THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 6, 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, arrived 12:15), 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 12:08 pm and took place by videoconference.

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

Minutes
- The minutes of April 24 were approved (Lucia, Sylvester).

Transitions
- Cole:
  - Go through the Orientations presentations.
- Georgia:
  - Looking for transition reports from previous staff.
- Sheldon:
  - If you can’t find them, we can look in the Archives.
- Lucia:
  - Next hiring cycle?
- Cole:
  - Going to wait to hear BC reopening guidelines.
  - If BC approves reopening in the next couple of weeks, then we’ll go ahead.
  - If things are still slow, then we’ll do a small round of hiring: Clubs Administrator, Funds and Grants.
- Lucia:
  - To get applicants, we’ll need help from Communications.
- Cole:
  - Ideally, we’ll know before the next newsletter.
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- We did receive lots of applications in April.
- I’m not too worried about that.

[Kalith arrived.]

- Kalith:
  - Need to hire a SUDS Coordinator soon.

**SASC Office**

- Cole:
  - Been working with Abdul, Annette (SASC Manager), and Michael Kingsmill (AMS Designer) on an expansion.
  - Working with Studentcare: there will be a swap of space between Studentcare and SASC.
  - Looking to give SASC a bigger space.
  - Will go to Council with a preliminary budget and design for consultation.
  - Really excited about this project.

**CampusGroups Name**

- Sylvester:
  - CampusGroups is providing the replacement for Clubhouse, the clubs management system.
  - Hoping to begin onboarding clubs by the end of June.
  - Need to get a name.
  - Two suggestions: Birdhouse and Campus Base.
  - Did a survey, which came back with divided results.
  - Campus Base seems more professional.
- Kalith:
  - I like Birdhouse.
  - Fits in with Thunderbirds, and it will be part of the Nest.
- Georgia:
  - From Clubhouse to Birdhouse.
- Kalith:
  - How were the two options chosen?
- Cole:
  - We just brainstormed.
  - It’s tough to come up with something that’s unique but fits the service, and hasn’t been used before.
  - Things like Connect and Sync have been used in recent history.
  - These were the two we liked most.
• Abdul:
  o Could we even just keep Clubhouse for consistency?
• Cole:
  o Don’t really want to. Has a bad connotation.
  o Birdhouse is a continuation but with a different spin.
  o Campus Base is more professional.
  o If we’re divided, maybe we need to go back to the drawing board.
  o Georgia and Kalith seem supportive of Birdhouse because of the relevance to our campus.
• Lucia:
  o It would be AMS Birdhouse?
• Cole:
  o Yes, we’d put that in.
• Lucia:
  o Clubhouse seemed so distant from the AMS.
  o Its animation seemed different.
• Cole:
  o Let’s refer this back to Sylvester and his team, with the understanding that people like the uniqueness of “Birdhouse.”

Nest Reopening
• Cole:
  o Senior managers have been discussing this.
• Keith:
  o We’re looking at May 19, after the long weekend.
  o Partial reopening:
    ▪ For the outlets, only Blue Chip, with Honour Roll and the Gallery the following Monday.
    ▪ For the offices, anyone who can work from home should stay home.
    ▪ We’re installing sneeze guards.
    ▪ Going to issue masks and gloves to staff coming in, and there will be hand sanitizers.
    ▪ More detailed plans are being worked on.
• Cole:
  o Seating signage to keep people from sitting down.
• Keith:
  o Yes that is part of the plan.
  o Seating in the food outlets will be closed.
  o We’re taping off every second chair in the rest of the building.
• Cole:
  o No issue with taping off chairs to prevent hanging out.
• Keith:
  o Need to send a memo to clubs to say no large occupancy.
• Cole:
  o Still need to conduct the club move-ins and move-outs.
• Lucia:
  o How often clean?
• Keith:
  o Looking at this.
  o Three times a day.
  o Sanitize in between bookings.
  o Sanitize outlets once an hour.
• Lucia:
  o Should we tape off the second floor altogether?
  o So the cleaning staff won’t have to clean there.
• Keith:
  o All rooms will be locked.
  o Resource Groups are on the second floor, though.
• Cole:
  o Even now, with the building closed, custodial is still cleaning.
  o The idea of taping off chairs is to let people walk around, just not let them sit and stay.
  o Have to see what the BC government says.
  o UBC Food Services is slowly reopening.
• Lucia:
  o What else is open on campus?
• Cole:
  o Tim Horton’s and the Point Grill are available for take-out.
  o UBC is slowly starting to get things going again, but they are also waiting to see what the BC government says.
• Keith:
  o We’re looking to establish take-out and delivery service for the outlets.
  o Door Dash.

COVID-19 Support
• Cole:
  o Finalized contribution for now from the last fiscal year:
    ▪ $165,000 to the University
    ▪ Also $35,000 in special bursary funds.
    ▪ Total of $200,000.
  o Working with UBC to ensure it’s distributed to students and to address gaps and needs.
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- Kalith:
  - Putting a guide out to tell students how to apply for financial support.
  - Trying to get the government to put more funds into institutions like UBC for international students.
- Keith:
  - Pacific Blue Cross is going to give us a refund of $500,000 for insurance premiums paid for dental care, which we will refund to the students.
- Cole:
  - Block Party cancellation: we’re getting most of our money back.
  - Is that only if we use the money for a future event?
- Keith:
  - The money is still with us.
  - The expectation is that we will use it for buying talent for Welcome Back or next year’s Block Party, but we don’t have to.

**Discipline Motion**

- Cole:
  - Coming out of the potential action of discipline at the last Council meeting, and having been on Council for two censure motions, the thought process is that there is confusion about disciplining the Executive (or other Councillors).
  - There’s only minimal procedures and no guidance about when to discipline, what degree of discipline to use, etc.
  - This will go to the Governance Committee so that they can create guidelines so everyone is on the same page about consequences, when to discipline, and so on.
- Lucia:
  - The discipline would be just for Executives?
- Cole:
  - For all Councillors.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED LUCIA:

“That the Executive Committee recommend to Council that it direct the Governance Committee to investigate new guidelines or procedures regarding disciplinary action at AMS Council and report back to Council with a report and/or relevant Code changes by the last Council meeting of August.”

...Carried

**Committee Chairs**

- Cole:
  - A Code change to remove the VP Administration and the VP Finance as automatic chairs of the Operations Committee and the Finance Committee.
They’ll still be eligible to serve, but it won’t be required.
This will make for better involvement from Councillors.
It will also alleviate the unpaid extra labour for Executives:
  - the preparing of agendas, minutes, reports.
Only the Steering Committee will be automatically chaired by an Executive (the President).

MOVED COLE, SECONDED SYLVESTER:

“That the Executive Committee recommend that Council adopt the Code amendment on committee chairs.”

- Sylvester:
  - This will put more responsibility on Councillors.
  - It may reduce the misconception among Councillors that they’re just there to point out our wrongs.
  - It will make for a more engaged Council.

- Georgia:
  - Definitely in support.
  - Taking on new leadership roles is important: letting Councillors know they have a role.

- Lucia:
  - Absolutely agree.
  - Councillors being chairs is a stepping stone.
  - Gives them a voice.
  - Can create unity between Council and the Executive.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED SYLVESTER:

“That the Executive Committee recommend that Council adopt the Code amendment on committee chairs.”

... Carried

Updates
- Lucia:
  - Year-end stuff.
  - Sorting out with clubs.
  - Reimbursements, credit card transactions.

- Georgia:
  - Looking to make two submissions to the Board of Governors:
    - On UBC Policy SC-17 (the sexual misconduct policy)
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- On COVID support:
  - Housing support
  - Long-term financial aid
  - What’s going to happen for the fall term academically (looking for understanding and compassion)
  - Pushing for OER accessibility for students.

- Abdul:
  - Can you bring me and Annette into any discussions on SC-17?
  - If you’re planning a submission, SASC would love to comment.

- Georgia:
  - Will definitely reach out.

- Abdul:
  - We have already made some comments on the document.

- Sylvester:
  - Club renewal:
    - Most clubs have renewed; still 70 outstanding. Extended deadline to the end of this week.
  - Nest booking system: asking clubs to send information.
  - Planning to implement the new “Clubhouse” (i.e., the new CampusGroups system):
    - Waiting for UBC to send CWL logins.
  - Dani (AVP Sustainability) is completing the Sustainability Action Plan for Council.
  - The Hatch Art Gallery:
    - Conversations with the manager about increasing visibility: perhaps a virtual Hatch gallery for the permanent art collection.

- Kalith:
  - Mostly catching up/new relationships:
    - Indigenous Committee
    - UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities)
    - TransLink
    - Provincial and federal governments
  - Ensuring all stakeholders know the new team here.
  - Trying to find solutions to U-Pass issues.
  - Looking at the UNA situation.
  - Food security issue.
  - Students falling through the cracks of COVID support.

- Cole:
  - Carryover from VP Admin work:
    - Sustainability Action Plan
    - Transitioning Sylvester.
  - Preliminary goal setting.
COVID-19 related stuff: providing a unique opportunity to focus on our own structure.
Strategies, fixes – will be an exciting year.

- Ian:
  - Transitions.
  - Crucial services.
  - Food Bank had a 50% increase from last year:
    - Lots of students and also staff and community people are using it.
  - Hiring volunteers.
  - New Peer Support Service (replacing the old Vice and Speakeasy).
  - Hired two-thirds of team.
  - Working on timelines.

- Abdul:
  - Initial rejection from Food Bank BC because of our non-charitable status.
  - Want to connect to our MLA, David Eby, to consider non-profits in addition to charities. (Will connect with Kalith on this.)

- Keith:
  - Reopening plan.
  - Business plan for COVID.
  - Completed Orientation presentations.
  - Looking forward to seeing you all in person.
  - Virtual orientations for Council, and for Executives and their staff, happened the last couple of days; went well; perhaps we should supplement with in-person orientations when we reopen.

U-Pass

- Kalith:
  - Looking at how to support students using transit.
  - Been working with TransLink.
  - The U-Pass is suspended until August 31 (for now).
  - Need to give 30 days’ notice to restart.
  - This done because of low ridership.
  - Also TransLink ended fare collection on buses.
  - But TransLink has announced they will start charging fares on bus routes again.
  - They’ve also cancelled 47 routes.
  - Doesn’t make sense to end the suspension now, but students may find it difficult to afford fares.

- Lucia:
  - We have a bursary to support students.
  - If they buy a month’s pass, we can subsidize.
  - Have to work out the rubric.
• Kalith:
  o Need to do that soon.
  o TransLink will make refunds for April.

• Cole:
  o Have to look at the timing.
  o Earliest time to reinstate U-Pass would be July.
  o What would work best for students?

Adjournment
• The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.