and to digital retaliation and online harassment.
  - There’s also an issue of fairness in reporting and an issue concerning the rights of respondents.
  - In general the policy is okay, but there are a few things to tweak.
  - Implementation is key.

At Risk Behaviour Policy
- Julia:
  - We were also not on the committee for this one.
  - The policy could be proactive to create interim safety measures about stalking, harassment, school shootings, natural disasters, etc.
  - It’s pretty broad.
  - Quite a few issues with it:
    - It refers to SVPRO as if it’s interchangeable with the investigation service.
    - Campus Security is to look into complaints and send them to SVPRO without offering any choice to survivors (to go to SASC or WAVAW instead).
    - References to trauma-informed practices, but these are not defined.
    - The seven decision makers should all receive trauma-informed training.
    - McMaster and McGill include Occupational and Health & Safety Committees.
    - No one from the AMS or SASC was on this committee.
- Keith: We weren’t asked to contribute?
- Chris: We asked about banning people: if banned from campus, what about the Nest?

Policy 131
- Julia:
  - We were on this committee.
  - The policy needs to be clearer.
  - Need definition of members of the UBC community.
  - Curious about the removal of alumni.
  - Jurisdiction to investigate in the Greek village: ambiguous.
  - New institutional reports would allow UBC to become the complainant against serial perpetrators: that’s anti-sexual violence but not pro-survivor.
There are red flags that need to be addressed.

- Respondent support: UBC wants to provide services.
  - Shouldn’t call it support; could be called services.
  - Can’t say UBC supports respondents the way they support survivors.
- SVPRO in the policy, but not SASC: this is a huge issue. It harms SASC.
- The policy should mandate training of those doing the review of the policy; this is a problem: that there’s no training.
- SASC should have a seat.
- The time-elapsing provision is not trauma-informed.
- Staff and faculty have more rights to see findings than do students (because of union agreements).
- The privacy law for UBC (FIPPA) and the BC Privacy Commission are not allowing survivors to see reports.
- People hearing appeals need trauma-informed training.
- There needs to be a standing implementation committee with a seat for SASC.
- The language is too lawyered, not completely understandable. Difficult to read unless you have a legal mind.
  - UBC was offered a chance to get plain language support, but declined.
- Some good things:
  - Immunity clause if underage and bring forward a complaint about drugs.
- Need to lobby the provincial government about FIPPA.

- Chris:
  - Need to note that elected student reps were not on the committees.
  - The jurisdiction to investigate clause has not been changed; it’s too vague.
  - UBC should be advocating for exemptions from the BC privacy laws.

- Cristina: How will you go through all this information tomorrow at the Town Hall?
- Julia:
  - Broke down Policy 131 into six sections (principles and commitments, definitions, jurisdiction to investigate, etc.).
  - We’ll do a primer at the beginning, then people will go into whatever section they want to.
  - The goal is to have people bring lived experience to the topic they choose.

- Cristina:
  - Have spoken to staff at the Ministry of Advanced Education; will be continuing these conversations with Attorney General David Eby.
  - They’re interested in our review process.
  - We should collaborate.

- Chris:
  - Still including third party initial reports, so UBC can pursue an investigation without the consent of the survivor.
  - Send comments to Julia.
  - Get opinions by January 22 for final draft on January 31.
Clubs Platform
- Chris:
  - Campus Vibe agreement has ended.
  - They’re closing down.
  - Clubhouse is going down.
  - We’re doing consultation to replace it
  - Would like a presentation from Cole at a future meeting to discuss what we want, costs, etc.
- Lucia: Need to target the root problem of organizing clubs.

Equity Plan
- Cristina:
  - All departments have submitted audits.
  - We’re collating.
  - Going to meet individually with the departments.
  - Re-editing the RFP.
  - Will update Council.
- Julia: Timeline?
  - Cristina: Still what told Council: by the end of the month the RFP will be drafted and go out.

Budgeting
- Chris:
  - Keith is working on that.
  - Executives should as well.
  - Let’s set February 17 as first draft of the budget.
  - Zero-based budgeting.
- Keith: Templates will be available next week.

Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 pm.