

Minutes of the AMS Executive Committee

September 2nd, 2020

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Kalith Nanayakkara (Vice-President External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (Vice-President Administration), Lucia Liang (Vice-President Finance), Georgia Yee (Vice-President Academic & University Affairs)

Regrets: Keith Hester (Managing Director)

Recording Secretary: Haiger Ye

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Sylvester Seconded: Georgia

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

Approval of Previous Minutes

Moved: Sylvester Seconded: Lucia

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

Executive Updates

Vice-President Administration

- Sylvester:
 - Clubs getting ready to start using office space once semester begins.
 - Locker and office allocation has been completed, took longer than usual because it was hard to communicate with people dispersed around the world.
 - Working with Jumpstart and had a successful first test of Campus Base yesterday.
 - Hatch is getting ready for their first exhibition in mid-September. Will be a printmaking exhibition with various components. Artists will create limited edition prints that may be raffled off as prizes.
 - Runoff garden is taking longer than expected. The fixes that were needed were quite technical, but it should still be ready by the school year.

Vice-President External

- Kalith:
 - Working with GSS and UBC to make sure we are on the same page in terms of communicating about U-Pass.
 - Working with UBC to ensure that exemption form will allow immunocompromised students to be exempt.
 - My team is participating in the Get Out the Vote campaign, which will be launched during the next provincial election.
 - AMS is signing onto this campaign and there will be a 2 day training involved.
 - Video with Joyce Murray coming out next week, excited to show students what Minister Murray does and how it impacts them.
 - Following up with UTILE for housing advocacy and how we can provide students across the country with affordable housing.

Vice-President Finance

- Lucia:
 - All AMS subsidies are ready to be distributed.
 - Health and dental deadline has been extended to September 29th.
 - Communications has all the info, we just need to send it out to students.
 - Terrence said we cannot make a separate tab for financial aid, will follow up with Eric for that.
- Kalith:
 - Could get rid of the COVID-19 support tab on website and put financial support tab there instead.
- Lucia:
 - It's hard to find info on the site even though it's all available, will need to follow up with Communications on that because we need a tab for financial aid.
- Sylvester:
 - Did you follow up with Priscilla for a graphic to put up on Campus Base?
- Lucia:
 - Not yet.
- Sylvester:
 - We can put info on Campus Base as well.
- Lucia:
 - Should we reach out to constituencies to blast the info?
- Sylvester:
 - Yes, if the info is ready, I can send it to constituencies. Let's get materials ready by the end of this week, a full page of info for what is going on and what the AMS is offering then ask constituencies to share with their students.
- Lucia:

- I have their emails, I can send to their President and ask them to circulate it. We have a doc prepared, just need to make it look pretty.

Vice-President AUA

- Georgia:
 - Final report of climate emergency declaration is finally done!
 - Attending accountability and implementation meetings to make sure recommendations from the report have clear pathways for implementation.
 - Had a meeting about equity and inclusion to advance Santa Ono's action plan for anti-racism and establish equity in hiring.
 - Focused on creating anti-racism frameworks and creating more effort in retention and recruitment of faculty members of colour.
 - There has been a lot of momentum for an anti-proctorio movement.
 - A university in New York gathered over 50k signatures against the usage of proctorio.
 - Working to ensure that harms caused by Proctorio are reduced.
 - Textbook broke campaign is back for another year.
 - Continuing to work with UBC for the development of institutional support.
 - Will distribute resources about this campaign.
 - Connecting with UBCO in October about creating open education resources.
 - Continuing to work on creating framework for anti-racism workshops.
 - Made amendments to Housing contract.
 - In the last version, housing said they will not provide alternate accommodation if residence closure happens. We removed this aspect, but wording is still vague.
 - Our goal is to get Housing to provide accommodations for students in the event of a residence closure.
- Kalith:
 - Did UBCO get back to you about that meeting?
- Georgia:
 - Yes, there will be a webinar that is presented for open education.
- Kalith:
 - What about the meeting for student advocacy?
- Georgia:
 - Not yet.
- Georgia:
 - International student advising will issue travel support letters that recognize challenging differences in time zones, this can count as a reason for essential travel to Canada.

- For post graduation work permits, people can continue to study outside of Canada. This has been extended to next April.
 - It will not affect eligibility of post grad permits.
 - All the information is on the travel to Canada guide on the UBC website.

Services

- Ian
 - Continuing to work on getting services up and running by mid to late September, things are going fine.
 - Will continue to work with campus stakeholders and partners to keep things moving along.

President

- Cole
 - AMS Kickoff will be live for Jumpstart students on Friday.
 - Working on Board of Governors things with Georgia.
 - Important to keep pushing to get out communications info.
 - School year will get a lot busier, we will need to regroup and talk about some issues such as revitalizing the Events branch.
 - We need to keep tabs on certain issues so they don't slip away when the school year gets busy.

Mandatory Masks in the Nest

- Cole:
 - I think we need to implement a mandatory mask policy especially as we head into the school year.
 - Talked to Keith about potentially selling masks for people who don't have their own. Maybe for \$2/mask?
 - Services can provide free masks - so people don't feel like they can't access services because they don't have a mask, but need to check in with Senior managers about this.
 - Hoping to make an announcement tomorrow. Effective September 8th, mandatory mask policy for the Nest.
- Sylvester:
 - How do you envision this to be enforced?
- Cole:
 - Impossible to 100% enforce, but possibly refusing to serve people if they don't have masks or asking them to buy a mask at food outlets with their purchase.

- It would go a long way just to have this policy in place, it would allow other students to feel more comfortable calling out people who don't wear masks.
- Kalith:
 - If we put up a lot of signs everywhere, it will encourage people to wear masks.
 - We also need proper communication for providing masks to people who can't afford them.
- Cole:
 - We can't afford to give out masks for free
- Kalith:
 - Staff should be aware that if someone comes up to them and says they can't afford masks, we should have some in stock.
- Georgia:
 - We can see if UBC Building Operations is providing free masks
- Sylvester:
 - We shouldn't sell masks, we can partner with the grocery store to get a supplier so the store can sell masks in smaller quantities.
 - People who don't have masks will be directed to the grocery store or Shoppers.
 - We shouldn't have a full stock of masks and giving out to people, they will expect to receive masks from AMS.
 - We should make sure to have adequate communication about wearing masks.
- Cole:
 - What is the issue with selling masks at food outlets?
- Sylvester:
 - For example going to The Gallery, people would go all the way up before they're told to buy a mask. There are better places in the building to sell masks such as the grocery store
- Cole:
 - The point of the policy is enforceability, it isn't to provide a service for selling masks. We will give students the option to either purchase a mask in order to utilize services in the Nest or we will ask them to leave.
- Kalith:
 - My concern is making sure we have masks for those who can't afford them and what is the cheapest we can afford them.
 - I think we need masks, but we need to keep everyone in mind when selling masks.
- Cole:
 - Not to sound insensitive, but currently everyone should already have a mask.
 - If they are walking into a building and are asked to buy a mask, it shouldn't be an issue. The person has chosen to access the building but are not complying with the rules of the building.
- Georgia:

- What kind of masks? Disposable masks don't seem like they should cost \$2, a lot of those masks are free.
 - We are not taking on financial burden by buying them.
- Cole:
 - A pack of 50 masks is around \$60 because demand is so high.
 - We can see if we can get price per unit of AMS branded ones
- Kalith:
 - Those are expensive
- Lucia:
 - Stores will typically charge 50 cents to 1 dollar for cheap disposable masks. After we see how much it'll cost, we can see what the breakeven point is and how much it would cost for us to give them out for free.
- Cole:
 - Looking at this from a business standpoint, companies such as Lululemon can give out free masks because people will come into their store to buy merchandise, so they can afford to sink 1 dollar into a mask.
 - Nowhere else on campus will provide free masks, people will end up exploiting the AMS for masks. It's important to train staff to recognize when people can't afford masks and give them out for free.
 - We can talk more about this but we should move quickly if we want to introduce something by the start of the school year.
- Sylvester:
 - What's the next step?
- Cole:
 - We'll check-in with Daniel and see if there is any movement on this from Keith's end.
 - Launching it next Tuesday will be a bit of a stretch.
 - What we could do is make maska mandatory on Tuesday and gradually enforce it more over time and offer more options for providing masks.
 - Or we can wait a week and roll the policy all out at once.
- Georgia:
 - We can communicate that masks are mandatory and continue providing updates as they come in.
- Sylvester:
 - The main thing is that we don't want to be the group people are relying on to get masks.
 - We should announce the policy today or tomorrow and over time we can get our own stash of masks and see how services and food outlets can collaborate with us on this over time.
- Cole:
 - I'll touch base with managers about this and let you know.

Upcoming Committee Appointments

- Cole:
 - Some major changes about committee appointments.
 - Sylvester and Lucia now have the option to not chair Finance and Operations committee if they don't want to.
 - Joshua is no longer Advocacy Chair, the position is open.
 - Looking into swapping Georgia out of Governance Committee for Cole or another Executive.
 - Sylvester and Lucia, do you guys still want to chair your committees?
- Sylvester:
 - Will wait until other members are on the committee before making a decision.
- Cole:
 - Need to make a decision now and need to appoint committee chairs in advance instead of waiting to see who is on the committee.
 - Actually when we send out committee invitations, we can ask if people are interested in chairing, but get your decision in ASAP.
- Lucia:
 - I would prefer if I don't chair, but if there isn't anyone who feels confident, I can continue to chair it.
 - Want to focus on other more pressing issues.
- Cole:
 - Georgia and Kalith, are one of you interested in chairing?
- Georgia:
 - I do not want to chair Advocacy.
- Cole:
 - Kalith, are you interested?
- Kalith:
 - Not interested but I am interested sitting on Governance Committee
- Cole:
 - Georgia you are currently on Governance Committee, do you want to swap that with Kalith?
- Georgia:
 - Kalith, Are you interested in sitting on it?
- Kalith:
 - I heard that you didn't want to sit on it, so I can.
- Georgia:
 - It was more so to swap for someone who would be more helpful.
- Cole:
 - Justin and I work closely with Sebasatian, I don't need to sit on the committee. Georgia, do you want to sit on it or swap out with Kalith?

- Georgia:
 - I don't always have the capacity to sit on the committee. My time is better spent on other things. If Kalith feels he has the capacity to sit on this, I'm happy to swap.
 - Cole:
 - Kalith do you want to sit on Governance Committee
 - Kalith:
 - Yes
- Kalith left -
- Cole:
 - We are going to skip updates on Jumpstart Resource Group. Anything else to talk about?
 - No? Fantastic.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM.