



## **Agenda of the AMS Operations Committee**

(Agenda for March 3rd, 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: Yuki Kinoshita (ESA, Economics Student Association), Ryan Wong (VSEUS, Vancouver School of Economics Undergraduate Society)

Recording Secretary: Ben Du

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02pm.

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved: Emma

Seconded: Lawrence

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

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from February 10th were approved via email vote.

## Agenda Items

### 1. Discussion with ESA and VSEUS

**Katherine:** To my knowledge, the ESA and VSEUS have been in contact due to confusion about naming and overlap. Have you found there to be any confusion for students? What is your club's perspective on the situation?

**Yuki:** There has been little confusion on my end, with the VSEUS. Rebranding the ESA can make it seem restrictive to only economics students. So far, there hasn't been much overlap between ESA and VSEUS.

**Katherine:** Does anyone get confused with the term "student association"?

**Yuki:** Not really, the name change was to make us more professional. I don't think there's been much confusion for students. No one thinks it's only for economics students.

**Ben:** To my understanding, a student association consists of students belonging to a specific major or department, as opposed to student societies which often represent an entire faculty. For instance, the Arts Undergraduate Society consists of all those in the Faculty of Arts, yet the Psychology Students' Association exclusively caters to students who have an interest in the psychology major.

**Yuki:** There hasn't been a time where we've clashed with VSEUS.

**Emma:** In Engineering, we have the EUS, and then there are our departments. There is precedent that a student association is there for student support, not only acting as how a normal club would operate.

**Yuki:** We have a mentor-mentee program. We provide academic support in many ways and fill a big gap there, not to the level of VSEUS.

**Sylvester:** Do you have a seat on the VSEUS council?

**Yuki:** No. We've found it hard to be involved with VSEUS.

**Sylvester:** Are there clubs under or associated with VSEUS?

**Yuki:** There are a few, like EPA (Environmental Policy Association).

**Emma:** Having a better relationship with VSEUS could be helpful too.

**Sylvester:** There is merit to having the ESA name, but also reason as to why it can be confusing. Would you be open to being associated with the AUS?

**Yuki:** I'm open to considering it, but I'll have to talk to my team as well.

**Lawrence:** The AUS as a whole would probably be really open to this idea, welcoming a club who represents an underrepresented group of students. The ESA would have a seat on AUS council, apply to funds, and more.

**Katherine:** The Operations Committee tries to minimize overlap in their mandates and names. Where does your club distinguish itself from VSEUS?

**Emma:** Maybe the difference is in the audience. VSEUS focuses on 3rd and 4th years who've selected their major, but ESA could be specifically 1st and 2nd year students.

**Yuki:** On paper, it might seem similar, but a big portion of our audience is from the Sauder School of Business, and I'm concerned about that.

**Lawrence:** Being a part of AUS doesn't mean it's just for Arts students. Being on AUS, aside from having one representative sitting on the AUS Council, there isn't too much affiliation. At the end of the day, your club is marketing who you want to attract.

**Sylvester:** A lot of clubs are there to provide support and represent interests. How big is the ESA?

**Yuki:** We have around 12 executive members, and around 100 members overall.

**Sylvester:** When going through the name change, were there alternatives?

**Yuki:** The name Economics Club wasn't doing very well. We wanted a fresh start and a person brought up the name Economics Student Association. At that point, it was the only name provided.

**Ben:** Is the ESA absolutely adamant about changing your name?

**Yuki:** Changing our name would cause a lot of confusion again. We're not keen on it.

**Ben:** There's the regulation-focused approach where we can potentially resolve this situation through the enforcement of policy, and then there's a possibly friendlier approach consisting of negotiating with the VSEUS and meeting a common ground. Have you had conversations with VSEUS?

**Yuki:** We had a dialogue earlier in the year. Then, VSEUS approached the AMS independently, and there was a disconnect there in communication. We've always been open to talking to VSEUS, but it doesn't make us happy when VSEUS goes to those higher up and skips conversation with us.

**Sylvester:** As a committee, we are deciding what an undergraduate society and what a student association means. We're trying to think this through in a more holistic process.

***Yuki leaves the meeting. Ryan joins the meeting.***

**Sylvester:** What is the conflict from an undergraduate society perspective?

**Ryan:** This sets a dangerous precedent for any club to start and call themselves a student association. Since September, students have messaged asking what's the difference between ESA and VSEUS. We shouldn't be doing the same thing. If the ESA wants to address a gap that exists, their name contradicts that reasoning. A student association is a group of students in that major. If their goal is to address the "gap" of including all students, they are not a student association of economics.

**Sylvester:** There are 27 clubs at the AMS with the term "student association", for example the Turkish Student Association. As of right now, there isn't a clear-cut line.

**Ryan:** There is the Psychology Students' Association, but there is no Psychology Undergraduate Society. Around 90-95% of our events are open to the general public.

**Katherine:** Might need to look into the term Student Association but would be difficult to change with the number of clubs that use it. What has the impact been on VSEUS? My understanding is that VSEUS and the ESA were briefly in contact to discuss this. Have these conversations continued?

**Ryan:** VSEUS was formed about 5 years ago. VSEUS transformed from an organization called Economics Student Association. The existence of an organization with the same name of our predecessor, is a conflict. Part of the reason why we weren't in contact with ESA, is because we were told by the AVP Admin that this wouldn't be an issue by the club renewal period. I would like to see the Admin team or Operations Committee discuss this more later and change ESA's name.

## **2. Steering Committee Update**

In the interest of time, this update has been provided to the committee in writing.

*The following two agenda items have been tabled.*

## **3. Clubs Constitution**

## **4. Draft Policy Manual Amendments**

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place from 2:00 - 3:00 pm on March 17th, 2021.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.