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 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

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

Minutes
- The minutes of July 8 were approved (Lucia, Sylvester).

UNA MoA
- Kalith:
  - Hope Council approves the agreement.
  - A few amendments when the UNA passed it: we’ll talk about that.
  - Tomorrow the UNA Board is to pass it.
- Cole:
  - Really good mediation.
  - We were able to get as much as we could for the students and the AMS.

Updates
- Georgia’s update:
  - COVID survey done: over 7,000 responses.
  - Presenting on it and on the AES on August 5.
  - ToR for UBC’s SC-17 implementation committee:
    - We had to push for SASC representation on it.
  - Student Well-Being Fund and Strategic Well-Being Fund online.
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- Got funds for medical-dental program that hope to get established for the end of the year.
- Harm reduction.
- Met UBC’s Andrew Parr for updates on data:
  - Looking at 50% occupancy on campus.
- Discussions on climate justice.
- KPI’s.
- Going to talk to accessibility and disability groups about accessibility of the Nest.
- Proctorio: sent off the open letter.
  - Advocacy surrounding that: academic integrity, best practices.
- Consulted on budget.
- Keith:
  - How firm is the residency data?
- Georgia:
  - Not 100% sure. Maybe in August we’ll know for sure.
- Sylvester:
  - Looking forward to working with Georgia on an accessibility audit of the Nest.
- Lucia’s update:
  - Working on subsidy for Health & Dental.
  - Looking at possibility of opt-outs for international students who can’t enter the country.
  - Talking with the Bike Kitchen about a deficit repayment plan:
    - They’ve had no sustainable plan.
    - Have often been asking for short-term loans.
    - They’re also thinking of going to referendum to increase their fee.
    - I told them that’s a last resort.
    - I suggested cutting back; they say they already have.
- Other clubs: some have repaid their deficits.
- Looking into how we collect data:
  - We used to collect club data (for AMS fee subsidies) through Clubhouse.
  - Now that’s moved to the website: want to make sure it’s secure.
- Sylvester’s update:
  - Looking to find out about four things through our club survey:
    - Demand for club bookings in the fall.
    - What are clubs planning to do? So we can see if we can help (with virtual events etc.)
    - Issue of clubs retaining members because of lack of in-person activities: people won’t see the clubs.
    - Are there other ways the AMS can provide for the clubs?
  - Asked in the survey about doing workshops on marketing, SASC, mental health.
o Clubs are concerned there won’t be people on campus, but are happy with our guidelines for bookings.
  o Working with them to make sure things are as smooth as possible.
  o We’re encouraging clubs to continue their programming: looking at our subsidy fund and at alternative online platforms.
  o Providing resources outside the Nest.
  o They want access to the Clubs Resource Centre.
  o Clubs Days: The clubs are excited about virtual Clubs Days.
  o They will have to be more creative in their recruiting.
  o One barrier is the membership fee: we’re allowing clubs to change the fees.
  o The clubs loved the workshop idea, especially for marketing and recruitment and for how to host an event in the COVID world.
  o Also looking at financial training to help them better manage their funds.
  o Also educating clubs on EDI related to their activities.

  • Keith:
    o What is happening with the MoU on data collection?

  • Sylvester:
    o Working with UBC to update the data collection MoU.
    o Making sure we’re doing due diligence on privacy.

  • Kalith’s update:
    o Transit subsidy: only 50 applicants. Less than expected.
      ▪ Putting out more messaging.
      ▪ Hopefully we’ll get more applications.
    o Submission to Premier Horgan’s office.
    o Equity-based grants research: Finalized summer timeline:
      ▪ Policy page
      ▪ Looking at other groups and a pilot program
      ▪ Pursuing further research with grad students.

  • Ian’s update:
    o Safewalk finally hiring.
      ▪ Hopefully can start service in a couple of weeks.
      ▪ Coordinator arrives in mid-August.
    o Tutoring:
      ▪ Developing marketing plans with Nimbus.
      ▪ Reaching out to different groups, Constituencies.
    o Revamping hiring process.
    o Peer Support:
      ▪ Want to make it appeal more to students.
      ▪ Looking at text and chat support.
    o Food Bank:
      ▪ We have lots of food; we need more people to use it.
    o Services Orientation Day.
Housing: Looking to hire someone.
  Looking into joint presentation with SASC at Jump Start.
- Cole:
  That’s a good avenue to showcase our services.
- Keith’s update:
  Working on next version of the budget.
  Auditors are here.
  Nest cooling project: still looking like it will cost a lot more than we hoped.
    - Uncertain what we will do.
  Helping Lucia on the Health Plan subsidy.

Norm Theatre
- Cole:
  Working with the GSS and the University on the allocation of money to student priorities.
  We agreed that a portion should go to long-term capital development.
  One such development is the Norm Theatre.
  We just invested $300,000 to get it operational, but it’s still barebones and very under-utilized.
  There’s a lot of opportunity to create something exciting for students.
  There’s also a business case: it could generate revenue.
  Will keep working with the University on it.
  Reached out to the Faculty of Arts: they’re interested.
  Lots of traction with this; lots of positive feedback.
- Sylvester:
  Really excited to see the project develop momentum.

Get Thrifty
- Sylvester:
  The Thrift Store is working on potential expansion and reopening in the fall.
  They’re working with Michael Kingsmill (the AMS Designer) on options.
  Funding is from their referendum fee.
  Because of the pandemic, students have not been able to appreciate their activities.
  We’ve said they should just expand for storage.
  Once we understand the effects of the store, we can suggest what they may want to do.
  We haven’t had much time to evaluate.
- Lucia:
  We’re waiting for the business budget.
- Sylvester:
  - Their club executives were looking at extending their retailing position.
  - That might not be beneficial this year because of COVID.
  - Delayed the business plan.
  - Now that we’ve decided on options, the business plan should come soon.

Q1 Budget Reforecast
- Lucia:
  - Reflecting on business numbers.
  - Did a projection with a $1.2 million deficit.
  - But now we’re getting an extended wage subsidy from the government and have heard the good number about percentage of occupancy on campus: not 5% but 50%.
  - So I’m remodelling our business projection.
- Keith:
  - If we’re going to have a deficit, we want to make sure it’s as small as possible.
  - Our businesses are doing better than others.
- Georgia:
  - Do we have data on who’s using our businesses?
  - Commuters versus residents?
- Keith:
  - We don’t have any stats, but it’s an interesting question.
  - We’re reaching out to residents: there are few options on campus.
- Cole:
  - We probably won’t see that many changes for Services and the Executive from the passed budget.
  - We’re going to reduce operational costs on the business side.
  - We should be fine.

Fee Restructure
- Cole:
  - Lucia, Sylvester, and I are working on how to make the administration of fees more efficient.
  - Thinking of a working group model.
  - Have a group like the RGAC (for the Resource Groups) to administer funds.
  - Give more power to groups that run referendums.
  - Currently groups run referendums; then it’s up to the AMS to implement their fee even though we didn’t ask for it.
  - Want to decentralize and create more accountability.
  - Also a question about a general fee restructuring, but that’s down the road.
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- **Lucia:**
  - Happy we’re working on it.
  - Fincom ends up doing the administration for fees brought in by the Food Access groups or the Campus Culture and Performance group or others.

- **Sylvester:**
  - Get Thrifty ran a referendum to collect fees.
  - They feel entitled to the money, but at the end of the day they’re part of the AMS.
  - The AMS has the final say on AMS space.
  - The money is the responsibility of the fee-receiving group.
  - We should be able to address this.

**Wage conversation**

- **Lucia:**
  - In meetings, gathering information, outlining proposals.
  - Looking at a wage structure model for Student Government and the Student Services.
  - Re-evaluating job descriptions.
  - Looking to categorize properly: Tier 2, Tier 3, etc.

- **Sylvester:**
  - This is much needed.
  - It’s time we compensated the students, who often overwork themselves.
  - The structure we have isn’t working. Need to improve it.

- **Kalith:**
  - Could pay the living wage.

- **Keith:**
  - Where will the money come from?
  - In Vancouver the living wage is $21 an hour.

- **Kalith:**
  - Just my opinion.
  - I know with the reforecast things are not looking too good.

- **Lucia:**
  - Qualifications for Tier 1 are similar to Food & Beverage staff.
  - Looking at updating the JD’s to see if people are at the right tiers, as opposed to changing the whole Tier system.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.