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:
  o Had a very fruitful conversation with the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and UTILE.
  o UTILE is a non-profit organization that promotes student housing co-operatives.
  o The CSU and UTILE are starting up a co-op housing project in Montreal called Woodnote.
  o The CSU provides 10% of the funds; the rest comes from loans and grants from government.
  o Priority in the housing project will go to CSU members.

• Ian:
  o An exciting opportunity.
  o Complex governance.
  o Woodnote is a separate organization: the CSU went to UTILE to set it up.
  o It’s a $6-7 million project.
  o And now another one is in the works with McGill for much more.
  o The CSU one is just starting now after several years of work.
  o 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:
  o The electric Safewalk vehicles turn out to be much more expensive than anticipated: maybe as much as $100,000.

**Physical Food Hub**

• Georgia:
  o A Food Security Initiative.
  o In addition to the digital food hub.
  o Looking at stakeholders.
  o Accessible, culturally relevant food resources.
  o Getting off the ground at UBCO.
  o Also at UBC Vancouver, probably in the Well-Being Portfolio.
  o Hoping to involve SEEDS.
  o Is the AMS interested in exploring this further?

• Kalith:
  o Is the AMS Food Bank involved in the discussions?

• Georgia:
  o The Food Bank Coordinator was at one meeting.

• Sylvester:
  o The Food Hub is starting at UBCO to see how it goes.
  o The AMS Services team has been part of the conversation.

• Keith:
  o Is Sprouts involved?

• Sylvester:
  o Sprouts is a club, so no.
  o But my Sustainability team has been reaching out to AMS subsidiaries, including Sprouts.

• Cole:
  o What is the University asking for?

• Georgia:
  o Does the AMS want to be a stakeholder?

• Cole:
  o The important thing is to ensure a sustainable structure, so it can continue year after year.

**Rec Centre**

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