THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 10, 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), Abdul Alnaar (Senior Manager of Student Services), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Ian Stone (Student Services Manager)

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 June 3 were approved (Sylvester, Kalith).

Updates
- Georgia:
  - Two tuition consultations: Engineering Leadership, Health Leadership.
  - Also Forestry/Indigenous Land Management.
  - Strategizing about tuition: making sure students get value for tuition increases.
  - Submission on COVID procedures.
  - Accessibility.
  - Difficult challenges in light of COVID.
  - Subtitling and Personal Protective Equipment for students with sensory challenges.
  - Working with the Food Security Initiative, making sure funds from the Student Well-Being Fund are allocated to it.
  - Getting started on a policy regarding the cost of online learning.
  - Principles for online instruction.
• Sylvester:
  o SEEDS MoU.
  o Also working with UBC Sustainability Ambassadors.
  o Working with the Food Security Initiative on food hub, a centralized online location providing information.
  o Combating Nest carbon emissions; aim is net zero.
  o First round of club orientations.
  o Club locker and office clearouts; relocating some clubs.
  o Hatch:
    ▪ Almost done preparing the summer installation: a colouring book.
    ▪ Set to launch this week.
• Kalith:
  o Biggest goal was holding conversations with campus stakeholders.
  o Now transitioning to speaking to politicians: the Opposition party, the Minister of Advanced Education.
  o AVP student housing.
  o Ran goals by Advocom. Ready to present to Council soon.
  o Advocacy is a continuous, long-term process: much of what I’m doing is the same as last week.
• Lucia:
  o Hiring new team members.
  o Q4, budget.
  o Meeting with fee-receiving groups.
  o Health & Dental Plan: meeting with UBC next week.
    ▪ Exploring option of reducing the fee due to COVID.
  o Final numbers on contract and from expense-reporting company.
  o WUSC:
    ▪ New refugee students not coming here.
    ▪ What to do with the money for them?
    ▪ Maybe stop collecting the fee.
  o Sustainability Projects Fund:
    ▪ Some projects couldn’t finish: we’ve extended the deadline.
• Georgia:
  o What are the strategies for the Health & Dental Plan?
• Lucia:
  o Have to talk to UBC, Studentcare, and Pacific Blue Cross about usage.
    ▪ See if it’s lower. But it could go higher.
  o Just initial conversations.
  o Want to be prepared for September.
  o It’s one of the main costs.
• Cole:
  o Working with Georgia on submissions to the Board of Governors on COVID, student consultation, and tuition.
  o Working with Lucia on the budget.
  o Working with Keith on a COVID-response plan.
  o Hired a new assistant, who will take some work off my plate.
  o Equity Plan details: scheduled for June 23.
  o Advisory Board also scheduled for June 23:
    ▪ Figuring out direction.
    ▪ A bit outdated despite recent changes.
  o Governance changes.
  o Meeting UBC Orientations about programming.
  o On the team planning the pep rally.

• Abdul:
  o Interviewing, volunteers.
  o Donations from Food Mesh.
  o Collaborating with Farmers Market.
  o New Coordinator for Safewalk.
  o Accessibility folks reached out to us.
  o eHub Coordinator recruitment.
  o Tutoring Coordinator looking for opportunities for collaboration.
  o Peer Support: Meeting Annette, the SASC Manager, to cross-collaborate and learn best practices.
  o The Advocacy Coordinator is reaching out.
  o SASC team meetings, transitions.
  o Exploring options for management software; looking for a secure solution.
  o Planning an online event for Anti-Black Racism.

• Keith:
  o Still working on budgets.
  o Q4 report updates.
  o Health & Dental update about refund.

Businesses Budget
• Keith:
  o This is Version 2 of the budget, but working on Version 3.
  o Total contribution of $219,072. Well down from last year’s $1.2 million.
  o Affected by increases in the minimum wage and by overall wage increases; also by the new employer health tax and the increasing costs of goods sold (produce prices are up).
  o Focusing on communications, advertising, sustainability.
  o COVID-19 effect severe.
o Revenue down to $9 million, a drop of $1 million.
o Will probably end up being even lower.
o Conferences & Catering (C&C) has been affected more than we’d hoped.
o But labour costs are down because we have fewer workers
o Decline from C&C: usually summer is a heavy season; not this year.
o Rents from tenants remain strong: 26% of our contribution; next highest is Blue Chip at 22%.
o Only three outlets open this summer.
o Making many small changes to the businesses to keep things fresh.
o More take-out as a response to COVID, so if the building closes again, we could still offer food service.
o Because this building was getting busier (before COVID) and we couldn’t accommodate everyone, Conferences & Catering has been looking to expand to other buildings on campus and also off campus.
  ▪ There’s an opportunity to get into that market, with other catering companies going bankrupt.
o New credit card and expense management system.
o Replacing finance system.
o Hiring for a new finance position to directly support student government.
• Cole:
o Good to expand into off-site opportunities for catering.
• Kalith:
o Is there a market for that, given social distancing?
• Keith:
o Christine (the Senior C&C Manager) is working on how larger events can continue to take place.
o There is a market, just a little different.
• Kalith:
o Pie R?
• Keith:
o Looking at a delivery model for Pie R to the Constituencies.
o Also the new chef is looking to improve the quality of the pizzas.
• Kalith:
o What’s our competitive advantage at Pie R besides offering the largest sized slice?
• Keith:
o We employ students.
o Quality has been mixed lately.
o That’s why the new chef.
• Sylvester:
o Still looking at delivery for all outlets?
• Keith:
  o We launched Uber Eats for the three outlets that are open now.
  o Come September, we’ll extend that to all.

• Georgia:
  o You talk in the powerpoint of a Mugshare revival for Blue Chip.
  o Will that extend to other outlets?
    o Iwana Taco?
  o Had been thinking of that.
  o But Mugshare will not actually be in Version 3: we can’t do reusable mugs.
  o But the plan was to extend to other outlets.
  o Had also been looking at reusable containers for food as part of a campus-wide program.

• Kalith:
  o Do we have our own delivery system?

• Keith:
  o We use Uber Eats for off-campus.
  o But we have our own for on-campus.

• Kalith:
  o Does that make economic sense?
  o And how do we attract attention?

• Keith:
  o Working on it.

• Cole:
  o Good to see we’re planning even in this time of disruption.
  o We have the advantage of guaranteed fees.

• Keith:
  o There’s our competitive advantage, what sustains us: dedicated fee income.

COVID-19 Response

• Cole:
  o Keith and I are completing a plan to take to Council alongside the budget.
  o Councillors asked for it.
  o Send in a list of what COVID is affecting in your department.

• Georgia:
  o How do the Food & Beverage outlets support food insecurity initiatives? Do they ask customers to donate?

• Abdul:
  o We have regular campaigns.

• Keith:
  o We have a place for donations at the till.
U-Pass Subsidy

- Kalith:
  - Looking at data from the COVID survey.
  - Our decision is to go with a subsidy for the remainder of the summer.
  - About 40% of students are not using transit this summer.
  - Can’t get U-Pass up now for July; the earliest would be August, and we see no point to doing it then.
  - The subsidy will be our way of trying to make the barrier as low as possible.
  - Then we’ll have enough time to make a better informed decision for the fall in collaboration with the U-Pass Advisory Committee.

COVID Survey

- Georgia:
  - Over 3400 responses.
  - Hoping to send out a reminder.
  - Closing the survey June 28.
  - After that, we’ll be analyzing the data and reporting to Council.
- Kalith:
  - Why keep it open till June 28?
  - Will a lot more fill it out?
  - It’s a long time.
  - Will there be another email push?
- Georgia:
  - There will be a bunch of pushes.
  - Next update June 11, and then a reminder on June 17.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.