



**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:
  - Yes, something broader on surveys generally instead of one that seems to be just on the AES.
  - 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:
  - Would like to close it by mid-February.
- Cole:
  - Maybe include the link to it in the newsletter after Council next week.
- Kalith:
  - I’ve run the Utile survey agreement (on housing) by Keith and Sheldon.
  - Does this have to go to Council?
  - I’m not sure we even needed a contract for this.
- Cole:
  - It should go to Council.

### **Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC)**

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

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

## Referendum

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

- 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 restructure.
- 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.

- 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.