



**THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER**

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 2, 2020

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), 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)

Regrets: Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Kalith, Sylvester).

Minutes

- Approval of the minutes of November 4 (as corrected) and of November 18 was done prior to the meeting, by email vote.

U-Pass

- Kalith:
 - U-Pass will be continuing in second semester.
 - There will be a subsidy to support students and an exemption for students outside Vancouver. Also an exemption for immuno-compromised students.
 - There will be a heavy emphasis on communication before fees are assessed, informing students about options, subsidies, and exemptions.

Saudi Arabia

- Kalith:
 - The AMS, the GSS, and the SUO of UBCO are drafting a statement about Loujain Al-Hathloul, the former UBC student in prison in Saudi Arabia.
 - She is being tried as a terrorist, and we are very concerned about her safety.
 - In the spring UBC published a letter that we endorsed.

- Now with news of her trial, it's time for us to take action in support of her, calling on the federal government to advocate for her immediate release.
- We will reach out to other student organizations about this and will publish the letter with updates on the website.
- Planning to send the letter to the media on Tuesday.
- Will keep it up on the website for a month.
- Keith:
 - Would the Student Legal Fund Society be able to help?
- Kalith:
 - Good idea.
 - I'm sure she has good legal support, but we can see if the SLFS can play a role.
- Cole:
 - They're pretty strict on how they can release money.

U-Pass (continued)

- Lucia:
 - How much have we used of the subsidy money?
- Kalith:
 - We used \$60,000, which leaves \$70,000 for second term.
- Lucia:
 - Can we find more money? From the tuition surplus?
- Kalith:
 - Unused money went back to the surplus.
- Lucia:
 - There was \$60,000 in the summer and \$60,000 in the fall.
 - If we spend \$70,000 second term, there should still be money left over from the surplus.
 - If we can take more from the surplus, it would benefit a lot more students.
- Cole:
 - We're not using the tuition surplus for AMS programs.
 - It's for UBC-administered programs.
- Kalith:
 - Isn't the \$70,000 from the surplus?
- Cole:
 - U-Pass is a bit different; UBC is a major stakeholder in it.
- Lucia:
 - Can we open up the U-Pass subsidy to those who missed the Term 1 deadline and want to apply in Term 2?
- Kalith:
 - We didn't do the best job of communicating last time, but this time will be better and we'll get a lot more students reaching out.

- May be tough to divide the \$70,000.
- Lucia:
 - Can we open the subsidy to more students?
 - We did this for the Health & Dental subsidy, opening it to Term 1 students in Term 2.
 - If there's more money, can we not do that?
- Cole:
 - It depends.
 - It's not like the surplus is an endless supply.
 - If there's money left over, we can look at that.
 - Logistically, though, Term 1 has passed.
- Lucia:
 - If the AMS can help, that'd be great.
- Cole:
 - We no longer have the original \$1.2 million surplus to work with.
- Lucia:
 - The Health & Dental Committee used up its entire fund and added \$20,000.

Simply Voting

- Sheldon:
 - Isabelle (the Chief Electoral Officer) and I had a meeting with the UBC IT people who liaise with Simply Voting on our behalf for the running of our elections.
 - Simply Voting is upgrading its system and moving to the cloud.
 - This raised issues of security, though the UBC people are pretty confident that the new system will be secure; in fact, sticking with the old system would be more of a problem because it will no longer be supported, and that might become a security issue.
 - There will also be a cost to changing over, plus there will now be an annual subscription fee.
 - We originally paid \$43,000 to purchase the Simply Voting system; it was a one-time fee.
 - Now we would be paying \$5,500 a year.
 - We've been using Simply Voting for close to ten years and have been quite happy with it.
- Cole:
 - Cloud-based is pretty secure. We have other things in the cloud.
 - As to price, we could negotiate.
 - We could also be invoicing our Constituencies for the cost of running their elections.
- Lucia:
 - That won't go over well with the Constituencies.

- Cole:
 - It's not unreasonable to ask for a few hundred dollars.
 - They're getting software they don't have to pay for.
- Action Item: Sheldon to send details to Cole and Lucia.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.