THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 20, 2021

Attendance
Present: Cole Evans (President, left 12:45), 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)

Guests: Lilly Callender (AMS Equity & Inclusion Associate)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
- The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda
- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes
- The minutes of January 13 were approved (Sylvester, Kalith).

Surveys
- Lilly:
  - Planning an Equity Plan survey.
  - Did do some small group consultations, but now seeking broader input.
  - There will be demographic questions.
  - Temperature check on being involved.
  - Have received illuminating comments already, for instance about clubs.
  - Looking at gender inclusivity.
- Keith:
  - Is there anything for HR to do?
- Lilly:
  - Was going to wait till the survey closed and reach out to them then.
- Sheldon:
  - Will need a Council vote to approve doing a new survey.
  - Under Policy I-12 (the Academic Experience Survey policy).
- Georgia:
  - Need a new policy.
• Cole:
  o Yes, something broader on surveys generally instead of one that seems to be just on the AES.
  o Elections also wants to do a survey, but it could be attached to the elections ballot.

MOVED COLE:

“That the Executive Committee recommend to Council that it authorize a survey on the Equity Plan.”

… Carried

• Lilley:
  o Would like to close it by mid-February.

• Cole:
  o Maybe include the link to it in the newsletter after Council next week.

• Kalith:
  o I’ve run the Utile survey agreement (on housing) by Keith and Sheldon.
  o Does this have to go to Council?
  o I’m not sure we even needed a contract for this.

• Cole:
  o It should go to Council.

Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC)

• Sylvester:
  o Held consultation in 2019 about the space.
  o A SEEDS class did a report on space and programming.
  o This term my team is working with sustainability-oriented clubs and other groups connected to sustainability.
  o Space to allow clubs to meet; also events, workshops, a resource-sharing centre, library, outreach.
  o Run by the Sustainability team, with volunteers on honoraria.
  o Lots of sustainability groups on campus: the idea is to connect them all.
  o ISC budget $26,000.
    ▪ Includes furniture, dashboard on sustainability progress, etc.
  o Sustainability Corridor will include the ISC, a mural, the dashboard, a weigh scale (for weighing our waste).
  o There will be a “Thingery,” the library.

• Keith
  o Will there be space for meeting rooms?
• Sylvester:
  o No, it will be small.
  o More just a lounge area.
  o Can engage with individuals or take resources.
  o We’ll need an events space: the Clubs Resource Centre or other spaces.
• Sylvester:
  o Is it okay to add the dashboard to Capital Projects?
• Cole:
  o Are you referring to the annual fee?
  o How much is it?
• Sylvester:
  o I think $1,000-2,000.
• Keith:
  o In the description, change where it says “service contract.”
  o This is just for the original installation: that does fall under the Capital Projects Fund.
• Sheldon:
  o Not for annual fees.
• Cole:
  o Will there be flexibility for the space if it doesn’t work out as a sustainability area?
  o Can we make it into something else?
• Sylvester:
  o Not doing much alteration: just removing a door.
  o Would be flexible.

**Referendum**

• Cole:
  o Any interest in running a referendum this year?
  o Additional bylaw amendments?
  o Skeptical about turnout if we don’t have a fee question.
  o If not a U-Pass year, then doubtful we can attract people.
• Lucia:
  o Fee restructure?
• Cole:
  o Fee-related changes get people out.
  o But it will be hard to campaign if no one’s on campus.
• Ian:
  o Can frame it for COVID.
  o Say we have starving children on campus.
AMS Executive Committee

Minutes of January 20, 2021

- Cole:
  - If we’re just talking about childcare, we may be able to change that in Code.
- Keith:
  - Could do that for the Clubs Benefit Fund, but not sure about the Child Care Bursary Fund.
- Cole:
  - If Code is the authority for the fee, then we can amend Code.
- Lucia:
  - Have to wait for the lawyers.
  - We’d need a lot of support to run a general fee restructuring.
- Cole:
  - I’m concerned about the time.
  - We’d need ample consultation with Council, student groups, etc.
  - There’s only three and a half or four weeks till the deadline.
- Lucia:
  - Some AMS fees could be combined and slashed: CPF, SPF, etc.
  - This would produce more flexibility.
- Cole:
  - 99% sure that proposal wouldn’t make it out of Council.
  - It could take three or four months.
  - In October I met opposition for rushing things on the Bylaw changes.
  - I’m worried it would be the same with this.
  - But start thinking about it.

[Cole leaves. Kalith took the chair.]

Updates

- Ian’s update:
  - Restarting Services: Peer Support and Tutoring relaunched on Monday.
  - SASC involved in Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
  - Looking to start new Housing Service.
  - Co-op Housing.

- Sylvester’s update:
  - Clubs Days. Livestreaming club activities.
  - Canvas module.
  - Hatch exhibition.

- Georgia’s update:
  - UBC budget submission.
  - UBC student strategic plan.
AMS Executive Committee
Minutes of January 20, 2021

- Meeting on Proctorio.
- Digital Meal Donation program soft-launched: Meal Share Program.
- Naming Policy review.
- Engaging with Indigenous groups.

- Lucia’s update:
  - Budget end of February.
  - Funding report for February.
  - U-Pass and other subsidies.
  - Technical issues re CITR opt-out.
  - Health & Dental meeting at end of month about mental health coverage: may increase it to $1,000.

- Keith’s update:
  - Reforecast.
  - Budgets for next year.
  - Recruiting because the Accounts Supervisor is leaving.
  - Legal consultation on the fees.

- Kalith’s update:
  - Lobby Week:
    - Met 20 NDP MLA’s Monday and 8-15 yesterday.
    - Also met the BC Liberal caucus and will be meeting the Greens.
    - Group meetings.
    - Will have met pretty much the whole Legislature.
    - Discussed housing, affordability, Indigenous support, postsecondary funding, graduate support.
  - U-Pass programs going on: audit for exemption program.
  - UCRU governance committee looking at revised bylaws received from the lawyers. When ready will come to the AMS, and we can take them to Council.
  - Knock Out Interest campaign (on student loan interest) with the BCFS.
  - SkyTrain to UBC awareness initiative.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.