



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 30, 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, arrived 12:20), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager, arrived 12:15), 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 (Georgia, Sylvester).

Minutes

- The minutes of September 23 were approved (Lucia, Georgia).

Expenditures for the BC Election

- Cole noted that the Executive had approved these by email vote, and they will now go to Council.

Updates

- *Georgia's update:*
 - UBC Policy SC-17 implementation (sexual misconduct policy):
 - Meeting VP Students and VP HR about hiring a respondent resource specialist.
 - On the UBC committee for appointment of UBC VP Health.
 - Anti-racism campaign.
 - Attended Pharmacy Undergraduate Society Town Hall on Proctorio:
 - Made presentation on why UBC should discontinue Proctorio.
 - Spicy Academic Deans meeting about contract cheating and academic integrity:
 - Students paying for term papers.
 - Students being exploited.
 - Exploring a centralized resource for academic integrity and academic misconduct.

- Meeting with Services about Food Insecurity.
- Looking into how to report mistreatment in classes concerning 2020 COVID adaptations.
- COVID and AES surveys now completed and on website.
- *Lucia's update:*
 - Deposit system/e-transfer.
 - Reopened U-Pass subsidy; had a large volume of applicants.
 - Health & Dental Plan:
 - Looking to increase mental health limit.
 - Revising permanent opt-out policy to make process smoother for students who opted out permanently as undergraduates but now want the plan when they return as graduate students.
 - Audit of student numbers: checking if enrollment numbers are accurate.
 - Daily duties.

[Ian arrived.]

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Last day for new club applications.
 - Implementing the \$500 start-up grant for new clubs agreed upon by the Finance Committee, funded by the Clubs Benefit Fund.
 - First AMS Sustainability Symposium coming:
 - Showing what we're doing on sustainability.
 - Allowing various groups on campus to have a platform.
 - In the spirit of being more collaborative.
 - One of our future symposiums will be on climate emergency (November or December).
 - Working with the Climate Hub.
 - Attended virtual collegiate panel.
 - The AGM and the Sustainability Symposium are being advertised on Campus Calendar.
 - Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Preparing for next exhibition.
 - Previous one: Very engaging and allowed people to sign up for zines produced by the artists who led the exhibition.
- *Ian's update:*
 - Almost everything has launched, except Peer Support.
 - Safewalk onboarding.
 - Discussions about what eHub can do:
 - Helping Finance portfolio adjudicate projects.

- EUS going to be using Nimbus for tutoring.
- Food Bank doing lots:
 - Moving forward with new models for helping clients on campus.
 - Trialling new things.
 - Branding. Making videos. Reaching a broader student audience.
- Housing: Long-term project with Kalith. Submitted application for funding.

[Kalith arrived.]

- *Kalith's update:*
 - BC election:
 - We'll be having a polling station in the Nest.
 - Working together with UBC to get the student vote out. Sharing resources.
 - Election debates.
 - UCRU Governance Committee meeting: Bylaw discussions. To lawyers.
 - Other advocacy efforts ongoing.
 - U-Pass subsidy extended.
- Georgia (question for Lucia):
 - Can we share the fee chart?
- Lucia:
 - For opt-outs?
 - It can be circulated, but the opt-out period is ending.
 - It's our Affiliated Colleges that need this.
 - It's missing the building fee.
 - For the January opt-in/out period will add a section on Medical students; that hasn't been explained.
 - Working on improving the chart.
 - Circulating it now would not be useful.
 - It is important to circulate the extended U-Pass deadlines.
 - Will send an email about our funds.
 - That's what I'm working on now.
- Georgia:
 - Can we use other methods to let people know?
- Lucia:
 - Can definitely do that in the future: social media.
 - This year just emails.
- *Keith's update:*
 - Audit finished.
 - Meeting auditors Thursday. Letter to Executive after that.
 - Traffic up a little in the Nest: not as much as hoped.

- Mandatory mask policy working well.
- Working on putting overall COVID readiness plan online.
- Back and forth with lawyers on Bylaw changes.

AGM

- Georgia:
 - Helpful to announce date.
- Sylvester:
 - It's October 29, 6 pm.
 - Creating link for the event.
 - Registration through Campus Base to make it easier to check if it's AMS members attending.
 - Checking on using Zoom.
- Cole:
 - Waiting for clarification from Council tonight about the bylaws.
 - Think plan will be to launch next week.
 - Looking into Zoom webinar link.
 - First priority is to put together the bylaws package.
 - 6 pm is the best time:
 - Catches students in Asia.
 - Will miss students in Europe.
 - Best time we could get.

IT and Gmail

- Georgia:
 - Brought this up before.
 - Our emails end up in Junk folders when sending to Gmail recipients.
 - What are our options?
- Kalith and Cole agreed there is a problem.
- Cole:
 - Looking to transition to G-suite. Cloud-based.
 - Even Councillors say our emails go to Junk.
 - Perhaps because we send so many and we get flagged.
 - Also because we don't have names on our addresses; it's all president@ams.
 - Better if we have individual Gmail accounts and use Google drive: better for collaboration.
 - Interested in moving away from Outlook.
 - Maybe to iMacs?
 - It would be good to see a plan from IT.
- Georgia:
 - I like the idea of a strategic IT direction.

- We can establish what's working for us and what's not.
 - By December.
- Kalith:
 - We need to adapt to the times.
 - Our systems are outdated.
- Cole:
 - Should we compile a document of what the Executive is looking for?
- Keith:
 - That would be great.
- Cole:
 - Also interested in remote work.
 - Moving away from being work station based.
 - Maybe purchasing some laptops and also expect staff to use their own devices.
 - We'd save footprint space.
 - Also for the permanent staff.
- Georgia:
 - Moving in a direction.
 - Like UBC.
 - Adopting One Drive.
 - Security concerns addressed.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.