



**THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER**

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 26, 2020

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance, arrived 12:40), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Georgia, Sylvester).

Minutes

- The minutes of August 19 were approved as corrected (Kalith, Georgia).

AMS-Owned Housing

- Kalith:
 - Had a very fruitful conversation with the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and UTILE.
 - UTILE is a non-profit organization that promotes student housing co-operatives.
 - The CSU and UTILE are starting up a co-op housing project in Montreal called Woodnote.
 - The CSU provides 10% of the funds; the rest comes from loans and grants from government.
 - Priority in the housing project will go to CSU members.
- Ian:
 - An exciting opportunity.
 - Complex governance.
 - Woodnote is a separate organization: the CSU went to UTILE to set it up.
 - It's a \$6-7 million project.
 - And now another one is in the works with McGill for much more.
 - The CSU one is just starting now after several years of work.
 - If we did something like this, it would probably take us four or five years.

- This would be separate from our new Housing Service.
- Cole:
 - It would be good to identify a site on campus rather than spend millions to develop a site in Vancouver.
 - Maybe work with the University (Campus & Community Planning) to see if it's doable.
 - What did the CSU contribute?
- Ian:
 - For the \$6-7 million project, \$1.6 million came from the City of Montreal, \$1.85 million from the CSU, \$150,000 from Concordia University.
 - There were various loans.
 - Location is the difficult part.
 - If not on campus, could look at Burnaby or Richmond. Closer than White Rock and cheaper than Vancouver.
- Kalith:
 - UTILE seems keen on helping us with this project.
 - Looking to expand to the West Coast.

Cannabis Store in Nest

- Cole:
 - Georgia and I spoke to Michael White (UBC Campus & Community Planning).
 - The timing is good: UBC is reviewing its policy.
 - We're going to create a submission to the Board of Governors saying why we'd be the best to do this.
 - Been talking to Canopy, a cannabis producer, about partnership; they have a variety of brands.
 - They're into franchising; we'd be more interested in a partnership; we haven't adopted a franchising model.

Tuition Surplus

- Cole:
 - Everything going well.
 - Submission to Board of Governors.
 - We still need to discuss.
 - Norm Theatre: Waiting to hear back from the Faculty of Arts about a design study for cost determination.
 - By the time we submit to the Board, I hope to have an idea about the cost split.
 - Hoping to find alternative sources of revenue.
 - The GSS is working on renovations to their space.
 - Electric Safewalk vehicles.

- Ian:
 - The electric Safewalk vehicles turn out to be much more expensive than anticipated: maybe as much as \$100,000.

Physical Food Hub

- Georgia:
 - A Food Security Initiative.
 - In addition to the digital food hub.
 - Looking at stakeholders.
 - Accessible, culturally relevant food resources.
 - Getting off the ground at UBCO.
 - Also at UBC Vancouver, probably in the Well-Being Portfolio.
 - Hoping to involve SEEDS.
 - Is the AMS interested in exploring this further?
- Kalith:
 - Is the AMS Food Bank involved in the discussions?
- Georgia:
 - The Food Bank Coordinator was at one meeting.
- Sylvester:
 - The Food Hub is starting at UBCO to see how it goes.
 - The AMS Services team has been part of the conversation.
- Keith:
 - Is Sprouts involved?
- Sylvester:
 - Sprouts is a club, so no.
 - But my Sustainability team has been reaching out to AMS subsidiaries, including Sprouts.
- Cole:
 - What is the University asking for?
- Georgia:
 - Does the AMS want to be a stakeholder?
- Cole:
 - The important thing is to ensure a sustainable structure, so it can continue year after year.

Rec Centre

- Cole:
 - Sylvester, Georgia, and I have been involved in the conversations.
 - A number of sessions with the architect are coming up.
 - We have two seats on the Design Working Group.

- Keith:
 - Government funding?
- Cole:
 - Need to follow up with Athletics & Recreation.

Fee Subsidies

- Cole:
 - What's the plan for rolling out U-Pass, Health & Dental, etc.?
- Kalith:
 - Lucia's working on AMS Hardship Subsidies.
 - The U-Pass exemption form for students outside the Lower Mainland is online now.
 - There's also the regular U-Pass hardship subsidy.
 - The main thing is to make sure that students with no access to transit don't have to pay.

[Lucia arrived.]

- Cole:
 - I'm getting lots of questions.
- Kalith:
 - Yes, there are lots of inquiries.
 - Students ask why they're being charged if classes are online.
 - The explanation is that this is a universal plan: students can use it for other things besides going to class. They have other essential needs.
 - The hardship subsidy is both partial and full.
- Lucia:
 - Subsidy information can go up on the website today.
- Cole:
 - Coordinate with Communications.
 - Need to get the messaging out so people know their options.
- Lucia:
 - Been working on a financial guide.
 - Can send out a newsletter at the beginning of September.
 - Also a web page about financial support
- Cole:
 - We need something for the end of the week.

CampusBase

- Sylvester:
 - Difficulty at the end of last week.

- Nearing final stages for implementation when there was a server crash which exposed some students' student numbers.
- We deactivated the sign-in when this was discovered (we had invited group officers to sign in).
- The numbers would only have been visible to group officers who signed in: probably only 20 people.
- This was August 20-21.
- We have fixed the issues.
- The Ubysey wrote about it.
- We do recognize that students don't want their information shared.
- Going forward, we will not be using the Directory feature on CampusBase; this will prevent people from being searched by group officers looking for members.
 - The is will put the onus on individuals to search for groups they may want to join.
- Launched yesterday; posted a Terms of Service; the system is ready for use.
- 570 students have logged in. Hoping that number skyrockets.
- This is a platform that can revolutionize groups on campus.

Housing Contract

- Georgia:
 - We were raising the alarm that a clause in the contract would mean residents could be terminated without notice and left without housing.
 - The language is being changed because of our recommendations.
 - This is a cool win.
 - We are continuing conversations.
- Cole:
 - I love big wins.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.