



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of April 28, 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), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Members of the incoming Executive: Lauren Benson (VP Administration-elect), Saad Shoaib (VP External-elect)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:16 pm and took place by videoconference.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted (Kalith, Georgia).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of April 14 were approved (Georgia, Lucia).

**Awards**

- Georgia:
  - Sharing the love, recognizing people, especially in such a difficult year.
  - And post-COVID, we should explore the awards we offer.
  - Look into expansion of existing awards.

*Current awards include Councillor of the Year, Great Trekker, Just Desserts, awards for clubs, and awards for professors who make good use of Open Education Resources.*

- Georgia:
  - We need an index.
  - And we could look into donations, creating an AMS Foundation.
- Cole:
  - We could have an Internal Policy on awards.

- List them, provide the criteria.
  - The Executive Committee could be responsible.
- Georgia:
  - It would also be cool to recognize general members who've contributed by serving on committees etc.
  - I will send in thoughts.

### **Party in Pit**

- Sylvester:
  - If you're reading this, it's too late.
- Lorris:
  - Maybe bubble soccer as an alternative activity.
- Georgia:
  - Should we make it clear this is a joke?
- Keith:
  - We could pass a motion about a party bus.
- Cole:
  - Yes, it's a tradition.
- Kalith:
  - Who drives the bus?
  - Where to?

MOVED COLE, SECONDED GEORGIA:

"Be it resolved that the AMS look into purchasing a party bus to take us to the other side.

Be it further resolved that Keith drive the bus."

... Carried

### **The Year We Missed a Lot**

- Cole:
  - The current Executive want to be invited to next year's Block Party, SUDS, and the All-Presidents Dinner.
- Georgia:
  - And the Welcome Back Barbecue should be a real barbecue.
- Keith:
  - It used to be.
- Cole:
  - Or if not a real barbecue, then change the name.

**AMS Feedback**

- Georgia:
  - Currently we rely on the Academic Experience Survey for feedback.
  - We were going to do a broader AMS Experience Survey.
- Saad:
  - One of my platform points was to have Town Halls.
- Cole:
  - Looking to hold Town Halls specific to government advocacy.
  - Looking forward to engaging students on the issues that we are working on.
- Georgia:
  - What would these look like?
  - How often would they happen?
- Saad:
  - We're looking at quarterly, maybe every term.
  - We'll see what the most effective way to gather student feedback is and have accessible channels for feedback

**Transition Expectations**

- Cole:
  - Hope everyone is doing their transition reports.
  - Ideally, give them to your successors on the day they take office.
  - Especially this year with people not in the office down the hall.
  - Potentially, I'll bring you to the new Exec meeting discussing Exec goals, in accordance with the revised Policy I-9.
  - Throughout May you're expected to be reachable by your successor if they have any questions: make sure to get back to them in a reasonable time.
  - Your transitional honorarium is based on satisfying this.
  - Make sure you're available for your successor.
  - Hopefully they won't need you a ton, but likely there will be a number of times someone will ask how to do something.
  - There's no limit to how much they can ask.
  - You're being paid for this: \$1,200 for a month's work.
- Sylvester:
  - Anything to do with Council? Committees?
- Cole:
  - There are committee chair transitions.
  - Lucia will have to do one for the Finance Committee.
  - Wait to see if Mary (the incoming VP Finance) is going to chair Fincom; if she is, then the transition would just be part of the general Executive transition: no extra work.

- Sylvester:
  - What's happening tonight at Council?
  - Will it go long?
  - What about the Executive Team presentation?
- Cole:
  - Need everyone to fill in their part of the presentation.
  - Council will be quite long; there's a lot on the agenda.
  - Four presentations:
    - Executive Goals
    - Equity Plan
    - Preliminary Budget
    - Services
  - New version of Policy I-9 to approve.
  - New ad hoc committee.
  - Discussion Period items.
  - Will fill the full four hours.
- Ian:
  - Is everyone okay if I continue to work as a non-employee on co-op housing?
- Cole:
  - Obviously, you're passionate about it.
  - Have to speak to Lorris about your status: volunteer?
  - Nothing better than someone who wants to work for free.
- Sylvester:
  - I'm in full support, for continuity.
- Georgia:
  - When does our email cut off? April 30?
- Keith:
  - 11:59 pm.
  - A lot of your current addresses will be transferred to your successors, so you won't be using them anymore.
- Cole:
  - Your key card may still work, but not your email addresses.
  - Ideally, give your successor the key over the weekend or April 30, the Friday.
  - Make sure they have keys in hand for Monday.
- Sylvester:
  - Custodial clean-up of offices over the weekend?
  - Sanitizing for COVID?
- Keith:
  - We'd have to put a special request in.
- Sheldon:
  - If you have documents etc. in your office, I can take them for the Archives.

- Saad:
  - Will the transition to Office 365 cause interruptions?
- Keith:
  - Should be seamless.
  - IT will probably come to your office.
- Georgia:
  - I'm feeling emotional; it's the last Executive meeting.
  - Simp from all of you.

*[Translator's Note: Simp means doing way too much for someone.]*

- Sylvester:
  - Great year. Appreciate you all.
  - Enjoyed every bit of it.
- Kalith:
  - It's great how we developed friendships.
  - We'd never have crossed paths otherwise.
  - The AMS has brought so many people together.
  - We've had the opportunity to work with experienced professionals like Keith, Sheldon, and Lorris.
  - Love you all: I'm being mushy too.
- Cole:
  - This must have been the worst year to be on the AMS Executive, what with the pandemic happening.
  - Was there ever a worse year?
- Georgia:
  - 1918?
- Cole:
  - Okay, World War I.
  - There's no book on how to run a student union in a pandemic.
  - We had to adapt and turn old things into new things.
  - Didn't see people in person.
  - Never had our full teams in the office.
  - We missed out on a lot of the fun, exciting parts of things, like the Winter Classic, the Battle of the Bats ...
  - So it was a bad year, but I'm super proud of all of you and the work you put in, and I think we had a very successful year.
  - An experience you wouldn't want to repeat but which you'll never regret ever.
- Keith:
  - An unorthodox year.
  - Thanks for what you did, and the very best in the future.

- Cole:
  - In 2070 Sheldon will be pulling out pictures of us to say this was the Executive during the pandemic.
- Sheldon:
  - That's assuming the pandemic will be over by then.
- Lorris:
  - I've only been here a short time, but you guys have done an amazing job.
- Lucia:
  - It's been a great two years.
  - We were able to accomplish a lot.
  - There was lots that was unprecedented.

*Georgia took Zoom photos.*

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.