THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 17, 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 12:09 pm and took place by videoconference.

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

Minutes
• The minutes of June 10 were approved (Kalith, Georgia).

Updates
• Kalith:
  o Finalizing U-Pass subsidy proposal. Been approved by Carole Jolly (UBC’s Director of Community Development). Speaking to the VP Students next week.
    ▪ Lots of calls from graduate students wanting the U-Pass back.
  o Expanding federal advocacy, reaching out to MP’s.
  o Seeking to eliminate federal student loan interest: a fair ask, especially during COVID-19.
  o In previous weeks was spending more time speaking to provincial MLA’s.
• Keith:
  o Manitoba has just announced funding for employers who hire students.
• Kalith:
  o I’ve flagged that to look into.
  o [Later in the meeting Kalith said he’d sent off an email about it to MLA David Eby.]
AMS Executive Committee
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- Lucia:
  - Final budget completed. Also the Q4 report. Approved by the Finance Committee.
  - Working on Health & Dental mental health subsidy to improve that service.
    - Meeting UBC, TRG, and Studentcare about it.
  - Contracts for ticketing system, financial system.
  - Finished drafting my Executive goals.
  - COVID planning: e-transfers working well.

- Sylvester:
  - Bookings:
    - Reconfigured capacity limits.
    - Trying to put measures in that will allow us to resume some bookings for clubs.
    - But other club operations will not be allowed yet; looking at it, though.
  - UBC Orientations is interested in partnering with us through Campus Base.
  - Campus Groups has created a module that will allow students to fill in their interests and be connected to a club that’s relevant to those interests.
    - Club officers and interested students will be able to interact, replicating in-person meetings.
    - All first years will get an early introduction to this.
  - Finishing clubs engagement survey: gauging expectations for the use of the Nest.
  - Goals drafted.
  - COVID-19 response submitted.

- Keith:
  - Are Sprouts, the Pottery Club, and Aquasoc still closed?
  - The Bike Kitchen has had a limited reopening.

- Sylvester:
  - We judge things case by case.
  - We’re not making an open call to clubs to operate.
  - The Life Building is still closed, but UBC has allowed the Bike Kitchen to resume by giving access to one or two staff.
  - The Bike Kitchen said they were an essential service, and we don’t want them to go into deficit.

- Georgia:
  - Looking into the profiling incident and at structural racism on campus.
  - OER’s, accessibility, accommodation for students with low bandwidth or in countries with no access to YouTube or Wikipedia.
  - Impact Grant meeting.
  - Submissions to the Board of Governors on SC-17, COVID, and student consultation: making sure they keep student consultation as a priority.
  - Looking at transcript notations and ancillary fees.
• Ian:
  o Lots going on in Services.
  o Food Bank:
    ▪ Reviving Monday operations.
    ▪ Partnering with Food Mesh, a middleman for donations from grocery stores.
  o Safewalk:
    ▪ Aiming to open by the end of the month, hired a Coordinator.
    ▪ Looking at software for dispatch service.
  o Tutoring: hiring team.
  o Peer Support:
    ▪ Team lead applications going up.
    ▪ Have an outreach person with a harm reduction background.
    ▪ Serious opioid crisis now during the pandemic.
  o Staff volunteer program to provide better training.
  o Data collection options.
• Keith:
  o You can look into using our point of sale systems for data collection.

Athletics & Intramurals fee suspension

• Motion for consideration:

  “BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee recommend to AMS Council that the President is given the authorization as per Bylaw 14(7) to notify the Board of Governors and the Registrar to not collect the AMS Fee for Athletics and Intramurals for the 2020/21 Year, totalling $21.00 per student.”

• Cole:
  o Want to have Council approve waiving this fee.
  o UBC wants to hear soon, so I want to have Council vote by email.
  o Need the Executive to recommend this.
• Sheldon:
  o Bylaw 14(7) is about exempting specific categories of students.
• Cole:
  o Is there another part of Bylaws that can let us do this, then?
  o We can contact the lawyers to check on the legality.
• Sheldon:
  o If they okay it, I can draft some Code.
MOVED COLE, SECONDED GEORGIA:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee recommend to AMS Council that the President is given the authorization as per Bylaw 14(7) to notify the Board of Governors and the Registrar to not collect the AMS Fee for Athletics and Intramurals for the 2020/21 Year, totalling $21.00 per student.”

... Carried

- Georgia:
  - Is Athletics & Recreation okay with this?
- Cole:
  - Going to want to get written confirmation from them.
  - Registrar’s office needs this really quickly.

Quarterly Reports

- Keith:
  - Looking at changing the way we do the quarterly financial reports.
  - We spend a tremendous amount of time on them and not sure they’re appreciated.
  - Looking at taking a more holistic approach, making them more activity-based.
  - Coming to Council soon with what they will look like.
- Lucia:
  - I love the idea.
  - It’s a very positive approach to focus on what the portfolios are doing.
- Sylvester:
  - This lets people know what we do.
  - People can see how our portfolios align with the funding.
  - Will increase engagement, voter turnout.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.