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.
o Meeting with Services about Food Insecurity.
o Looking into how to report mistreatment in classes concerning 2020 COVID adaptations.
o COVID and AES surveys now completed and on website.

• Lucia’s update:
o Deposit system/e-transfer.
o Reopened U-Pass subsidy; had a large volume of applicants.
o 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.
o Audit of student numbers: checking if enrollment numbers are accurate.
o Daily duties.

[Ian arrived.]

• Sylvester’s update:
o Last day for new club applications.
o Implementing the $500 start-up grant for new clubs agreed upon by the Finance Committee, funded by the Clubs Benefit Fund.
o 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.
o One of our future symposiums will be on climate emergency (November or December).
  ▪ Working with the Climate Hub.
o Attended virtual collegiate panel.
o The AGM and the Sustainability Symposium are being advertised on Campus Calendar.
o 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:
o Almost everything has launched, except Peer Support.
o Safewalk onboarding.
o Discussions about what eHub can do:
  ▪ Helping Finance portfolio adjudicate projects.
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- 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.
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- 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.