Attendance
Present: Chris Hakim (President), Julia Burnham (VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), Cole Evans (VP Administration), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), 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 2:06 pm and took place by teleconference.

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

Minutes
- The minutes of April 3 were approved (Chris, Cristina).

Welcome Back Barbecue
- Keith:
  - Been negotiating with the artists’ managers.
  - We can transfer what we were going to pay for Block Party to Welcome Back Barbecue, and save $200,000.
  - (But not if we cancel Welcome Back Barbecue.)
- Chris:
  - Or can we transfer to a future Block Party?
- Keith:
  - Only if the government announces they’re banning large gatherings in September.
  - If it’s just our decision, no.
- Cristina:
  - I’m concerned that this is taking up time and labour that could be devoted to something else rather than to something that’s likely not going to happen.
  - There’s a federal report saying that even when we go back to a more normal life there will still be restrictions in place about how large gatherings can be.
  - It’s a tough call to keep the event on when we know that’s likely to happen.
Would these agents rather be strung along or should we work with them for a future date?
   And we’ll have staff working on this event that may not take place.

- Keith:
  - Until August the only person involved will be one of the Events team members (Asad).
  - We would hire others in August – maybe.
  - By the time of the final budget in June we’ll be in a better position to know.

- Cole:
  - If this can eliminate a $200,000 loss, that’s good.
  - We should be saving anywhere we can.
  - But if we get to August and the government tells us to cancel it, can we then transfer to Block Party next spring?

- Keith:
  - Absolutely. That’s what I’m saying.
  - If we decide to cancel, then we’re stuck, but if the BC government says no large gatherings, we’ll be in a much better position to transfer to Block Party 2021.

- Cole:
  - Then it’s a no-brainer.

- Cristina:
  - I agree from a budgetary point of view.
  - It’s still not the best use of our time.

- Keith:
  - It’s not affecting anyone’s time except Asad’s and mine.

- Cristina:
  - In any case, the financial piece is there.

- Lucia:
  - For the preliminary budget I will put the event in there.
  - But we can revisit for the final budget.

- Chris:
  - Seems the consensus is that we move forward with Welcome Back Barbecue, assuming things will be fine by September and thus saving as much as possible.
  - If this pandemic continues and the government steps in, we can do something then.

- Keith:
  - We could invest the money in something else.

**Emergency Financial Assistance**

- Keith:
  - Thinking of cancelling SUDS, which has lots of sponsors.
  - Would those sponsors be willing to donate instead to students?
• Cristina:
  o Two issues here:
    ▪ An Emergency Fund
    ▪ SUDS
  o Been discussing options for SUDS. Doing something virtually perhaps. More conversation tomorrow.
    ▪ In terms of sponsors, we usually just break even, and we’re going to have to reduce capacity.
    ▪ Sponsors usually get something: a presence at the event, a chance to chat with student leaders.
    ▪ I can reach out to them.
  o As to Emergency Funds, UBC and the government say they’re in a good place.
    ▪ We should have a conversation about whether AMS funding is necessary.
• Lucia:
  o There needs to be a Code change to free up emergency funding.
  o Hopefully we can pass it at Council.
• Keith:
  o We don’t want our students to say the University provided emergency support and we didn’t.
• Cristina:
  o If UBC says they have enough funding, then maybe we can find better things to spend on.
  o We need to have a conversation with the University.
• Chris:
  o There’s $1.7 million in the UBC surplus.
  o Maybe that could be matched by donor funds.
• Abdul:
  o SASC is proposing an Emergency Counselling Benefit for AMS members needing additional support when their Health and Dental coverage has been used up or doesn’t cover what they need.
  o SASC is expecting some savings this year out of the funding they have received from the newly increased $9.30 fee. I’ll look into what that money can be spent on.
• Cole:
  o Maybe we should let people know what we’ve been doing.
• Keith:
  o We are doing lots of things.

Government Advocacy
• Cristina:
Federal advocacy about people falling through the cracks of the government’s CERB program.
  - We’ve been asking for the removal of some stipulations around losing jobs due to COVID and taking away the $5,000 barrier.
  - Also looping in new graduates.
  - And Canada student grants: in a year like this, it’s important to offer more grants than loans.
  - Looking to ensuring a speedy process that covers all student cases with minimal administration.

We’ve heard back from the government to say they’re considering various proposals.

We are trying to submit recommendations.

We’ve done a survey about the challenges facing students:
  - We found that only 30% are eligible for CERB.
  - And 50% said they have either had their summer jobs cancelled or are still looking for one.

The Canada Student Jobs amount is a great start, but there are a lot of students it doesn’t apply to: students who can’t work, students who can’t work in essential services.

Working with the government and with UCRU.

Looking to pivot to a public-facing campaign, depending on the government’s response in the next couple of weeks.

The government has identified students as vulnerable: that’s a good starting point to work from.

**Executive Goals**

- Chris:
  - Next week finishing the goals.
  - Send them to me; also circulate them to the whole Executive team, and I’ll send them on to Communications.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm.