



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 23, 2020

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), 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 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of September 9 were approved as corrected (Lucia, Georgia).

Updates

- *Georgia's update:*
 - Attending Board of Governors meeting:
 - Presented with the GSS on student priorities, such as affordability.
 - They're interested in having us back, which is exciting.
 - Food Security initiatives.
 - Climate Energy accountability and implementation.
 - Consulting with the VP Students on a Student Strategic Plan.
 - Launching petition on Proctorio.
 - Wrapping up the Academic Experience and COVID surveys.
- Cole:
 - What's the plan for the petition?
- Georgia:
 - Distribute in hot spots. Reddit.
 - Calling for UBC to end the contract with Proctorio.
 - Expressing support for Ian Linkletter, the whistleblower on the Proctorio issue who's being sued by them.
 - Hoping to reach out to the Faculty Association.

- *Kalith's update:*
 - BC election:
 - Partnering with the BCFS and other schools on a get out the vote campaign.
 - Using the website. Running a social media campaign. Postering.
 - Polling station in the Nest.
 - Housing advocacy.
 - UNA Town Hall.

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Hatch Art Gallery:
 - First exhibition going pretty well, better than expected.
 - Another exhibit in October.
 - Request for installations in the building: maybe in the pocket lounges and in the Hatch itself.
 - Clubs:
 - Not expecting that much traffic at Clubs Days.
 - But a lot of clubs have been gaining members: they are active.
 - Creating an AMS Canvas course/modules for January:
 - Being on Canvas will fix a lot of problems.
 - It will put us in a better position to ensure students know who we are and what we do.
 - We will also produce a one-pager of policies and do other training.

- *Lucia's update:*
 - Trying to fill vacant staff positions.
 - Interactions have tripled.
 - Daily operational duties.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Audit nearly finished. Delayed by the wage subsidy.
 - Traffic in the building is slow:
 - A little bit more people are coming in, but they're not buying coffee or pizza.
 - Reaching out to residents and international students to encourage them to visit the Nest.
 - Conferences & Catering is slow: looking at getting more filming contracts.

- Sylvester:
 - People know they can buy masks at outlets: that should help.

- Keith:
 - PA announcements have helped.

- Georgia and Kalith have recorded announcements that we run telling people to wear masks.
- *Ian's update:*
 - Big first training this weekend: building community.
 - Food insecurity project.
 - Meeting with Kalith about the long-term housing project (not to be confused with the immediate plans for a Housing Service).

Housing Service

- Ian:
 - We've drafted a 20-page report, including historical background.
 - UBC offers nothing for external housing.
 - We don't offer anything.
 - There are some University resources, but they're not meeting the needs of students looking to live off campus: they're mostly for on-campus housing.
 - There are some resources for off-campus housing for staff.
 - We've looked at what Concordia University does in Montreal.
 - Also looked at the model at the University of Bristol: property management generating income from landlords to subsidize students.
 - Also Western has a small housing service with off-campus housing advisers.
 - Waiting for some data from student consultations.
 - Looking at possible structures, a housing database, advocacy about homelessness.
 - To be online for now, but in future to have a place in the Nest.
 - Draft budget of \$18,667.
- Cole:
 - Let's look at this more in depth.
- Ian:
 - Submitting to Council this week, so send me your feedback now.

AGM and Bylaws

- Cole:
 - I've circulated a summary of what I've looked at changing in the bylaws.
- Ian:
 - Will we be trying to change the Records bylaw again?
- Cole:
 - Yes, but we will bring it as a separate motion, separate from the rest of the bylaw changes.

- It's important to frame it appropriately: the bylaw change is just enabling the creation of the Records Policy; it's not an attempt to hide records but giving Council power to restrict access to sensitive materials; it's pretty standard.
- Georgia:
 - I'm excited to get a better job description.
- Ian:
 - Ombuds change?
- Cole:
 - The AMS Ombudsperson doesn't do appeals to the University anymore.
 - This is just recognizing the current situation.
- Georgia:
 - Is there an opportunity to better align what the UBC Ombudsperson does with our Ombudsperson?
 - Something for an MoU?
- Keith:
 - Also looking at funding.
 - There's an Ombuds fee which doesn't say it's for the University Ombudsperson.
 - One thing an MoU should say is that we're keeping some of the fee for our service.
- Sylvester:
 - Need more time to look at these proposals.
- Cole:
 - The Governance Committee is meeting today to discuss them.
 - From there we'll get a direction.
 - Some things may not go ahead: we may not want to remove seats from Council.
 - There will probably be a discussion next week at Council.
 - Then a special Council meeting the following week to send the final version to the general meeting.

AES Approval

MOVED GEORGIA, SECONDED SYLVESTER:

"That the Academic Experience Survey Report be approved."

... Carried

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.