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:
  o Two committees I sit on are kind of useless: Steering Committee and Executive Committee.
  o Steering Committee maybe did something in Marium’s year (goal-setting), but all it does now is approve committee goals.
  o 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.
  o Perhaps we should merge Executive Committee and Steering Committee.
  o Then we’d get some Councillor involvement on the Exec.

• Ian:
  o We have off the record conversations at Exec.
  o Do you want Councillors here for those discussions?
  o It may limit frank discussion.

• Cole:
  o We’re not usually off the record, and we’re supposed to be public.
  o We don’t have a good system now: it’s just PR: getting talking points on record.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o BC Lobby Week in early January.

• **Sylvester’s update:**
  o Clubs:
    ▪ Most recent newsletter went out yesterday.
    ▪ Winter Engagement Survey.
  o Planning for Student Caucus for Student Leadership Conference, which has been pushed back to January 23.
  o 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.
  o Hatch Art Gallery:
    ▪ Planning for Term 2.
    ▪ Volunteer program.

• **Keith:**
  o 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:**
  o Been working on that.
  o For some we have the necessary rights.
  o For others, still pursuing.

• **Keith:**
  o I can dig up records for you.

• **Sylvester:**
  o Question about extension of the winter break: will that affect when we return to work?

• **Keith:**
  o We’re still looking to open on the January 4. Residents will be around, and others will be returning in that week too.
AMS Executive Committee

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- 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.