



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of March 31, 2021

**Attendance**

Present: Cole Evans (President, arrived 12:20), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), 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)

Regrets: Lucia Liang (VP Finance)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm and took place by videoconference, with Kalith chairing.

**Land Acknowledgement**

- Kalith acknowledged our presence on unceded, traditional Musqueam territory.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Georgia).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of March 24 were approved (Sylvester, Georgia).

**Updates**

- *Kalith's update:*
  - SkyTrain advocacy: will discuss that later.
  - U-Pass in the summer: conversations with the U-Pass Advisory Committee about exemptions.
  - Survey on equity-based grant research.
  - Another survey on student housing.
  - Transitioning the incoming VP External: bringing him to UNA meetings and other meetings.
  - UCRU bylaws done. Will bring them to AMS Council.
  - Provincial advocacy.

- Sheldon:
  - A former AMS VP Academic (Gavin Dew) has announced that he is running for the leadership of the BC Liberal Party.
- Georgia:
  - Do we need to set aside money for the U-Pass subsidy?
- Kalith:
  - Have to talk to Lucia.
  - Still trying to understand what the summer will look like.
  - Subsidy numbers will depend on exemptions.

[Cole arrived.]

- *Sylvester's update:*
  - Finalizing club renewals.
  - Our club event last week with SVPRO went well.
  - Club executive orientations will be in the last week of April:
    - Canvas course, but also an online synchronous session.
  - Sustainability report presented to the last Council meeting:
    - Happy with my teams work.
    - Numerous projects done.
  - Georgia and I have made an accessibility grant application to the province.
  - Creating a Hatch Art Gallery Subcommittee like used to exist under SAC.
    - When the Operations Committee was created, lots of aspects of SAC (its predecessor) disappeared.
    - We've realized that lots of these would be useful.
    - Drafting a ToR for the new subcommittee.
    - It will encompass the role of SHAPE and the old SAC committees, including the day-to-day operations of the gallery and upkeep of the permanent art collection.
    - Will ask Council to roll SHAPE into this new committee.
    - SHAPE will be disbanded in favour of this new committee, whose name is yet to be determined.
- Cole:
  - There's also a Hatch Art Gallery working group.
- Sylvester:
  - I don't think it's active.
  - The new ToR will be more comprehensive.
  - It will help with the jury that selects exhibitions.
  - Will work on making the permanent art collection accessible.
- Cole:
  - Just touch base with the Chair of SHAPE.

- *Georgia's update:*
  - Serving on the Provost reappointment committee.
  - Transitioning.
  - Upcoming submissions to the Board of Governors:
    - Opposition to tuition increases.
    - Career Plan.
    - Housing Action Plan.
    - Campus Reopening Priorities.
    - Food insecurity.
    - Gateway Building: a Student Health Services building to house the Schools of Nursing and Kinesiology.
  
- *Ian's update:*
  - Interviewing for Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators in the Services.
  
- *Lorris's update:*
  - Canvas module.
  - Marketing plan for Services:
    - Determining is this what students need?
    - Is it doing well?
    - A usage chart showing how many are accessing Services.

*Kalith passed the chair to Cole.*

- *Keith's update:*
  - Working with Lucia on a new version of the budget.
  - Making an offer to a new accounting supervisor.
  - Had meeting with the auditors.
  - Going to the Finance Committee with a proposal concerning the email issue that came here two weeks ago.
  - Sustainability project for Blue Chip.
  - Damage to Nest roof on Sunday during windstorm: working on getting that repaired.
  - SASC flood: speaking to lawyers about who will pay for the clean-up.
  - Upgrade to the accounting system, moving to a cloud-based system.

## **SkyTrain**

- Kalith:
  - Public engagement process April 19-25.
  - Survey.
  - Working with UBC to draw attention to our advocacy.

- April 12 soft launch:
  - UBC and the AMS launching their campaigns.
  - Warming people up to the idea.
  - Social media.
  - Facts, impact on students.
- April 19 hard launch:
  - Call to action.
  - Fill out survey.
  - Video.
  - Aiming at commuter students.
- Meeting with mayors on the Mayors Council, along with UBC staff and faculty, a GSS rep, and a student at large.
- Georgia:
  - Engaging with the unions?
  - Staff perspective?
  - Labour standpoint?
- Kalith:
  - That's why there are two campaigns.
  - The AMS is running a student-centric campaign.
  - UBC will be bringing staff and faculty members.
  - Extending the SkyTrain to UBC will be beneficial not only to students, but to anyone travelling in Metro Vancouver.
  - There will also be an economic impact and sustainability benefits.
  - UBC is working with the unions.
- Georgia:
  - Good to work with the administrative staff, CUPE, the Faculty Association, and the TA's (who are graduate students).

## Tuition

- Georgia:
  - Vote on tuition in upcoming Board of Governors cycle.
  - Great time to let students know to tune into the Board meeting.
  - Concerning the AMS, I'm looking back at our affordability policy: thinking of how to bring this back to AMS Council.
  - Thinking of bringing a motion to Council to condemn the tuition increase, especially in light of the pandemic.
  - There's also the allocations issue: \$18 million will come from the tuition increase, assuming it is approved.
    - We want input on how that is spent.
    - My thoughts are that it should go to support a hybrid learning structure and self-isolation measures, but would like to hear from you.

- Cole:
  - If you want a motion, that's cool.
  - As to feedback, we should talk more about that: maybe take it to the Advocacy Committee.

### **Policy I-7A**

- Cole:
  - This is the mandatory mask policy.
  - It's reached its six-month review date.
  - There's nothing really to do unless people think there's something we need to change.
  - I don't think any changes are needed.
- The consensus was that the policy was good as is.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 pm.