THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 18, 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), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council and Privacy Officer)

Guests: Bahareh Jokar (Studentcare), Lilly Callender (AMS Associate, Equity & Inclusion)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 12:20 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda
• The agenda was adopted (Lucia, Georgia).

Minutes
• Approval of the minutes of November 4 was postponed.

Health & Dental Plan
• Bahareh:
  o The Health and Dental Committee looked at the following issues:
    ▪ Removal of permanent opt-outs.
      • This will mean students will have to opt out every year.
      • We found the permanent opt-outs problematic when students come back for a second degree or age out of their parents’ plans.
        o Then there’d be an administration fee to re-enroll.
      • If we end the permanent opt-outs, we’ll be very clear in our communication about what is happening.
      • It looks like we’ll honour pre-existing permanent opt-outs.
    ▪ A new legal service:
      • This would require a referendum to introduce a new fee.
      • The service would cover students’ costs in civil court in cases involving housing, academics, or employment.
All such costs would be covered; it would be an uncapped model to support students pursuing their legal rights.

Plus there would be a legal hotline.

We’d like to do a survey of campus to see if students want this.

Sylvester:
  - Have to look at what the implications would be.
  - Fee restructuring?

Bahareh:
  - There was a question about international students accessing this. They’re going to be able to.
  - As to fees, it would be a new fee of $27 or $28 per student per year.
  - It would be made opt-outable for anyone.
  - Unlike the health and dental fee, which you can only opt out of if you have another health and dental plan, anyone could opt out of the legal service.
  - But if you opt out, you would not be able to access the service that semester.
  - I’d also like to do an overview of the Health and Dental Plan at Council.

[Bahareh left.]

Lucia:
  - Just to be clear: the Health and Dental Committee has not yet decided to go ahead with either of these things.
  - The GSS also has not yet decided.
  - This is consultation time, scoping out how people feel.
  - The legal service is a product being offered by Studentcare.
  - It’s not a bad idea, but there are other products out there.
  - Also there’s no time for a referendum this year.

Equity Training

Lilly:
  - Equity Training Program to onboard AMS staff and club executives.
  - Have already been talking to AMS Services about this.
  - Have talked about putting this on Canvas.
  - Aim is to increase the cultural competencies of the staff.
  - Would focus on anti-racism and how to engage with social issues.
  - Is this something the Executive feels would be helpful?
  - There would be role training: how to communicate inclusively and effectively.
  - Discussion of micro-aggressions, unpacking land acknowledgements.
  - This is really important. There isn’t any equity/anti-racism training for AMS staff yet.
The idea would be for the AMS to lead by example by introducing our own training model.
I’ve consulted UBC’s CSIC (Centre for Student Involvement & Careers): they have a module. Also UBC Equity & Inclusion. And Adeline, our consultant on the Equity Plan.
• Sylvester:
  o I think this is great. I’m fully on board. It’s long overdue.
  o How this organization addresses such issues is something to look at.
  o We should have our own training modules, something ongoing, instead of a one-time workshop.
  o I originally wanted to provide resources through a workshop, but we need something more permanent and continuous.
  o Can I send the proposal to the clubs to get their feedback?
  o UBC’s SVPRO (Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office) also has training modules: another avenue to build off.
• Ian:
  o I appreciate this: there’s a lot of potential in Services.
• Sylvester:
  o Will there be specific outcomes by March or May?
  o We could have a Canvas course by second term.
• Lilly:
  o Re Timeline: The plan is to consult first and see what people have been trained on.
  o Equity can mean lots of things: how to unpack privilege, sexual assault prevention, anti-racism.
  o After consultation, one idea is to produce a video series.
  o Don’t want to have people learn just once; it should be an ongoing educational process.
  o Hope to have script ready (for the videos) by the end of January.
  o Have films ready by the end of the year to pass on to the next administration.
• Sylvester:
  o My team is at your disposal.

CampusGroups
• Sylvester:
  o Hong, Sheldon, and I met with CampusGroups about the bug that was discovered last week.
  o Going to be receiving a forensic study from CampusGroups and we’re looking to find out their plans.
  o Luckily, this bug was discovered by a student who brought it to our attention.
  o We informed CampusGroups and they were able to address it in minutes.
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- We’ve received promises from CampusGroups about safety and security.
- We’re preparing a statement for Council on the bug and what will need to be done.
- It was not really a breach.
  - Sheldon:
    - I would call it a breach. An unauthorized person got access.
  - Keith:
    - Do we have to notify?
  - Sheldon:
    - Just because there’s a breach doesn’t mean we have to notify.
    - This was a quickly contained breach.
  - Sylvester:
    - Our Privacy Impact Assessment team will be meeting soon.
    - We’re going to release a statement.

Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.