



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 4, 2020

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), 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 October 28 were approved (Kalith, Georgia).

Free Masks in the Nest

- Georgia:
 - UBC has completed an RFP for a mask provider; will probably hear from the vendors to evaluate.
 - UBC may provide funding to us for masks.
 - We can wait for them to get masks and tell them the numbers we need.
 - Or we can ask for funding to get our own masks.
- Sylvester:
 - We are pursuing UBC's RFP provider for consistency.
 - However, we should outline the quantity needed and follow up with our request for the funds, since that was offered by the University.
- Lucia:
 - Do we have to pay for masks from the University?
- Sylvester:
 - There would be cost-sharing.
- Lucia:
 - How much can we get from UBC?
- Georgia:

- They didn't say how much.
- They could provide some funds.
- I could ask how much.
- Cole:
 - I'd like us to get masks as soon as possible.
 - How will we make them available once we have them?
 - Food outlets? Services? Offices?
 - Probably better than at the doors to the building.
- Keith:
 - Then people would have to travel through the building without masks.

[Ian arrives.]

- Georgia:
 - Could refer people to the places in the building that have masks.
- Keith:
 - We already have Health Ambassadors going out and handing out masks.
 - We bought a small quantity, a couple of hundred.
- Sylvester:
 - We already have free masks?
 - Can we start communicating that?
- Keith:
 - Leery of doing that.
 - We'll quickly run out.
 - I'd get the larger quantity in first.
 - The Health Ambassadors give out only 6-10 a day.
- Kalith:
 - Will the ones from UBC be reusable or disposable?
- Georgia:
 - Fairly certain they're reusable.
 - I'll confirm later today.
 - Might be better to obtain funding from UBC and order our own.

AMS Events

- Cole:
 - AMS Events posted pictures of a bar crawl, which was disappointing to see.
 - Time for us to revisit the Department to make sure it's in line with our values.
 - Talking of suspending all in-person AMS events, including special nights and days in the Gallery (Thirsty Thursday etc.).
 - We're in the second wave of COVID.
 - Looking at suspending club events that have alcohol.

- Sylvester:
 - We have protocols for group bookings.
 - In light of certain cases, to maintain the safety of our students, we're going to codify these in the Operations Manual and duly enforce them.
 - Public health governs us.
 - The AMS should offer encouragement to abide by the rules.
- Georgia:
 - We should have a dashboard on the website for people's information.
- Kalith:
 - Has AMS Events been informed of everything being suspended?
- Cole:
 - Telling them tomorrow.
 - Plan to let them resume posting AMS content, but will suspend the Events brand: no more Events content.
- Kalith:
 - Want to use our platforms to talk about student debt.
 - Can I still do that?
- Cole:
 - Yes, exactly. That's what we want to post about.

Updates

- *Georgia's update:*
 - Climate Emergency.
 - Work Learn opportunities.
 - Open Learning Awards: increase in nominations.
 - Anti-racism programming in Orientations.
 - Pushing for outdoor learning spaces.
 - Preliminary discussions about the summer of 2021, including the use of hybrid learning.
 - Pushing for A/V infrastructure.
 - New trust fund for funding the Centre for Accessibility..
 - Time to be ambitious about imagining the campus landscape: make UBC one of the most accessible campuses in Canada.
 - Naming Policy changing: being looked at through an equity framework.
- Kalith:
 - Will this apply to the new Rec Centre?
- Georgia:
 - Yes, to every building on campus.
 - Shift to donor naming.
 - Reflecting values of the UBC community.

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Second exhibit at the Hatch has ended. Went pretty well.
 - Currently working on one with the Black Student Union. A mini-exhibit November 6-12.
 - November 16 planning a performance-based exhibit, our first in person.
 - Considering how to ensure safety.
 - Sustainability:
 - Next symposium will focus on the Sustainable Projects Fund.
 - Last week met with the UBC-led initiative, Amplifying Indigenous Voices; coordinating with the UBC Indigenous Plan.
 - Reimplementation of weigh scale and the dashboard to show our initiatives as part of the Interactive Sustainability Centre.
 - Presenting to Council in January.
 - Clubs:
 - Tough to obtain panelists for the first workshop.
 - In contact with the Lululemon marketing director as a potential panelist.
- *Kalith's update:*
 - Debt Free Degree Campaign.
 - Headed by Western and UCRU
 - Our social media overhaul was successful.
 - Operational funding:
 - Mission to encourage various student unions to advocate for increased funding for postsecondary institutions in the province.
 - Finishing up report on advocacy strategy for the new year.
 - Setting up meeting with the Indigenous Committee; will present to Council.
 - Prepping for U-Pass communication:
 - Discussing with the UAC.
 - Likely the U-Pass will be reinstated again in second term, but this time with stronger communications.
- *Georgia:*
 - What's your connection with the University for operational funding?
 - UBC's External Team?
 - The NDP government may be more enthusiastic about trade schools.
 - UBC may be hesitant.
 - Can we align with UBC?
- *Kalith:*
 - As students we're hoping to reduce tuition fees (by advocating for other funding for postsecondary institutions).
 - Trying now to get all student associations in line.

- Also a research focus: do we want to incentivize lowering fees or improving services?
- Reaching out to institutions' advocacy teams is definitely on our agenda, including reaching out to UBC's External Team to find common ground, but first we're organizing the student associations.
- Also faculty associations.
- Trying to make it a movement of the whole PSE sector and not just students.
- NDP to produce a budget.
- Keith:
 - Earlier in the pandemic, we sought funding for SASC and Food Bank, but we weren't eligible because the money is only for registered charities.
 - That was something we were going to ask for.
- Kalith:
 - That ask won't be included now because it's unique to a few of us, but I will bring it up with David Eby. It's still on our agenda.
- *Ian's update:*
 - Video for Peer Support.
 - Looking for feedback.
 - Also videos for other Services.
 - Looking into using UBC's Work Learn system: seeking diverse funding sources. Looking into becoming one of the top employers on campus.
- Sylvester:
 - Love the fact we're taking marketing seriously.
- *Keith's update:*
 - Recruitment for several positions.
 - Working on next iteration of the budget for Council.

Q2 Report

- Cole:
 - Looking to introduce a new type of quarterlies, but the next one is due by November 28.
 - May have to do the regular Q2 report for this quarter and wait till Q3 for the new type.

AGM

- Cole:
 - Went really well. 1625 attendees altogether. The highest number at any one time was 1490. Well over quorum.
 - Doublechecked all the votes; they all passed. The Bylaw amendments passed.

- Maybe a report for Council on what worked and what didn't work.
- The virtual format worked really well.
- One negative: we put forward so many motions that we went very long: we were overly optimistic in thinking we'd get all the Bylaw motions done in 45 minutes.
- But this year had an exceptional amount of backlogged Bylaw motions to do.
- All the Bylaw amendments passed easily; even the Records Bylaw got 70%.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.