THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 17, 2020

Attendance
Present: Chris Hakim (President), Cole Evans (VP Administration), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), 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), Lucia Liang (VP Finance)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 2:20 pm and took place by teleconference.

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

Minutes
• The minutes of April 9 were approved (Chris, Cristina).

Government Advocacy
• Cristina:
  o Been asking the government about including students in CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit).
  o The government has made adjustments, but they’re still missing hundreds of thousands of students.
  o We’re worried students won’t be able to afford their necessities.
  o Working with UCRU.
  o Have transitioned to a public-facing approach.
  o We sent a brief to the government.
  o We hear something’s in the works, but we’ve been hearing that for a while, so we’re going to the news outlets.
  o We’re hopeful to get something before May.

• Cole:
  o Talking to the University: they’re pushing the federal government for support.

• Cristina:
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of April 17, 2020

- UBC gave feedback to the government through MP Joyce Murray.
- Hoping government gets the message.
- We checked in with UBC: they’re advocating with Universities Canada.
- The weakest point is direct financial support to students.
- Others are discussing other things, but we need the financial support piece to get done now.

• Chris:
  - Next steps?
  - Other points of advocacy?

• Cristina:
  - The financial support piece is the biggest issue.
  - Also international students, rent support, options for September.

**Speakeasy/Vice**

• Ian:
  - I’ve spoken a lot about this.
  - Now we want to go forward and finally dissolve Speakeasy and Vice, to replace them with a new Service: Peer Support.
  - It’s outlined in Abdul’s Services Review.
  - Now we want to amend Code to bring this in.

• Abdul:
  - Trying to move quickly on this so can hire our new team.

• Chris:
  - Good job on providing information on this.
  - Looking forward to seeing what the new Service will look like.

MOVED CHRIS, SECONDED CRISTINA:

“That the Executive Committee recommend the Services Code change to Council for approval.”

... Carried

**UBC Financial Support for Students**

• Cristina:
  - Some questions we had after BC extended bursary funding.
  - Wanted clarification about eligibility, criteria, the burden of proof on students about financial hardship; also partnership with the AMS.
  - UBC agreed to a low barrier and burden of proof, which is great.
  - Set up a call for further clarification.
  - Connected with UBC’s VP Students Office about emergency funding.
AMS recommended that the University use money from its surplus: that’s going to the Board of Governors, and we haven’t yet heard whether it’s been approved.

As to the AMS contribution, we’d like to streamline pathways for students, and if UBC thinks it has enough funding, we asked them to let us know.

The immediate need is about the U-Pass being suspended from May:
  - That means some students will go from paying $41 a month to $100 if they’re still using transit, so we’re looking at bursaries.

- Chris:
  - Glad to see the various supports from the University and us for students in need.
- Keith:
  - There’s the $100,000 the AMS can reallocate for financial support for students.
- Cole:
  - Wasn’t it $280,000?
  - Keith:
    - That’s the money we send to UBC.
    - The $100,000 would come out of that.

**SUB Repairs Fund**

- Cole:
  - Want to replace the red chairs in the Nest with long tables and standard chairs.
  - With access to power supply so students can plug in.
  - Slots for over 100 people.
  - The broken red chairs will be discarded. We may keep the others or give them to Constituencies.
    - MUSA and SUS have expressed interest.
  - Total cost: $150,000.
  - The Operations Committee is voting on this too.
- Chris:
  - Have we received other quotes?
  - More information could be included.
- Cole:
  - We’re sourcing directly: this is the price. It’s the industry cost.
  - We could go with cheaper furniture, but that’s the amount for these.
- Chris:
  - Could that same chair be found from another supplier?
- Cole:
  - Would have to ask Michael Kingsmill (AMS Designer), but I think you would only pay less if you went with cheaper quality.
  - It’s a fair cost.
• Chris:
  o Lifespan?

• Cole:
  o All wood.
  o Longer lifespan.

• Chris:
  o We need an exact number.

• Cole:
  o Ten to 15 years for the tables.
  o I think seven to 10 for the chairs.

• Keith:
  o That sounds right.
  o We hoped the red chairs would last longer, but they just didn’t.

• Chris:
  o Insurance?

• Keith:
  o Already tried that for the red chairs.
  o Didn’t work.

• Cole:
  o It’s tough to get warranties from suppliers.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED CHRIS:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee recommend to Council that $153,390.56 be allocated from the SUB Repairs and Replacement Fund for the Eastside Furniture Replacement Project.”

• Cristina:
  o If I abstain, does this still pass?

• Chris:
  o If you have concerns, bring them up.
  o Maybe we should wait till the next Executive Committee meeting.
  o Maybe we can have Michael Kingsmill prepare a presentation.
  o We only got this information a few minutes ago.
  o There are questions about lifespan.

• It was agreed to delay this motion.

SASC Counselling

• Abdul:
  o We at first thought we needed a Council motion, but Sheldon doesn’t think so.
It seems SASC can just go ahead and spend this money on an emergency counselling fund.

- We could provide Council with information.

- Cristina:
  - I’d vote in favour if we needed a vote.
  - If not, it’s good to announce it.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm.