THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 6, 2020

Attendance
Present: Chris Hakim (President), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), 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 2:05 pm in Nest Room 3511.

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

Minutes
• The minutes of January 31 were approved (Chris, Julia).

Ovens
• Keith:
  o All three ovens in the commissary are broken.
  o Would like to replace two and use the parts from those two to fix the third.
  o Not going to buy the same models as we had; we can buy two for $40,000 (half the price of what we paid before).
  o The intention with the original ones was that they interact with the blast chiller, but the amount of chilled water wasn’t enough; now they’re breaking down, and there’s no point in getting that type of oven because we don’t have enough chilled water.
  o Because the cost is more than 5% of the amount in the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund, this has to go to two committees and then Council.
  o Would like to change the Code rules on this; have asked the Governance Committee.

• Chris:
  o When we had to replace the espresso machines, we talked about a process to cover expected costs through regular budgeting.
  o Should we consider budgeting for this?
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of March 6, 2020

- Keith:
  - We were planning to budget for the ovens, but they broke down earlier than expected.
  - The Executive agreed to send the expenditure to Council.

Climate Strike

- Cristina:
  - April 3 climate strike.
  - UBC C350 has approached us for support and to help promote awareness.
  - This means coordinating with HR so that if anyone wants to take time off, that can be arranged with their supervisor.
  - We would also be taking a number of demands from UBC C350 to Council and explaining why it’s important to support the strike.
  - My office and Julia’s will be working with UBC C350 on advocacy support.
  - We’re waiting for tangible asks and will compare those with what the government is already doing.

- Chris: When are we expecting communications?

- Cristina:
  - We’re waiting for the formal submission from UBC C350 later today.
  - HR has already sent the memo from the last climate strike.

Recreation Building Agreements

- Chris:
  - I’ve emailed the agreements.
  - It’s part of the Rec Building project from the 2017 referendum.
  - These agreements finalize financing and management.
  - They need to be approved for the project to go forward.

- Julia:
  - How much is the total cost?

- Chris:
  - $64 million; we’re paying $22.5 million and are the largest stakeholder.
  - The management committee will have a 4-3 UBC/AMS split, the standard division on UBC committees.
  - We had naming rights, but have given them away so they can be used as part of fundraising: to name the building after a donor.
  - Next steps: needs to go to Council for approval.
  - UBC will go to the Board of Governors for Board 1 approval.
  - Lots of interest from the Board.
  - Very exciting.

- The Executive agreed to send the agreements to Council.
Transition

- Cristina: What can be improved about onboarding the new Executive?
- Julia:
  - I am bursting with ideas.
  - One issue is that none of the incoming Executives is paid for the transition period, unlike the incoming Student Services Manager, who starts on April 1 and has a month of overlap.
- Lucia: It’s not appropriate that our first day in office is the first day for our staff.
- Chris:
  - HR is looking at that.
  - Services have a grace period of two weeks for the Service Coordinators.
  - Trying to see if we can do something similar with student government portfolios.
  - Would there be interest from your staff in staying two weeks into May?
- Cristina:
  - Other student unions have a month of transition.
  - They do overlap.
  - During transition there’s more opportunity for past Execs to be hands-on.
  - It would be great to see the current Executive get more involved.
  - At Western there’s an alumni person who keeps connected and brings people back in for transition so that all the Executives can learn from previous folks.
  - It’s also important for the Executives to know each other’s portfolios.
- Chris:
  - For the Executives there’s no additional cost: they already get a transition.
  - It’s laid out in Code.
  - Also going to get UBC to take part in orientations: making sure there are meetings with senior UBC administrators.
- Cristina:
  - How do we financially support incoming Executives when transitioning?
  - There’s no standard time, no compensation.
  - The new person is dedicating hours.
  - Maybe we should have a transitional honorarium for the incoming.
- Chris:
  - Will talk to HR.
- Julia: And they’re transitioning their staff.

Policy I-9 (Executive Goals)

- Chris:
  - Under Policy I-9 we’re supposed to assign staff for the new Executive (to assist with goal-setting).
- It was agreed to designate Keith (the Managing Director) for the President and the VP Finance.
• It was agreed to designate Abdul (Senior Manager of Student Services) for the other VP’s.
• Chris:
  o Outgoing goal updates will be due in April.
  o Make sure you have KPI’s with percentages or numbers.

Coronavirus
• Julia:
  o Meeting with the Deans. Strategizing for if something were to happen.
  o Three scenarios:
    ▪ Significant absences by students
    ▪ Significant absences by faculty
    ▪ UBC shutdown
  o We have the experience of H1N1 from before.
  o The idea is to support students.
  o Preparatory work.
  o They’re going to do the best they can.
  o Looking at what UNBC did during their three-week strike: they cancelled final exams and just provided an extra three weeks of teaching.
  o Wanted to reassure everyone that emergency preparations are in the works so that students can complete the semester.
• Keith:
  o We’re putting things in place here in the AMS: telecommuting.
  o Looking at Block Party: does not mean we’re cancelling it. There would be 6,000 people attending.
• Julia: Going to reach out to Pam Ratner, the Vice-Provost.

Health and Dental
• Lucia:
  o Writing a report to send Council about the Health and Dental Committee: what was discussed, a breakdown, timeline.
  o None of the documents will be sent, but it would be good for Council to know.
• Chris:
  o Instead of rushing out a report now, we can send something on Monday after TRG comes.
• Cristina:
  o Has TRG spoken about confidentiality?
  o About what we can say or disclose?
• Keith: Nothing about the result.
• Chris: Pricing?
• Keith: That can be done in camera. Nothing out of camera.
• Lucia:
  o We can’t guarantee confidentiality if we send all the documents.
  o That’s why I should write the report.
• Chris:
  o We could look into sending the documents out confidentially.
  o If we’re going to have a talk, it wouldn’t be the worst thing to have a presentation to Council.
• Cristina: It wouldn’t be appropriate to have a discussion with folks who don’t know the details.
• Chris:
  o That’s why I want to send presentation materials from TRG.
  o That would be better than rushing a report this afternoon.
• Keith: That doesn’t address the companies’ proposals.
• Chris: I’m fine with sending out the proposals.
• Keith:
  o Don’t think you can send them and preserve confidentiality.
  o Better to have Councillors come in and read them.
  o If sent out, they will go public.
• Abdul:
  o Maybe use password protection.
  o You do risk spread, but providing documents ahead of time is good.
• Lucia: If we do decide to send, it should be today.
• Chris: I’m fine with that.

Special Election
• Chris:
  o Some elections staff will stay on for an extra two weeks to run the special election for VP Academic & University Affairs.
  o Communication is going out next week.
  o Nominations will be open March 9-13.
  o Campaigning will run March 16-27.
  o Voting will be March 23-27.
  o Council will be asked to suspend Code to reduce office hours for the elections staff and to have one debate instead of two.

Adjournment
• The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.