THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 13, 2020

Attendance
Present: Cole Evans (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda
• The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Lucia).

Minutes
• The minutes of May 6 were approved (Georgia, Sylvester).

Updates
• Georgia:
  o Board of Governors submission on COVID.
  o SASC conversation on UBC Policy SC-17 (the sexual misconduct policy).
  o Discussing course scheduling and delivery for the fall term.
• Sylvester:
  o Getting CWL’s from UBC for CampusGroups.
  o Making sure we follow privacy rules with CampusGroups.
  o Orientations for club executives in the first week of June: onboarding.
  o Sustainability Action Plan: aligning goals with it.
• Keith:
  o You can speak to Eric (the Communications Manager) about mailing lists for CampusGroups.
• Sylvester:
  o Still working on graphic design for CampusGroups.
  o Not yet at the mailing list stage.
  o Will reach out to Coms later for that.
• Keith:
  o Building Recovery Plan will affect sustainability goals.
  o We’re going back to single use coffee cups and more disposable packaging.

• Sylvester:
  o I do believe such measures will be necessary in the short term.
  o I don’t think this will be a long-term issue.

• Cole:
  o In the short term people will be understanding about the Zero Waste Strategy.

• Kalith:
  o BC budget.
  o Stats about the need for the U-Pass this fall.
  o With Lucia looking into a transit subsidy for the fall.
  o The website has been updated for COVID resources.
    ▪ Waiting for Coms for the social media campaign.
  o First draft of goals.
  o Meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education.
  o Continuing our review of BC Bill 23 on sexual misconduct policies.
  o Meeting other student unions about collaborative asks.

• Lucia:
  o Treasurer orientations:
    ▪ Have authorized 171.
    ▪ Another 151 have signed up for upcoming sessions.
    ▪ Pretty much done.
  o Subsidy for U-Pass.
  o Meeting with Showpass: their contract is expiring.
  o Lots of budget discussions.
  o Health and Dental Committee meeting tomorrow about bursaries and goals.

• Ian:
  o Safewalk: Intending to open next month.
  o eHub:
    ▪ Cool stuff with the Arts Co-op Office: new programs for students creating businesses.
  o Tutoring:
    ▪ Real cool projects with Nimbus: working hard to provide all services through the app: group tutoring and not just private tutoring.
  o Peer Support: Timelines for creating the new service.
  o Food Bank:
    ▪ Applied for government funding, but denied for not having charitable status.
    ▪ Looking for alternative sources of funding.
    ▪ Waiting for the Life Building to open so we can adjust.
  o Canada Summer jobs for a social media person and a housing person.
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- doing research on a new housing service.
  - cole:
    - with georgia, talking to the university, staying up to date with their plans for the fall.
      - pushing for our priorities and for the university to consider all factors.
    - working with the student governors to go to the board of governors with covid-related stuff.
    - council today: the first one using the onboard software.
    - discussing the nest reopening with keith.
    - working with abdul and annette (the sasc manager) on the sasc expansion plan.
  - emergency funding:
    - meeting with enrolment services about the money the AMS is contributing.
    - making sure we address gaps.
    - ensuring money is used effectively.
- georgia:
  - working on a covid survey with the gss.
- kalith:
  - are all the questions we sent you going in?
- georgia:
  - a draft of the questions is going out.

nest reopening

- cole:
  - going to present to council.
  - checked with worksafe, the province, and the university: they’re happy.
- keith:
  - sending out an email to staff tomorrow.

bc budget

- kalith:
  - in june.
  - compiling data on what to talk about.
  - talking to cristina (last year’s vp external) about last year’s asks.
  - four main asks:
    - increased funding to open education resources (OER’s), especially now with more education online.
    - allocating emergency funding to student housing.
    - increasing funding to the student loan program.
    - transit solutions: a UBC-oriented project to help the economy.
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- Cole:
  - Important to push for investment in public projects benefiting students, e.g., transit.
  - The COVID-19 situation can be an accelerant on these projects.
  - There’s an opportunity this year to do advocacy to push large infrastructure projects.
- Georgia:
  - Can send over information on OER’s.
- Kalith:
  - We expect a lot to be online now, a shift.
- Georgia:
  - Other universities have policies.
  - Something to look into: creation of a policy on OER’s.
- Cole:
  - The University is interested in collaborating with us on large infrastructure projects.
- Kalith:
  - Our policy and funding asks have to connect.

UBC and COVID

- Cole:
  - A lot of classes are going to be online this fall:
    - The ratio is still to be determined, but it looks like a significant proportion will be online.
  - A lot of our advocacy is about how we can continue to support students in this time.
  - One issue is technological equity: making sure some students are not left behind because of technology.
- Georgia:
  - There needs to be a balance of asynchronous and synchronous classes so international students in other time zones are still being accommodated.
  - There are labour issues concerning TA’s.
  - Equity of access between those attending in person and those attending remotely.
  - Our big priority is the quality of education: making sure those attending remotely are still getting a quality education.
  - Ensuring adjustments to experiential aspects will be maintained.
  - Making sure Work Learn funding that is not being used will be reallocated to student-facing opportunities.
- Lucia:
  - Are we talking about reduction of tuition?
• Georgia:
  o There’s a good conversation to be had about the amount of resources put into quality online instruction.
  o As to reduction of tuition, if someone is not able to attend an in-person lab, they should not pay for in-person lab materials.
  o But still we’re committed to giving the University support to provide quality education.
  o The focus is on financial support for students.
• Cole:
  o The focus is on pragmatic things:
    ▪ How can we reduce other fees and costs to improve affordability?
    ▪ Emergency funding aid.
    ▪ Not necessarily about tuition.
    ▪ Targeting where we can be most effective: looking at additional costs that we can reduce.
• Georgia:
  o For instance, how can we reduce textbook costs or the cost of renting lab coats?

In-Person AMS Orientation
• Cole:
  o As we start reopening, we can do some in-person orientations.
  o Not as intensive as usual, because we’ve already done online orientations.
  o Keith and I are planning.
• Kalith:
  o Who would be attending?
• Cole:
  o Us, our staff, presenters.
• Keith:
  o In the Michael Kingsmill Forum: we can do social distancing there.

UBC Orientation for First Years
• Cole:
  o Things are looking good.
  o They’re talking of involving the AMS a lot more this year.
  o Will loop in Events and Communications.
  o What do we want to do? Have to decide.
  o There won’t be a lot of First Week activity: there will be few first years on campus.
  o What emphasis do we want to put on the First Year Kits?
  o Shipping the kits?
  o Something to start thinking about.
• Sylvester:
  o Will we not be getting First Week revenue?
• Cole:
  o No, the First Week Kits produce most of the revenue, so we should focus on that.
  o Going to have to talk more about this.
  o I think students who can’t be on campus will find it cool to buy a kit.
  o But maybe people will be trying to spend less money, and there won’t be a Welcome Back Barbecue ticket this year.
• Lucia:
  o How much do we make from the kits?
• Keith:
  o About $60,000.
  o We sell about 700.
  o That’s revenue. Gross, not net. Our net is $25,000 to $30,000.
  o It’s a good chunk of money.
  o Might look for online events to increase revenue.
• Kalith:
  o There’s potential.
  o Lots of students are active on social media.
  o There’s so many online groups.
  o We can build partnerships.
  o Can market first year kits.
• Sylvester:
  o I definitely agree.
  o Students can’t be on campus to feel university pride.
  o They’ll be hungry for what we can give them.

Adjournment
• The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.