

Minutes of the AMS Grad Class Council Subcommittee

Monday, April 12th, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (Vice-President Administration), Chrissa Rassias, Miranda Tsuyuki, Alex Gonzalez, Cara LeGault, Amara Punia, Agam Gill (Student Life Committee Chair)

Regrets: None

Recording Secretary: Haiger Ye (Assistant to the President)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.

Introduction

Overview of subcommittee's responsibilities grad class gift and project(s)

Alex: How wide is the scope of this project? How much money are we working with?

- Cole: Last year we funded \$60k, that was a pretty big year. This year there is probably around \$100k of accessible money. Annually, \$21k is put into this fund, if we want to spend the amount that we bring in, we have \$20-25k to work with. But if there's something we want to spend more on this year, we can spend up to \$100k.

Project Proposals Discussion

Proposal 1: monetary donation (\$10k) to the AMS Foodbank

- Cole: This has been done in the past
- Cara: Would we consider donating to other long-term initiatives addressing food insecurity? There are other initiatives happening on-campus.
- Cole: That's a good point. To give context, the university has committed \$1M towards food insecurity initiatives, AMS allocated \$150K for initiatives, doesn't mean we can't put more money into this initiative.
- Cara: Is there data published on the spending of these funds?
- Cole: Not sure if fund allocation is finalized to the dollar. I can check fund allocation with UBC by our next meeting.

Proposal 2: graduation care package (proposed by Miranda)

- Miranda: Graduating class did not have the year. Package can be made for them and incoming first years who also lost their graduating year. Possible discounts and products from local businesses.

Proposal 3: outdoor learning spaces on campus (proposed by Chrissa)

- Chrissa: Want to see more opportunities to learn outdoors, so students feel more connected with our beautiful campus. Envision useful, practical inserts around campus.
- Cole: This idea stuck out to me. Physical piece of campus is a more traditional style of grad class gift. Topical in the context of COVID-19 but does not focus too much on the pandemic. Other campus groups have mentioned the desire to expand more on outdoor learning spaces, if we partnered with other groups we could put up outdoor infrastructure for \$50-70k.
- Chrissa: Could integrate the grad class of UBC's architecture program by asking them to submit potential designs.
- Cole: Seeing a lot of positive reaction in chat, I think we can build off of this idea. To get a project like this established would likely take longer than the end of April. Would people be okay to continue conversation into early summer? We might not need to meet and updates can be sent over email.
- Chrissa: Beneficial to provide updates along the way. We can also give notification to the class that this is a project that will happen over the next year.
- Miranda: Would be nice if a mock up could be presented during the virtual grad ceremony.
- Cole: Since it's virtual we can display something on the screen.

Next Steps

- Cole: Sylvester and I will float this idea by campus community planning, and discuss funding and potential areas on campus. Maybe we can set up an activity on what people envision for this space to help the guide creative process.
- Alex: This infrastructure should be in a place with a lot of traffic. I don't know if I would be as supportive if the only space available for these structures is not frequented by students.
- Cole: In my email to campus planning, I will specify for this structure to be within the academic core (between flag pole and agronomy).
- Chrissa: If it works better, structures can be scattered around campus. Instead of having 5 benches in one area, we can have 5 benches in various places across campus. This would also increase accessibility.
- Cole: Super productive meeting, I will get in touch with campus community planning.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM.