THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 21, 2021

Attendance
Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External, arrived 12:28), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda
• The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Mary).

Minutes
• The minutes of July 7 were approved (Eshana, Lauren).

Campus Light Box
• Cole:
  o They are a student-run service platform outlining mental health options for students.
  o They’ve approached us; want to partner with us.
  o They’re looking for a financial partner and also want their platform to have continuity after they graduate.
  o I told them the idea is intriguing; could be good for us, to supplement our mental health resources.
  o They sent a proposal with two options.
  o I’m inclined to send it to Mitchell and Lorris, who can then come back to us.
  o It would probably cost us $15-25,000 a year; not a small sum.
  o I’d probably look for something more from them.
• Mitchell
  o I did chat with the Peer Support Team, and their thought was that it would stretch the coordinator too thin.
  o Peer Support already uses Light Box as a resource.
Keith:
  o What do we get for the $15-25,000?

Cole:
  o I see it as an opportunity not to take it over but to make it part of our Services offering.
  o We get to put our logo on it; it becomes part of the AMS.
  o We would provide the service in collaboration with Campus Light Box.
  o We would not take over the operational side.

Mitchell:
  o The majority of the concern was about the operational side.

Cole:
  o Something to discuss with them.

Mask Policy

Cole:
  o Talking about it at Council tonight.
  o Already discussed it with the Advisory Board, who said it makes sense to say masks are recommended (rather than required), but ramp up communications.
  o If Council wants to keep the mask requirement (under Policy I-7A), fine, but it won’t be actively enforced.

Eshana:
  o I think it’s great that we’re taking it to Council.

[Raad arrived.]

Rapid Testing

Cole:
  o UBC approached us.
  o They want rapid testing in the Nest, which is great.
  o We’re working with them to book space.
  o The question is how much to charge them: can we reduce the price if they think it’s steep?

Keith:
  o What they want to book is one of our most popular rooms for September through December.
  o That will mean a hefty price tag.
  o Clubs won’t be able to book that room.
  o Or can they clear out in the evening and allow clubs to use the room in the evening?

Saad:
  o Definitely think we should make an effort to reduce the price.
This is about students getting tested.

- Lauren:
  - There were different room options.
  - This is the one UBC suggested, and it seems best to us too.
  - It has access points, but is private.
  - If we used the Atrium, that would not be good for privacy, and seeing people getting tested might have been offputting.
  - There are only four events booked in that room now, and we’re looking to move those events, or perhaps tear down for the four times.
  - Probably couldn’t expect them to leave every evening, and maybe they can’t even do that for the four events.
  - It’s important to accommodate this.

**Publishing the Budget**

- Keith:
  - We had a privacy concern from a staff member because the comments to the AMS budget were published last year along with the budget and revealed the staff member’s salary.
  - The comments have been taken down now.
  - But there’s a larger issue: other organizations don’t publish their full budget, just a summary.
  - The bylaws require us to publish the budget, but I think we’re still in conformity by publishing a summary.
  - We don’t want to reduce transparency to members, but we don’t want to publish salary lines.

- Eshana:
  - Not even Executive salaries?

- Mitchell:
  - It would be good to publish the Executives’ salary: students want to know.

- Cole:
  - They are published in the audit, but we could add a note.

- Sheldon:
  - The bylaws say to publish the budget, but as the Privacy Officer I want us to protect personal information.

- Keith:
  - Publishing the summary and leaving out the salaries would still comply with the bylaw.
  - All we’re not showing is the detail.

- Cole:
  - The Advisory Board said don’t display personal information.
  - But Executives are different.
• Eshana:
  o I’m not opposed to keeping out the permanent staff’s salaries.
  o But the Executive are elected; what they make should be transparent.
• Cole:
  o I’ll send the summary template to Mary and Keith.

Committee Scheduling
• Cole:
  o We’d like to recommend a Code change to restrict committee meeting times.
  o Code should say that regularly scheduled meetings cannot occur from 5 pm Friday through 9 am Monday or on statutory holidays.
  o Some committees have scheduled meetings for 8 pm Friday.
  o That’s not good, especially for staff attending.
• Sheldon:
  o What about evenings during the week?
• Cole:
  o Governance last year had to meet Thursday evenings.
  o That’s not that bad.
  o It’s more about respecting people’s weekends.
  o If permanent staff have to work after regular hours, they can claim flextime.
• Saad:
  o There should be a cap on weekday evenings.
• Cole:
  o I’ve never known committees to go past 9 pm (meeting ending at 9, starting at 8).
• Lauren:
  o Might be nice to have something in writing saying a committee meeting can’t start later than 8 pm.
  o Some unprecedented meeting times this year.
• Cole:
  o I don’t think it’s that bad to have an 8 pm meeting on a Tuesday.
  o What is inappropriate is infringing on weekends and holidays.
  o Executives and permanent staff are salaried and are always on the clock.
• Eshana:
  o It’s not unreasonable to meet on weekday evenings.
  o Some Councillors might find it unethical.
• Cole:
  o Maybe loop the Governance Committee in, and they can raise concerns with us if they have any.
• Sheldon to draft a Code change.
Managing Director’s Update

- Keith:
  - Starting to bring staff back full-time; people are getting back to a five-day week.
  - Simply Voting contract probably to next Council.
  - Testing hybrid Council meeting software.
  - Events will be part of UBC’s Jump Start orientation, which is great. Also with the Affiliated colleges.
  - Rish (the Events Manager) will tell Council about First Week.
  - The information touchscreen on the main floor, which is not being used, will be moved to outside the Main Office on the third floor.
    - The “I” downstairs will become an online ordering system.
  - Thinking of filling the Best Buy location opposite the Porch with a mini-Arcade with retro video games.
  - Talking to the Operations Committee about changing the booking policy to make it mandatory for Constituencies to book here.

- Saad:
  - Would it make more sense to have an Arcade in the Gallery?

- Keith:
  - The plan is to see if students will be interested in those games, and if so, relocate to the back area of the Gallery.

- Cole:
  - I’m wondering what other things we might do.

- Sheldon:
  - We used to have a huge Arcade; it was a major revenue generator.
  - But the Internet killed it.

- Lorris:
  - Maybe use the space for lockers?

- Keith:
  - An Amazon drop-off place.

Executive Updates

- Lauren’s update:
  - Pride cookie selling well.
  - Working on setting up Clubs Days: surveying the clubs about it. Making sure students feel comfortable.
  - Interactive Sustainability Centre moving along, and Dashboard coming soon.

- Mary’s update:
  - Budget to Council tonight.
  - Opt-in, opt-out, subsidies closed.
  - U-Pass subsidy till end of July.
• Mitchell’s update:
  o Applied for Work-Learn positions for Services staff.
  o Hiring Assistant Student Services Manager.
  o New jackets and ID cards for Safewalk, expecting more in person interactions.
    ▪ Will make them more recognizable.
  o Discussing one-time funding grant between eHub and e@UBC.

• Lorris’s update:
  o Policy Advisor: Four interviews scheduled.
  o SASC planning for First Week welcome back event and talking to the Affiliates too.
  o May use the shuttles in First Week.

• Eshana’s update:
  o Received 7,933 responses to the survey on the Return to Campus. Four times the number responding to the Academic Experience Survey.
    ▪ Good data for advocacy.
  o Still working on trying to get vaccinations mandated in residences:
    ▪ Planning to bring a letter on this to Council.
  o Also gauging if we can have UBC mandate masks in large lecture halls.

• Saad’s update:
  o BC budget consultation soon: Talking with ABCS, UVic student society, and a couple of other stakeholders about our recommendations:
    ▪ Sexual violence policies
    ▪ Indigenous student support
    ▪ Mental health
  o Working with UCRU on the federal budget.
  o Working with McMaster and Western on a Get Out the Vote campaign for a potential federal election.
  o Working with Regent College on an MoU about gathering information about their students while respecting their privacy.

• Keith:
  o Regent wants issues resolved with Simply Voting.

• Saad:
  o Yes, but not just for voting; this is to get lists of students for our newsletter.
Also going to approach other Affiliates to make sure we have contracts in place to get lists from them all.

Council tonight

- Cole:
  - Should be about three hours, maybe more because of technical issues.
  - Agenda:
    - Delaying Lauren’s report till the 4th.
    - Code changes about fees in Code and removing the student at large from Steering Committee.
    - Budget presentation: the Crown jewel of the night.
    - Mitchell to present on Services strategy.
    - Rish to present on First Week.
    - Michael Kingsmill doing a consultation on the air conditioning project.
    - From Governance, another Code change about remote attendance.
    - Discussion about Policy I-7A and mask requirements.
    - Letter from Eshana about masks and vaccines.

- Lauren:
  - How many will be attending in person?

- Cole:
  - Don’t know yet.
  - Probably 10-15 in the room. We’ll see.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 pm.