Agenda of the AMS Operations Committee
(Agenda for July 3rd, 2020 Meeting | Zoom)

Attendance
Present: Sylvester Mensah Jr. (AMS VP Admin), Ben Du, Katherine Feng, Alex Arbelaez, Daniel Martin, Nadir Nurali

Regrets: Lawrence Liu

Guests: None

Recording Secretary: Katherine Feng

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda
Moved: Nadir  
Seconded: Katherine

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.”
Agenda Items

1. Approval of Previous Minutes
   Moved: Alex               Seconded: Ben

   “BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the June 26th Committee meeting be approved and sent to AMS Council”

   This motion was passed unanimously

2. Goal Setting Approval

   **Sylvester:** this format is set by the Steering Committee.
   COVID-19 Response (Club Alternative Programming): The clubs Fall Engagement Survey was sent out a couple weeks ago to see what their expectations and needs are to operate during the pandemic.
   **Ben:** Is this goal the same as the survey thing Katherine brought up in a past meeting?
   **Sylvester:** Yes. The deadline for this survey was supposed to be tonight but we’re going to extend it to Monday so more people get the chance to respond. This goal is a short term goal because the main objective is to collect more information on what steps we should take next.
   **Sylvester:** UBC Orientations has figured out the academic aspects but doesn't have many social activities planned. The early introduction to the AMS through AMS Clubs goal will help clubs and the AMS increase their visibility.
   **Nadir:** Who decides which clubs are involved?
   **Sylvester:** Any club can express interest. Our Committee looks at submissions and decides on a shortlist that is given an opportunity to put together workshops in collaboration with JumpStart.
   **Ben:** It seems that the AMS isn’t really being introduced. It’s the clubs that are being introduced.
   **Sylvester:** Typically people are introduced to the AMS just through First Week or other events. This helps expand the types of people who hear about the AMS and know that clubs are associated with the AMS.
   **Ben:** I agree. In first year I didn’t hear much about the AMS. Maybe we could make an introductory (“welcome”) sheet about the AMS to new club members?
   **Sylvester:** I like that idea. The AMS sends newsletters already, but we could try spreading that further. We run the risk of sending out unnecessary information though. Do you think we should add that as a goal or just on the side?
   **Ben:** Maybe on the side.
   **Sylvester:** This will be easier with CampusBase too.
   **Katherine:** Are AMS Services like the Food Bank and SASC involved in JumpStart? Would they benefit from being able to do the same thing as clubs?
   **Sylvester:** Yes, the Student Life Committee has been working on increasing the visibility of services and they do talk at Jump Start. AMS CampusBase: I will share our plans for
CampusBase with this Committee and use Operations as an advisory body on how to implement it.

**Nadir:** Do we have any ushership goals such as the number of students who use it?

**Sylvester:** Thanks to our collaboration with UBC Orientations, we expect a large portion of first years using CampusBase to find clubs. We can definitely track the numbers. Do we want to make a goal for how many clubs/users we would like to have create a page? If clubs use the system, their members will likely have to as well.

**Alex:** I think this would be a future goal once everyone’s on the site and we have a baseline. Then next year the Committee can start making ushership goals. What we have now is good.

**Ben:** Similarly to social media, the more people that use CampusBase, the more likely it is for people to join

**Alex:** Are undergraduate clubs included in this?

**Sylvester:** Right now it says AMS Clubs, but that could be changed to AMS Subsidiaries. That makes it broader. Or we could say Clubs and Societies.

**Alex:** For example, Forestry isn’t a very active undergraduate society so it might be a good idea to strongly encourage them to use it.

**Sylvester:** We can’t make anyone use it, but we will suggest that people do.

**Nadir:** I think this will be useful if lots of users are on there.

**Sylvester:** Do we want to make any changes?

**Alex:** I think it’s fine as it is. AMS Subsidiaries is probably too broad and harder to reach as a goal.

**Sylvester:** Goal number 4, AMS club audit. The Operations Committee will perform an audit and write a report to Council on its findings.

**Ben:** I actually like the broadness of the goal and the report, it allows for flexibility and some breathing room.

**Sylvester:** Next goal - Engaging AMS Clubs more with AMS Operations. We will increase the inclusion of clubs more in consultation and programming of Operations, especially with the Sustainability Subcommittee.

**Katherine:** Do we have any performance indicators for this goal?

**Sylvester:** They’re mostly actions we can take when we identify a possibility for a club to do something with the AMS. It’s like using the strengths and specialities of clubs. Right now we haven’t identified areas of collaboration other than sustainability. We just have to find more areas when they come up. Do we like this goal?

**Alex:** I like it. I think it’s good to have the AMS be more involved.

**Ben:** This sounds great. I guess its success depends on what the AMS does and how clubs can be included.

**Katherine:** Even though it’s quite a general goal, I think it’s good to make an effort to involve clubs more when we can.

**Sylvester:** I tried to include goals that can be accomplished in the summer and also later so we can add goals. Are we happy with the goals?

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Operations Committee approve the five Committee goals”

Moved: Sylvester Seconded: Alex
This motion was passed unanimously.

3. Change to Chairpersonship Discussion

Code currently requires that the VP Administration serve as the Chair of the Operations Committee, however, in discussions with the executive team prior to the formation of this year’s committee, we addressed the idea of changing this requirement through the Governance Committee to allow other members of the committee to serve as chairs if voted into. Below is the written submission I gave to the Governance Committee on why I think this could be a good idea:

Sylvester’s Written Proposal:

I believe the Chair position provides additional value to being a committee member which is not realized when an Executive such as myself is the Chair for the Operations Committee. Being a chair provides students with the ability to harness their leadership, coordination and communication skills which are qualities already embedded in my daily operations as the VP Administration. A lot of times, councillors and students at large join committees with the hope of learning more about specific areas in our organization but their capacity to learn is limited by their inability to chair committees such as this one. In addition to the benefits stated above, chairs also get some compensation for their work which could make a big difference for committee members under financial strain – providing them with more disposable income that can be directed to their personal areas of need.

In my opinion, the purpose of having a council is to ensure that adequate student voices are involved in the society’s decision making process and hence a reason for having a speaker of council who is not an acting executive of the society. This speaker is able to hold all parties accountable in their contribution to council, however, this element of accountability is sometimes lost in committees especially when other members outside of the executive are new to the organization and its procedures – as is the case this year with my committee. As an executive I have the unspoken ability to steer the conversation given the perception that “I may know best” per my position in the society. This allows me to unintentionally control decisions made by the committee with close to little accountability from committee members which is not in the best interest of the society if knowingly acted upon.

I think this change will have a positive effect on all parties involved providing more gain for council members than currently exists. If you will like more reasons as to why I am in support of this, I would love to come by next Tuesday and hear what the thoughts of the Governance Committee are.

Discussion:
**Sylvester:** In no way am I overwhelmed by my position or the duties laid out in Code. I just think the Chair position provides more merits for non-executives as it allows such individuals to better understand the society as well as gain transferable skills which will be relevant if any committee member was interested in being more involved with the AMS, past their councillorship. A Chair who is not the VP Admin would also help the Committee hold me accountable. I will email everyone for their comments and thoughts on this idea.

**Sylvester:** Soon we’ll be looking at deconstitutions. All clubs get a two week notice to make an appeal and then we will decide what to do with them.

**Nadir:** Are you planning to bring the COVID Survey results?

**Sylvester:** Yes, we can have a meeting for that next week.

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is next week. A time has not yet been decided.

**Adjournment**

Moved: Sylvester  
Seconded: Alex

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12pm