



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 24, 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)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

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

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of March 10 were approved (Cole, Lucia).

COVID Preparation

- Georgia:
 - UBC is looking at the Alumni Centre as a possible site for vaccinations.
 - Also looking for a testing site.
 - Needs funding.
- Sylvester:
 - For September? Summer?
- Georgia:
 - There's no ETA that I'm aware of.
- Sylvester:
 - With COVID still active, our bookings are suspended till the end of term, and I've heard we're heading into the third wave.
 - May have to revisit our safety plan for the Nest.
- Keith:
 - There's so little information on next term that we haven't prepared anything new.
 - We have our existing precautions.

- Ian:
 - I'm not expecting a huge Welcome Back BBQ, but it would be good to put on our radar what we're planning.
- Keith:
 - We are planning a First Week celebration, but not Welcome Back BBQ.
 - Thinking about Block Party for April 2022.
- Sylvester:
 - The province is saying most people will be vaccinated by the middle of summer.
 - We could do something similar to Welcome Back.
 - This year's first year cohort didn't experience much this year.
 - We need to have something beyond just the new first years.
 - Perhaps we can work with other UBC bodies, e.g., UBC Rec, to do something: not a festival, but something to share student feeling.
 - UBC Rec has reached out about a virtual Imagine Day collaboration.
 - Also things catering to first years.
 - A sandbox event for current first years and transfer students who haven't seen campus: second year students coming to campus for the first time.
- Keith:
 - You can connect to the Events Department.
- Sylvester:
 - Absolutely.

Tuition

- Georgia:
 - Vote on tuition and on the UBC budget in the next Board of Governors cycle.
 - I will have a conflict of interest because of my new role as a BoG rep, so will be unable to sign off on the tuition letter several groups are planning to submit to oppose a tuition increase, in line with the mandate of the AMS referendum.
 - Also discussing operational funding from the province.

Updates

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Clubs:
 - Because of COVID restrictions, all pre-made bookings are cancelled until April 30.
 - Clubs have been using the videoconferencing grant.
 - CampusBase traffic is stable: more usership this month.
 - Clubs are embarking on renewals via CampusBase, can run elections on it (and we are also offering alternative election resources).
 - Workshop for student leaders about inclusivity, sexual harm, and safer event spaces: 40 clubs have registered.

- Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Permanent art collection show tonight.
 - Drafting contract for digital rights for art works.
- Sustainability:
 - Submitting report to Council: satisfied with what we were able to do this year.
 - Interactive Sustainability Centre project underway.
 - Net zero data collection is ongoing.
- Georgia:
 - Further to the inclusivity workshop, is there anything in the Operations Committee Manual on training for club executives?
- Sylvester:
 - Nothing in policy.
 - Various people have been working on this.
 - If people feel it would be helpful to include something in a policy, OpsCom could look into it.
 - We have created a club execs Canvas module for transition.
- Georgia:
 - It would be good to have a policy or guidelines saying what's covered in orientations.
- *Kalith's update:*
 - Meeting the province's Advanced Education team about housing operators: creating leading practices for Student Housing to refer to, respecting students' rights.
 - Working with the University about the SkyTrain to UBC campaign.
 - U-Pass:
 - Continuing for summer and fall.
 - Advocating for other measures.
 - Working with the U-Pass Advisory Committee to speak to the government, especially about COVID recovery.
 - Transition: Saad, the incoming VP External, has been with me (as AVP) all year.
 - The BC Liberals' Opposition Critic for Advanced Education, Coralee Oakes, has been raising our advocacy asks, which is good.
 - Positioning on UCRU:
 - We're the only student association representing graduate as well as undergraduate students.
 - Talking to graduate students to make sure they're properly represented.
- Ian:
 - Like to see those best practices for our Housing Service.

- Kalith:
 - It's not a law, just a government document recommending the best practices for operators to be following.

- *Lucia's update:*
 - AMS budget: salary/wage increase.
 - New budget format; making sure graphs and charts transfer correctly.
 - A lot more funding applications to Student Initiatives and Clubs Benefit funds.
 - Orientations on the way: Mary (the AVP and incoming VP Finance) is working on that.
 - The list of our student fees has been sent to the University.
 - Created an opt-in period for graduate students for health and dental, so they can have coverage in the summer.

- *Ian's update:*
 - Interviewing for Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators in the Services.
 - Wrapping up projects.
 - One long-term project: Accessibility Shuttles for Safewalk coming in May.
 - RBC Get Seeded tomorrow night.
 - Housing moving along: feasibility study.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Canvas module: starting to create a general orientation course on HR, Building Operations, Privacy.
 - Marketing plan for Services: feedback has been that we need more consistency in marketing and promotion.

- Sylvester:
 - I like that: a framework of what should and can be advertised.
 - Should be done throughout the organization.
 - Branding.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Working on getting the Health and Dental premium down; the insurance company presented a high figure.
 - Speaking to the lawyers about last year's flood in SASC.
 - Budget.
 - Recruiting an accounting supervisor.

- Sylvester:
 - Is there a timeline for branding?
 - Are we getting an update from Communications?

- Keith:
 - The company has been delayed.

- We're meeting them Monday; then they'll present, maybe next Wednesday.
- Sylvester:
 - Obviously an important exercise for an organization like us: students have been commenting.
- Keith:
 - I've seen the comments on Reddit too.
- Sylvester:
 - Want to make sure Communications and Marketing are top tier.
- Georgia:
 - We should be making sure we're reflecting student consultation.

- *Georgia's update:*
 - Really happy Senate voted to restrict the use of remote invigilation software.
 - There are some follow-up pieces to ensure it's implemented properly.
 - Upcoming joint BoG-Senate anti-oppressive policy. Will Shelling is on the committee.
 - Campus Vision discussions.
 - Upcoming submissions to the Board of Governors:
 - Housing Action Plan (supporting continuing rent freeze)
 - Career Plan
 - Tuition
 - A lot of onboarding and transition for Eshana, the incoming VPAUA.
 - Policy on sexual assault: will pass on to Lorris.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm (motion from Kalith and Georgia).