



Agenda of the AMS Operations Committee

(Agenda for January 27, 2021 Meeting @ 2:00 - 3:00 pm | Zoom)

Attendance

Present: Emma Dodyk, Ben Du (Vice-Chair), Katherine Feng (Chair), Lawrence Liu, Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Ghazal Rezaei

Regrets: Alexandra Arbelaez

Guests: None

Recording Secretary: Ben Du

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Emma Seconded: Lawrence

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda is adopted as presented.”

Approval of Previous Minutes

Moved: Ben Seconded: Emma

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the December 2nd meeting are approved and sent to AMS Council.”

Agenda Items

1. Updates from the VP Administration

Sylvester: First exhibition for Hatch Art Gallery website completed. There is a class currently working on the permanent art collection, things are going well. A portion of sustainability projects paused due to funding, but it's been resolved as of now. Net Zero 2025 framework has been approved. Interactive Sustainability Centre will be presented at tonight's (Jan. 27) council meeting. This term's Clubs Day will evidently look different, many events will happen on CampusBase and there is awareness of it. Its format will look similar to Imagine Day UBC 2020. The Student Leadership Conference went very well! Finally, an AMS Canvas course is currently in the works. The content will be focussed for club executives and internal AMS members in the short term, and to the entire student body in the long term (perhaps 2021W, Term 2).

Katherine: Canvas course will help students better understand what they can access from the AMS.

2. Videoconferencing Grant Discussion

Sylvester: We don't need to motion for more funds right now, as funding is still sufficient from last term's Videoconferencing Grant.

Katherine: Are all the clubs that could benefit from the grant using it? How is the AMS advertising the grant?

Sylvester: In the email newsletters.

Emma: Can constituencies apply for the grant?

Sylvester: They may, but it's primarily targeted for club executives.

Ben: Do we have data on how effective these newsletters are and how many people are actually seeing them?

Sylvester: We have a roughly 60-70% open rate, and a 10-17% click-through rate. One of our main concerns is our funding isn't being utilized. This isn't a regular year but the executive team has made efforts to advertise these initiatives further.

Ben: Reddit threads can sometimes be useful in attracting a specific group of people relevant to a certain issue. It could be worthwhile to be involved with that community. There's a thread regarding clubs who have struggled during these times.

Sylvester: If there's a way to include sharing information on Reddit, I'm open to exploring that option.

Emma: The best way to act as the AMS on Reddit is perhaps not to be the "primary poster", but to respond to threads with information that could be useful to resolve issues. It's probably not the most effective platform, but people are generally pretty appreciative for comments that try to solve problems.

Katherine: We should make a graphic with a clear overview of the funds we have to support clubs and how to access them. Would it be possible to send club newsletters to us as well so we have a better idea of what clubs see?

Sylvester: Absolutely.

3. VSEUS (Vancouver School of Economics Undergraduate Society) Name Conflict Discussion

Katherine: *Explained situation*

Sylvester: We don't really have the power to conduct name changes. There's nothing in our Policy Manual that lets us change names and there's no formal process for it. I do see the confusion with "undergraduate society" and "student association". Some sort of policy change to address this kind of situation presently and in the future is appropriate. The ESA (Economics Student Association) rebranding was during a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was in full swing. We don't just want to come in and disrupt something they've been working on for a while.

Ben: I understand why there is great potential for confusion with the ESA name. Having representatives from both ESA and VSEUS to join a discussion may be more productive.

Ghazal: We should definitely hear from both parties.

Emma: Perhaps clubs need to notify the AMS that they'd like to change their name before they actually do, to prevent clubs from creating any potentially inappropriate names accidentally.

Sylvester: For our next meeting, I will bring draft changes to the Operations Committee Policy Manual. We may also consider defining what is an undergraduate society, what is a student association. We should also consider making the change retroactive.

Lawrence: Another potential problem to consider is whether or not the ESA wants to sit on the VSEUS council.

Katherine: Will contact people from VSEUS and ESA to try and resolve this particular situation. Amendments to the Policy Manual will likely be needed to prevent similar issues in the future.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is at 2:00 - 3:00 pm on February 10, 2021.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.