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:
  o UBC Policy SC-17 implementation (sexual misconduct policy):
    ▪ Meeting VP Students and VP HR about hiring a respondent resource specialist.
  o On the UBC committee for appointment of UBC VP Health.
  o Anti-racism campaign.
  o Attended Pharmacy Undergraduate Society Town Hall on Proctorio:
    ▪ Made presentation on why UBC should discontinue Proctorio.
  o 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.
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of September 30, 2020

- 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.
- 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.
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of September 30, 2020

- 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.