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:
  o 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.
  o Food Security initiatives.
  o Climate Energy accountability and implementation.
  o Consulting with the VP Students on a Student Strategic Plan.
  o Launching petition on Proctorio.
  o Wrapping up the Academic Experience and COVID surveys.
• Cole:
  o What’s the plan for the petition?
• Georgia:
  o Distribute in hot spots. Reddit.
  o Calling for UBC to end the contract with Proctorio.
  o Expressing support for Ian Linkletter, the whistleblower on the Proctorio issue who’s being sued by them.
  o Hoping to reach out to the Faculty Association.
AMS Executive Committee

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• **Kalith’s update:**
  o 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.
  o Housing advocacy.
  o UNA Town Hall.

• **Sylvester’s update:**
  o 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.
  o Clubs:
    ▪ Not expecting that much traffic at Clubs Days.
    ▪ But a lot of clubs have been gaining members: they are active.
  o 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:**
  o Trying to fill vacant staff positions.
  o Interactions have tripled.
  o Daily operational duties.

• **Keith’s update:**
  o Audit nearly finished. Delayed by the wage subsidy.
  o 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.
  o Conferences & Catering is slow: looking at getting more filming contracts.

• **Sylvester:**
  o People know they can buy masks at outlets: that should help.

• **Keith:**
  o PA announcements have helped.
• Georgia and Kalith have recorded announcements that we run telling people to wear masks.

• Ian’s update:
  o Big first training this weekend: building community.
  o Food insecurity project.
  o Meeting with Kalith about the long-term housing project (not to be confused with the immediate plans for a Housing Service).

Housing Service
• Ian:
  o We’ve drafted a 20-page report, including historical background.
  o UBC offers nothing for external housing.
  o We don’t offer anything.
  o 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.
  o We’ve looked at what Concordia University does in Montreal.
  o Also looked at the model at the University of Bristol: property management generating income from landlords to subsidize students.
  o Also Western has a small housing service with off-campus housing advisers.
  o Waiting for some data from student consultations.
  o Looking at possible structures, a housing database, advocacy about homelessness.
  o To be online for now, but in future to have a place in the Nest.
  o Draft budget of $18,667.

• Cole:
  o Let’s look at this more in depth.

• Ian:
  o Submitting to Council this week, so send me your feedback now.

AGM and Bylaws
• Cole:
  o I’ve circulated a summary of what I’ve looked at changing in the bylaws.
• Ian:
  o Will we be trying to change the Records bylaw again?
• Cole:
  o 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.