



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of April 7, 2021

**Attendance**

Present: Cole Evans (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager, arrived 12:20 ), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm and took place by videoconference.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted (Lucia, Sylvester).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of March 31 were postponed until next time.

**Project Lightbox**

- Lucia:
  - This is a Mental Health Resource website.
  - Been talking to them about funding.
  - They're looking for something long-term.
  - Not sure who to direct them to: Services? Communications? The VP Admin?
  - Cool idea, but a bit pricey, and our goal this year is to reduce student government spending.
  - They want an annual subsidy of \$25,000 to make the website more robust: they would hire developers, engage with students.
- Cole:
  - If they're looking for a partnership, we could absorb it and run it ourselves, perhaps as a new Service.
- Lucia:
  - They're looking to work with us, to be integrated, for long-term sustainability.

- They're students.
- Lorris:
  - If we're absorbing them, we'd have to see how much work it would take.
  - Ian and I did talk to them, with Peer Support.
  - We can't afford to give that much money.
  - Could forward this to the Services, to become part of Peer Support.
  - It would mean hiring another Assistant Coordinator.
  - A website means a lot of work.
  - We would have to think about this.
- Cole:
  - We need to get a clearer idea of their ask.
  - Do they want us to take it over, or do they just want funding?
- Lucia:
  - They don't want to be absorbed.
  - They're a registered non-profit.
  - They want partnership and money.

[Ian arrives.]

- Cole:
  - I like Lightbox.
- Lucia:
  - They're looking for a partnership.
- Lorris:
  - Why don't they apply for funding?
- Cole:
  - If they're looking for integration, maybe reach out to Ian.
  - Loop in the Services.

### **Preliminary Budget**

- Keith:
  - What's the status?
- Lucia:
  - Waiting for edits.
- Cole:
  - Waiting for staff plans from Executives so we can get the right numbers.
  - Lucia and I will meet and discuss.
- Lucia:
  - Making a conscious effort to reduce student government spending while maintaining Services.
  - Details to be worked out with the Finance Committee.

## Executive Goals

- Sylvester:
  - What are the reporting expectations?
- Cole:
  - We're doing a presentation on the three main things each of us worked on.
  - Plus a reflection document on how our goals went.
  - In the past there was a lot of writing, but probably it doesn't need to be that long.
  - Try to do less than last year.
  - Council seems to be saying less is more.
  - Be succinct, short, though obviously detailed.

## Council Dates

- Sylvester:
  - What are the upcoming dates?
- Cole:
  - Going to ask at Council tonight.
  - But I've heard that the 28<sup>th</sup> is probably better than the 21<sup>st</sup> because the 21<sup>st</sup> is in the middle of exam period and the 28<sup>th</sup> is at the end.
  - We'll poll people.

## Updates

- *Sylvester's update:*
  - Follow-up with SVPRO about club executives.
  - Canvas course for club executives on creating safe places and communities and addressing disclosures.
  - Club executive transitions the last week of April: Canvas course and an FAQ.
  - Club renewals end April 15.
  - Hatch Art Gallery:
    - Managers finalizing the Directors Show.
    - Inviting past Directors to contribute.
  - Sustainability:
    - Data collection about net zero has been slow, but we're making progress.
    - Preliminary report at the end of April.
  - Eastside furniture project nearing completion:
    - Been cutting costs.
    - All furniture has been sourced locally.
    - Saved money from the original budget.
    - Chairs arrived today.

- Reaching out to undergraduate societies about giving away the old red chairs.
- Cole:
  - Music, Science, Kinesiology, and Engineering have all asked about the red chairs, and I'm sure there's more.
- *Cole's update:*
  - Transition: Going to set up meeting between us and the incoming Exec and going to invite them to the rest of our meetings.
  - Council transition planning:
    - Ideally put in a Canvas module.
    - Maybe a Zoom orientation but also something more interactive.
  - Norm Theatre project coming along well. Estimated completion date: mid-May.
  - Consultation with Athletics & Recreation about the new Recreation Centre. Looking nice.
  - Question of when to start charging the fee for the Rec Centre: this year or next?
- Keith:
  - The agreement with the University says the September after construction starts, so that will be September 2022.
- Cole:
  - Great Trekker invitation is going out.
- *Lorris's update:*
  - Hired four Coordinators. Looking for the other three.
  - Reviewing and interviewing candidates for Assistant Coordinators.
  - Working with Communications about marketing plans.
  - Canvas module.
  - Food Bank:
    - A volunteer tested positive for COVID.
    - UBC did a deep clean.
    - We can open tomorrow.
- *Lucia's update:*
  - Treasurer orientations: two sessions in April because there's been lots of turnover.
  - SUS reached out to pay off building debt, so students will not have to pay as long.
  - The Health & Dental Committee is meeting with Indigenous students to better support their needs.
  - The auditors want us to get more accurate numbers for the Health & Dental Plan, but there's an opt-out in July which may affect things.
  - WUSC Coordinator has been hired.

- *Keith's update:*
  - Hired a new accounting supervisor: great to fill that hole.
  - Year/End reconciliation: working with auditors.
  - Hong mentioned an email upgrade a few meetings ago; it was approved at the Finance Committee last Thursday.
  - The new Provincial Health Order means no more dining in the Gallery Lounge.
  - Completed repairs to the revolving gardens.
  - Outdoor signage is close to being approved.
  - Insurance renewal.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.