



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 12, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 12:38), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Mary Gan (VP Finance)

Guest: Jason Pang (AMS AVP Sustainability)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

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

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Lauren).

Minutes

- The minutes of April 28 were approved (Lauren, Saad).

Plan for Executive Meetings

- Cole:
 - Meetings will now be scheduled for two hours instead of one.
 - Going to try to have more conversation at the formal Executive Committee meeting, in line with the feedback we've received.
 - Also going to set agendas ahead of time after the team check-in on Monday.
 - Hope to make things more productive this way.

New Awards Policy

- Cole:
 - At the last Executive meeting, we discussed AMS awards like the Great Trekker and Just Desserts.
 - There are no real procedures or criteria for most of these; they're done ad hoc.

- For the Great Trekker we get names from Alumni UBC, and then it's not clear who decides.
 - It would be good to have a policy on how to give these awards.
- Sheldon:
 - 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.
- Lauren:
 - There's also one for Constituency of the Year.
- Keith:
 - HR does awards for staff.
- Cole:
 - Sheldon can dig up information on how these awards have been done in the past, and he and I and my assistant Dana can draft a policy.
 - We can touch base with Praneet (the HR Manager) about the HR awards.

Contacting the Exec

- Cole:
 - Council passed a motion directing us to standardize access to Executives.
 - Maybe set us each up on Calendly as Georgia suggested last year.
 - Each of us could designate hours when people can book in.
- Mitchell:
 - There can also be some rules requiring bookings to be made, say, 48 hours in advance.
 - Also options for how long an appointment will be for.
- Saad:
 - We need to improve our communication.
 - Make sure students know.
- Cole:
 - Maybe tell Eric (the Marketing and Communications Manager).
 - Code currently requires office hours and public hours.
 - Maybe if Calendly works better, we could just switch to that permanently.
 - Often, before the pandemic, when we had in person office hours, no one showed up; people usually contacted us in advance; very rare to have walk-ins.
 - Maybe we could have a system of registering through Calendly and then hold either an in-person meeting or a Zoom call.
- Saad:
 - Would this be a change to Code: having online office hours?

Public Health Office

- Cole:
 - Attended a virtual meeting event with Dr. Bonnie Henry and people from the Public Health Office (PHO).
 - Also attended by the presidents of BC's postsecondary education institutions.
 - The general vibe from the PHO was more optimistic than from the university presidents.
 - The PHO seemed quite confident that by September things will be pretty safe.
 - The idea is to transition away from restriction towards vaccination.
 - They avoided answering a question on mask wearing:
 - They said where transmission is high, masking is effective.
 - They seemed to be suggesting that where transmission is not high, it was less important to mask.
 - They're looking to vaccinate as the main tool to combat COVID, but they're expecting COVID to remain for a while, like colds or the flu: just not as serious as in the past 15 months.
 - So we will need to look at messaging to tell people we no longer need restrictions.
 - Have reached out to Santa (UBC President Santa Ono) and Ainsley (UBC's VP Students, Ainsley Carry) about a joint campaign, a unified message.
- Keith:
 - There's still a bit of a wait and see approach concerning reopening: nothing that is currently closed will reopen till October, and we're not booking in Conferences & Catering yet.
- Cole:
 - Good approach.
 - Even though it's looking positive, there could be surprises.

SEEDS and Sustainability

- Jason Pang:
 - SEEDS is a UBC program that partners classes with faculty, staff, etc.
 - We've been partners with them for several years.
 - Worked with them on the Interactive Sustainability Centre, our Sustainability Action Plan, food security, etc.
 - We're looking for new ideas for SEEDS.

[Eshana arrived.]

- Saad:
 - External does have a project.
 - How do we proceed?

- Jason:
 - Just send over the information and reach out to the UBC SEEDS coordinator.

All-Staff Meeting

- Keith:
 - May 25.
 - Good opportunity for Execs to meet the staff.
- Cole:
 - These are regular meetings to keep everyone engaged.
 - They sometimes have themes, e.g., communications, COVID.
 - It's important to show up.
 - Good to meet the staff.
 - Let them know what you do.

Committee Appointments

- The Executive made the following appointments to the Executive positions on committees:
 - Governance Committee: Saad
 - Finance Committee: Cole
 - Fermentation Lab Committee: Saad

Updates

- *Keith's update:*
 - Beginning next week, can send in weekly items.
 - Main thing right now is Year-End.
- Cole:
 - The building will close on Sundays now?
- Keith:
 - Just for the summer. Barely anyone comes in; didn't really make sense to pay a duty manager.
 - May change the Monday-Friday hours: 8-8 instead of 9-9: some people were concerned they couldn't get in the building in the morning.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Been settling in.
 - Meeting University administrators.
 - On the hiring committee for the position of Managing Director of Student Affairs, a new position under the VP Students.
 - And on the group looking into teaching and learning beyond COVID.
- Sheldon:
 - Eshana and I are also meeting to discuss the Planning Students situation.

- Cole:
 - Should we have some sort of Constituency audit?
 - Has there ever been such a thing?
- Sheldon:
 - There's Presidents Council.
- Cole:
 - They did reach out to me about introducing a rotating chair system for our meetings.
- Keith:
 - Constituency finances might be something for Mary to look into
- *Lauren's update:*
 - Clubs newsletter.
 - Canvas course for clubs.
 - Clubs audit.
 - Sustainability focus: murals and dashboard at the Interactive Sustainability Centre.
- Cole:
 - If you're auditing clubs, maybe you could audit Constituencies too.
- Lauren:
 - Would make sense.
 - The Affiliates Committee is going to get going next week.
- *Saad's update:*
 - SkyTrain to UBC campaign.
 - UCRU elections: I'm running unopposed for vice-chair.
 - Researching a problem with work permits for students at affiliated colleges.
 - Drafting a PIPA submission that's also about the affiliates.
 - Will be going to the Affiliates Committee meeting.
 - Utile co-op housing: looking at the direction on that project.
- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Services busy: transitioning, check-ins.
 - Working on smooth transition for the Food Bank to make sure it is not interrupted.
 - Our Food Bank volunteers are now eligible for the vaccine.
 - Appointment tutoring has begun.
 - Looking into outreach strategy, messaging, to align better with the AMS brand.
 - Services orientations.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - SASC fund-raising month.
 - Mitchell and I are working on engagement and awareness re the Services.
 - Policy Advisor:
 - Asked HR to pre-screen. Forwarding resumés to Eshana and Saad.
 - Scheduling interviews.

Council

- Cole:
 - Straightforward tonight.
 - Planning to present on carryover projects: Strategic Plan, Equity Plan.
 - If anyone has big things they'd like me to mention, message me.
- Lauren:
 - Is this separate from the Executive goals?
- Cole:
 - Yes, this is just a primer to get people excited.

Archives and Email

- Sheldon:
 - I can make sure your email is being copied to the Archives from your desktop accounts.
 - Also for your AVP's and other assistants.
- Cole:
 - Can this also be done from the web app?
- Sheldon:
 - I will look into that.

Goddess of Democracy

- Keith:
 - The Chinese Student and Scholars Association of UBC has been in touch with us and the Belkin Art Gallery asking about the Goddess statue.
 - They're saying the current location of the statue was only meant to be temporary, and they want to know when it's moving.
 - Also, they say it needs cleaning.
- Lauren:
 - I have a meeting with the Belkin on this.
- Keith:
 - Michael Kingsmill, who was involved when the statue was moved to its current location (in order to build the Nest), agrees that the location it's at now (on the path to Brock Hall) was supposed to be temporary – though it's been there about nine years.

- Michael says there is landscaping work being done in the area, but the landscapers may be able to work around the statue.
- The statue may need a power washing/cleaning.
- Cole:
 - At the meeting with the Belkin we should not be committing to anything.
 - It's a somewhat controversial statue, connected to pro-democracy groups in China.
 - Ideally, the statue could stay where it is and just be cleaned.

In camera

The meeting went in camera at 1:41 pm.