AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 20, 2020

Attendance
Present: Chris Hakim (President), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), 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: Lucia Liang (VP Finance)

Guest: Reed Garvin (AVP Finance)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
- The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda
- The agenda was adopted (Chris, Cole).

Minutes
- The minutes of March 6 were approved (Chris, Cristina).

Speakeasy and Vice
- Ian:
  - Looking to combine Speakeasy and Vice into one Service as AMS Peer Support.
  - This restructuring will result in something similar to SASC: one Service with two branches:
    - One focused on outreach and education
    - One on peer support.
  - There will be one Service Coordinator and two Assistant Coordinators (one for each branch).
  - Mental health on campus is changing very quickly; we need to keep up.
  - Speakeasy dates back to 1970; Vice is relatively new.
  - Speakeasy is weak on outreach, but good on peer support.
  - Vice is not established as peer support, but is good at holding events.
  - We will save costs by combining.
  - KPI’s: Speakeasy has a low number of interactions, but they’re of high quality; still, the cost per interaction is a concern.
We’re not going to take away anything that’s offered.
We’re hoping the Coordinator will have more interaction with community partners on campus.

- Chris:
  - Love the structural change.
  - How are we evaluating the KPI’s?

- Ian:
  - We’ve done cost per interaction forever: it’s just our budget divided by the number of interactions.
  - As to tracking quality, there’s great data in the Academic Experience Survey (AES) answering the question, Is Speakeasy valuable?
  - We’ll continue to work with the VPAUA on data from the AES.
  - We’re also collecting feedback.

- Chris:
  - Immediate feedback is good.
  - Maybe for consistency (to measure KPI’s at the end of the year) you could have a one-question prompt at the end of any interaction.

- Cristina:
  - Excited about this.
  - Is there thought about comparisons with other services on campus?
  - And working with other groups on campus, like the students in recovery group?

- Ian:
  - Two organizations on campus:
    - UBC Wellness Centre
    - The Student Recovery Committee: they focus more on recovery.
  - It’s an ongoing conversation.
  - We work with them, but differentiate.

- Cristina: Referrals?
- Ian: Yes.
- Sheldon: Do you want a Code change at the upcoming Council meeting?
- Abdul:
  - Not at this meeting.
  - This will be a consultation or presentation.

**Endowment Referendum**

- Keith:
  - We’ve realized that we have assistance funds for bursaries, but not for imminent hardship.
  - If we could access our investments for that, would we need to get approval first in a referendum?

- Cristina: UBC often does emergency funding: is there anything at UBC?
• Julia: I’ll talk about this more later in the meeting when we discuss COVID.
• Abdul:
  o A fund for unforeseen expenses.
  o We can mimic what others have done.
• Sheldon:
  o We can create new funds without going to referendum as long as we’re not introducing a new fee.
• Chris:
  o But we want to change the terms of the Endowment Fund in the Bylaws.
  o That would require a referendum.
• Reed:
  o We also need to look at our subsidies for fees.
  o It’s a mess.
• Chris:
  o Absolutely.
  o Keith and I will take a look at this: it’s a long-term project.

CampusGroups Agreement
• Cole:
  o The agreement with CampusGroups has been drafted and is coming to Council.
  o (This is to create the replacement for Clubhouse for our clubs.)
  o One issue is to do with privacy, concerning storing data outside the country.
• Sheldon: The law on not storing data outside the country does not apply to private organizations like the AMS. It’s only for public bodies like UBC.
• Cristina: We need to move forward on this.

Advocacy
• Cristina:
  o The federal government has announced a support package.
  o There will be a pause on student loan payments for six months, which is great.
    ▪ It’s something we pushed for with UCRU (Undergraduates at Canadian Research-Intensive Universities) and OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance).
  o The federal government is also promising 10% wage support for small businesses and organizations.
  o They are also creating emergency packages, including one for those not eligible for EI.
  o Conversation with Melanie Mark, BC’s Advanced Education Minister, about a pause on provincial student loan interest:
    ▪ Going to send a letter.
    ▪ In touch with other student unions.
o Also want support for renters and for students whose work hours have been reduced (or who have been laid off).

o The province hasn’t come out with a response to the federal package yet.

o They’re supposed to produce something next week, as early as Monday for student loans.

o We’d like them to improve on the federal stimulus, providing more local relief.

• Keith:
  o Alberta is giving $1,146 to people in advance of EI.
  o Can BC do something similar?

• Cristina:
  o That’s something we’re discussing.
  o Something while federal money is processing.

COVID-19 and UBC

• Julia:
  o Disappointed with the level of consultation.
  o I was only able to get involved because I sit on the Associate Deans Working Group.
  o Yesterday we found out that research was being suspended.
    ▪ A surprise.
    ▪ We’ve not been involved.
    ▪ Of course, health and safety is above any of us, but academic concession and accommodation is all about students, and there’s been no involvement of students in discussions about it.
  o Good work is being done on accessibility, disability, etc.
  o Things are being handled by the Deans: not a one size fits all approach.
  o Student Senators are writing a letter to the Senate and the Deans, putting forward some demands about how students should be treated re course work, Credit/D/Fail, extending the deadline for withdrawals, transcript notation, etc.
  o The letter will be done by Monday.
  o We’re trying to get our foot in the door.

• Chris:
  o If the University is not going to reach out, we need to be proactive.
  o We should communicate directly with the Provost’s office, more so than with the Deans.

• Julia:
  o The Deans are the ones responsible.
  o Not all the Faculties are the same.
  o Don’t want to change all courses to Pass/Fail; want to provide choice to students.
Chris:
  o We need to communicate with the Provost so they can communicate with the Deans.
  o Need to communicate this to Simon (Associate Provost) as something urgent.
  o It’s good to get our thoughts out there now and not wait for the Student Senators.

Cristina: Emergency fund conversation?

Julia:
  o These are only available if students reach out to Faculties or Professors.
  o That’s problematic.
  o I’m trying to get them to do more formal communication, but am not too optimistic.

Cristina: Can we speak to Enrolment Services or can we tell students where to apply?

Julia: We could. Can think on that.

Cristina:
  o Residences are staying open, but recently everyone got next year’s residence assignments.
  o Are they still going to be honoured?
  o For Spring/Summer or year-round?

Inter-Fraternity Council Contract

Cole:
  o Please leave your comments.
  o It’s going to OpsCom.

Cristina:
  o I see the VP External is listed as the primary contact.
  o The Bylaws do say that the VP External does liaison with other external student organizations, but perhaps someone else more appropriate could be named.

Council Plans

Cole:
  o What is the plan? Conferencing? How will voting work?
  o Are we still meeting both March 25 and April 1?

Chris:
  o Conferencing in.
  o Voting manually.
  o Kind of rough.
  o April 1 may not be a good idea.
  o Looking into some new Board software that might help.
  o Would cost a bit over $10,000.
  o It would hopefully enhance our Board management.
Report from Finance

- Reed:
  - We’re cancelling all Showpass events until April 9 and all club events till the Nest reopens.
  - We’re doing e-transfers for reimbursements.
  - Processing about 100 emails a day.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.