THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 24, 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), 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 12:05 pm and took place by videoconference.

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

Minutes
  • The minutes of June 17 were approved (Sylvester, Kalith).

Updates
  • Georgia:
    o Incident involving the RCMP at UBCO:
      ▪ Calls to reassess the relationship with the RCMP and Campus Security.
      ▪ And what does this mean for the broader issues of police brutality and structural racism?
    o Lecture recording technology.
    o Athletics and Recreation.
    o Food Security Initiative conference in October.
    o Conversations about online learning.
    o Statements on Academic Freedom.
    o Making sure there’s a new commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the University budget.
  • Kalith:
    o BC budget consultation work, including a video submission. Communications is finishing it.
    o U-Pass subsidy being proposed to UBC today.
Continuing advocacy. Building relations at the federal level.
I’m chair of the UCRU governance committee.
U-Pass Advisory Committee: looking into solutions.

Keith:
Are there fees for UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-intensive Universities)?

Kalith:
Not now. To be determined.

Sylvester:
Campus Groups: Working with UBC orientations:
- Objective: To make Campus Groups the hotspot for all campus activities.
Finished hiring for my office.
Meeting with UBC climate action people about reducing carbon emissions in the Nest.
Agreed to resume club bookings.
- Letting clubs know we are resuming, but decisions will be on a case by case basis.
No other bookings.

Keith:
Club bookings as of when?

Sylvester:
- From the beginning of July.
- Told clubs what our COVID-19 guidelines are.

Lucia:
Transitions.
Budget:
- Graphs, data.
- Trying not to bore while still giving the information people need.
Decision to not have clubs submit budgets, but all fee-receiving groups have to.
Updating the funds website, the ToR.
Working with UBC about a refund for Health and Dental.
- It’s difficult.
- Might make more sense to invest the money in mental counselling services or other services.
- Looking for a solution with the GSS.

Cole:
Council:
- Executive Goals.
- First ever Indigenous seat holder.
Working group receiving Equity Plan presentations.
- Looks pretty clear who we’ll be selecting.
My assistant Justin and I are working on governance policies, revising Internal Policies and Code to make them more accessible. Also external policies.

Meeting Insights West about the AMS Experience Survey.

- Keith:
  - Looking at Code? It’s pretty long.

- Cole:
  - Looking at Code to see what might be made into policies instead, e.g., the Elections Code.
  - Will work with Sheldon and the Governance Committee.

- Ian:
  - Revamps to how we hire volunteers and staff in the Services. Streamlining.
  - Trying to get Services started.
    - A little delay for Safewalk.
    - Getting ready to hire Tutors.
  - New Housing service:
    - Been chatting with HR.
    - We’ve received funding for a position.

- Abdul:
  - Happy to announce that SASC has received a $10,000 grant.
  - Hoping to expand programs.
  - SASC has temporarily moved to the second floor while we renovate.

- Keith:
  - COVID Recovery Plan.
  - Budget, plus budget version 3 for next Friday.
  - New quarterly report project: going to start soon.
  - New software.
  - Air conditioning project will cost more than we thought.
  - Year-end: the auditors will be here July 6.

**Athletics & Intramurals fee suspension**

- Cole:
  - Letter to the Board of Governors informing them that we won’t be collecting the $21 fee this year.
  - Will be looking at suspending the MoU about it till we collect the fee again.

- Georgia:
  - Media release?

- Cole:
  - Yes, today.

**COVID-19 Response Plan**

- Cole:
Looking good.

Any thoughts?

- Keith:
  - Looks like Councillors have read it: the document has been viewed 56 times.

- Georgia:
  - As we roll out the initiatives, we should make clear that there’s always room to change, adapt.
  - We should also think about a general Emergency Plan for things like earthquakes.

- Keith:
  - We already have a disaster recovery plan being worked on right now.

UNA

- Kalith:
  - We reached the point where we needed help with the negotiations.
  - UBC offered to help by providing a mediator.
  - Cole and I will represent the AMS in the mediation.
  - Hope we can reach a solution to maintain student representation on the UNA board.

- Sylvester:
  - It’s ridiculous that they want to eliminate student representation on their board.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm.