



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 10, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), 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), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Designer), Kavie Toor (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Michael Tan (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Gord Hopper (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Nico McEown (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Romilly Cavanaugh (Carbon Offsetters)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of February 3 were approved (Sylvester, Lucia).

Carbon Offsetters

- Romilly:
 - Carbon Offsetters helps clients (local and international) move to carbon neutrality.
 - We look at the sources of your carbon footprint:
 - These used to be travel and the use of fossil fuels.
 - Less travel now because of COVID.
 - We look at direct sources (vehicles, buildings) and indirect (electricity, district heating) and everything else (flights, etc.).
 - We do data collection for you and can do outreach to your tenants.
 - You're a Platinum LEED building, which is great, something to build on.
 - We do energy audits, quantifying emissions, and advise on purchasing offsets.
 - Before offsetting, the first step is to reduce emissions.

- Then offsets: real, additional, permanent; things that wouldn't have taken place otherwise, not business as usual.
 - Greenhouse Gas Protocol: two approaches: equity or control.
 - We recommend operational control.
- Michael Kingsmill:
 - Talked briefly about this with Sylvester.
 - We're going to discuss it further with Keith.
- Sylvester:
 - How much control do we have over our tenants?
- Keith:
 - It's part of our leases: they have to adhere to our sustainability standards.
 - So far we've only applied that to purchasing.
- Romilly showed a form on which they would gather data about number of employees, building space, heating, electricity, etc.

Athletics & Recreation (A&R)

- Kavie:
 - Five years ago the AMS asked for a voice in the budgeting process and we agreed.
 - Excellence and Inclusivity are A&R's top values.
 - Priority this year is to extend the Thunderbird brand beyond A&R so all students will feel pride in being a Thunderbird.
 - Budget:
 - Programs have been limited because of COVID.
 - Aquatic Centre expensive, but valuable to the community.
 - Uncertainty about when we can resume full capacity.
 - Deficit of \$2.4 million for the coming year.
 - Business operations are not as robust as normally.
 - Trying to enhance the equity lens for funding of women's and men's sports.
- Cole:
 - Into the new fiscal year, what are things looking like?
 - By September will there be more mass participation events?
 - The Winter Classic?
- Michael Tan:
 - We hope by second term to have more mass events, for instance Storm the Wall.
 - The Day of the Longboat will be more of a challenge.
- Gord:
 - Planning for a regular Varsity schedule in the fall, but also preparing modified schedules and we expect we will go to those, with less travel.
 - COVID is still a challenge.

- No festival events September- December.
 - But festival events post-January, including the Winter Classic.
- Ian:
 - There's been a lot of chat about the A&R fee.
 - Students ask why they're still paying it.
 - Lack of communication seems to be a problem.
- Kavier:
 - Need to find a way to articulate.
 - Need a lot more education about what students still have access to, at home programs; also about the structure of fees.
 - Would like to communicate this.
- Georgia:
 - Working with Enrolment Services on a subsidy for the A&R fee.
- Kavier:
 - It's fair for students to ask affordability questions.
 - Happy to share the breadth of services available.
- Georgia:
 - Would love to explore financial options if students want to participate.
- Kavier:
 - Happy to have these conversations.
 - Don't want cost to be a barrier.
 - Probably focus on user fee issue.
- Georgia:
 - Yes, the question often is why do they have to pay an additional fee for the ARC fitness centre or for the Longboat when they're already paying the A&R fee.
 - It would be useful to present reasons to the student body.
- Kavier:
 - Happy to address that.
 - Also would like to work with AMS Communications on the new Recreation Centre.
- Michael Tan:
 - Fitness bit: Intake form to get insight on what students want.
 - Things are different in the COVID environment.
 - Gym membership: can we enhance fitness offerings?
 - Special membership fee for summer programs: an extra \$5 to get you 12 weekly classes: spin classes, boot camps, typical fitness classes.
 - In person if public health orders allow: May-August.

Filming in Nest

- Keith:
 - The company that was here in the fall wants to come back on March 15.

- Should we close the Nest that day?
 - They'll be in the Atrium.
- Georgia:
 - If they're in a public spot, probably close the Nest.
 - Otherwise need traffic coordination.
- Keith:
 - May get backlash from those who want to study in the Nest that day.
 - Have to announce well in advance.
- Cole:
 - The easiest thing is to close as much of the building as possible.
 - Could keep Gallery, Honour Roll, Blue Chip open.
 - Can we remove seating? Just allow people to get food, but no studying.
- Sylvester:
 - Do we have personnel to control things?
- Keith:
 - Not really; there are too many entrances.
- Cole:
 - Could open just Blue Chip, just that one door.
- Keith:
 - Yes, and rope off the rest of the building.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.