



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 9, 2020

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 12:30), 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)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:13 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of December 2 were approved (Sylvester, Kalith).

Executive Committee

- Cole:
 - Two committees I sit on are kind of useless: Steering Committee and Executive Committee.
 - Steering Committee maybe did something in Marium's year (goal-setting), but all it does now is approve committee goals.
 - The Executive Committee is important, but it turns into all the Executives giving updates just to get things on record, because we talk outside the committee.
 - Perhaps we should merge Executive Committee and Steering Committee.
 - Then we'd get some Councillor involvement on the Exec.
- Ian:
 - We have off the record conversations at Exec.
 - Do you want Councillors here for those discussions?
 - It may limit frank discussion.
- Cole:
 - We're not usually off the record, and we're supposed to be public.
 - We don't have a good system now: it's just PR: getting talking points on record.
 - Not a committee committee.

- Need to make these meetings more robust.
- Sylvester:
 - Wondering if Steering Committee could be made more effective: does it contribute to committee goals?
- Cole:
 - I'm the chair of that committee too.
 - If that committee does something, it's me doing it.
 - Best way to make committees useful is to operationalize them.
 - Some committees get things done.
 - We don't put things on our agenda if we don't want to talk about them: e.g., the AMS Events situation.
 - If we brought Councillors onto it, before we take things to Council, then we could have a more unified Council front.
- Sheldon:
 - You could bring some of the offline discussions to Executive Committee.
- Cole:
 - We have offline discussions at our Exec Strategy meetings.
 - Some of those shouldn't be public at all, or at least not yet.
 - We talk about things that are very preliminary.
 - Would mean Exec Committee meetings would become very long.

[Georgia arrives.]

Updates

- *Ian's update:*
 - Services finishing up for the Fall.
 - Safewalk continues till the last day of exams.
 - Food Bank will be operating through the break.
 - Peer Support is pausing soon.
 - Advocacy and eHub will resume in the New Year.
 - Tutoring: huge uptick in private appointments.
 - There's a Coordinator stepping down.
 - Food Bank is looking for more supplies.
- Keith:
 - Food & Beverage is looking to donate some more festive food/hot meals.
- *Kalith's update:*
 - Met with UCRU Governance Committee.
 - U-Pass is staying for the second semester:
 - All support initiatives are in place (exemptions, subsidy).

- Deadlines were changed to ensure students will be able to maximize all the programs.
 - The letter in support of Loujain Al-Hathloul has been drafted and is live on the website:
 - Statement from AMS, GSS, UBC SUO.
 - Waiting for other student unions to get back to us.
 - The campaign will run for a couple of months.
 - BC Lobby Week in early January.
- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Clubs:
 - Most recent newsletter went out yesterday.
 - Winter Engagement Survey.
 - Planning for Student Caucus for Student Leadership Conference, which has been pushed back to January 23.
 - Sustainability:
 - Symposium last Friday went okay. Good feedback on questions the Advocacy Committee wanted us to address.
 - Meeting the UBC Building Management Team about the Life Building basement corridor.
 - Want to animate that hallway to be about sustainability.
 - For the Indigenous section of the AMS Sustainability Action Plan, have been in touch with the team lead of UBC's Indigenous Plan. Want to include their framework.
 - Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Planning for Term 2.
 - Volunteer program.
- Keith:
 - For the digitization of the permanent collection, we need to reach out to the estates of artists to make sure we have the right to reproduce their art online.
- Sylvester:
 - Been working on that.
 - For some we have the necessary rights.
 - For others, still pursuing.
- Keith:
 - I can dig up records for you.
- Sylvester:
 - Question about extension of the winter break: will that affect when we return to work?
- Keith:
 - We're still looking to open on the January 4. Residents will be around, and others will be returning in that week too.

- We'll do a phased reopening: Blue Chip first, then the Gallery and the Honour Roll, then (on the 11th) Porch and Pie R.
- The main office will be open from the 4th.

- *Lucia's update:*
 - Budget reforecast.
 - Subsidy planning.
 - Health and Dental consultation.

- *Georgia's update:*
 - Later today presenting to the Senate Teaching & Learning Committee about remote invigilation tools.
 - Academic Experience Survey.
 - Got feedback from the Sustainability Symposium to update policies for a Just Recovery.
 - Continuing conversations with the Climate Hub about Climate Emergency implementation.
 - Winter Break extension:
 - Submitting on withdrawal deadlines, academic concession.
 - Credit to the Student Senators, who've been active on this.
 - UBC budget:
 - Definitely not usual.
 - Our focus is on ensuring there are as few budget cuts as possible.
 - Also on places we want to see sustained development.
 - Anti-racism campaign: Survey on racism on campus.
 - Some investigation into bursary process due to inequities observed re financial aid: some are getting less (and some more) than in other years.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Hiring, recruitment: Senior Manager of Student Services.
 - Lucia and I are working on the budget reforecast.
 - Next all-staff meeting will be in January. The focus will be on Covid safety.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm.