



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 17, 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), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Ian Stone (Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of February 10 were approved (Kalith, Lucia).

Proctorio

- Georgia:
 - Several faculties have agreed to discontinue Proctorio (and other similar remote invigilation tools), so I'm very happy.
 - But other faculties (Medicine, Sauder, Pharmacy, Law, Applied Science) have accreditation issues requiring remote proctoring software.
 - We're pushing for the accreditation body in each case to say specifically what software it requires.
- Cole:
 - This discontinuation is good news.
 - For the accredited schools, why do they want Proctorio?
- Georgia:
 - There's an RFP process, actually.

Hong Kong

- Kalith:
 - First some good news: Loujain al-Hathloul, the former UBC student imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, has been released.
 - The campaign we were part of on her behalf has ended successfully.
 - Next is our statement in support of the people of Hong Kong.
 - Georgia and I drafted it, based on consultations with the students who brought the motion to Council.
 - It explains the situation, providing background on the activists who have been detained without charge.
 - It's not anti-China or against any government; it's just about human rights.
 - We don't want to alienate Chinese students.
 - We're standing in solidarity with student activists and condemning the deterioration of civil liberties and civil rights.
 - We oppose the anti-democratic actions of the Chinese government in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang.
- Georgia:
 - We are showing how the AMS upholds democratic values and human rights.
- Kalith:
 - This is a call to action, pushing the Canadian government to play a larger role.
 - We're drawing on what McGill, U of T, and other UCRU student unions are calling for.
- Georgia:
 - We are also opposing the systemic oppression of the Uyghur and Hui peoples in China.
 - We are also in solidarity with them; the issues are very much related.
 - As UBC students we have a responsibility to advocate for UBC students of Hong Kong etc. heritage.
 - We could expand on that.
- Cole:
 - For the sake of this letter, I'm inclined to focus on what Council directed us to focus on.
- Kalith:
 - Originally, I wasn't planning on including that, but Georgia wrote something about it.
 - We're still primarily focusing on Hong Kong and the asylum seekers, but I don't see a problem with mentioning the others – but I would not expand it.
 - I like the part referring to UBC students of Hong Kong descent.
- Sheldon:
 - How does Taiwan fit in?
- Georgia:

- This is the South China Sea situation, the aggression there.
- But good point, if the focus is on human rights.
- Cole:
 - It's one thing to talk about human rights.
 - Not sure we should be wading into geopolitics.
- Kalith:
 - I agree that we should focus on human rights.

Updates

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Clubs Days and CampusBase:
 - Clubs Days went rather well: 543 participants, 1832 booth visits.
 - The Club Expo was not that popular, but clubs that did participate were appreciative and used the video for other purposes.
 - CampusBase gives us the opportunity to reimagine how Clubs Days should take place.
 - The KUS was excited to use CampusBase for their regular career fair. They had 290 participants and 2197 booth visits.
 - Draft pilot for AMS Canvas course:
 - Looking to have a workable course by mid-March.
 - Hopefully it can be used for the club executive orientations.
 - Sustainability:
 - Couldn't attend last week's Council meeting.
 - I'm enthusiastic about attending next week to explain the funding request for the Sustainability Centre.
 - Hatch Art Gallery:
 - A zine responding to SASC's call for submissions.
 - Finalizing the process for obtaining rights from artists to showcase their pieces online.
- *Lucia's update:*
 - Subsidies, budget, Q3, reforecast.
 - Main focus is on subsidies: 1,900 Health and Dental requests, 670 for U-Pass, 100 for the AMS fee.
- *Georgia's update:*
 - The Board of Governors endorsed the Climate Emergency Report.
 - The Proctorio conversation is wrapping up: a motion will go to Senate.
 - Ramping up with other student groups about the tuition discussions coming to the Board of Governors in April.

- Discussion on the exam hardship policy.
- Mental Health Resilience Committee discussion on diverse mental health resources.
- *Kalith's update:*
 - Spoke to the GSS about how advocacy week went.
 - The U-Pass programs are wrapping up, including the audit.
 - SkyTrain to UBC discussions.
 - Equity-based grants research.
 - Meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education.
 - UCRU:
 - Hoping to get bylaws passed.
 - New strategic plan.
 - Hosting webinar series on co-ops: housing co-ops the first topic. Our new Housing Coordinator Mitchell will be a panelist.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - Things are going well.
 - Meeting with Ian.
 - Recruitment phase for new Student Services Manager, Assistant Student Services Manager, and Coordinators.
- *Keith's update:*
 - Lorris and Lucia working on mental health subsidies.
 - Flood in mechanical room, but hasn't affected the elevators or anything else crucial.
 - Next all-staff meeting March 23.
 - Saad and I are working on the provincial lobbying registry.
- *Cole's update:*
 - Met Alumni UBC about the Great Trekker award. They have some ideas.
 - Met with UBCO about their new Forestry program.
 - It's at UBCO but is administered by UBC Vancouver.
 - Hard for UBCO to charge the fees; waiting to hear from the UBCO student union.
 - Steering Committee meeting to discuss changes to its ToR.
 - Linked-In Learning (UBC and Linked-In):
 - We're no longer the middle man, which is good.
 - Hope UBC will try to do something with Linked-In Learning.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.