



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

- Keith:
 - What do we get for the \$15-25,000?
- Cole:
 - I see it as an opportunity not to take it over but to make it part of our Services offering.
 - We get to put our logo on it; it becomes part of the AMS.
 - We would provide the service in collaboration with Campus Light Box.
 - We would not take over the operational side.
- Mitchell:
 - The majority of the concern was about the operational side.
- Cole:
 - Something to discuss with them.

Mask Policy

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

[Saad arrived.]

Rapid Testing

- Cole:
 - UBC approached us.
 - They want rapid testing in the Nest, which is great.
 - We're working with them to book space.
 - The question is how much to charge them: can we reduce the price if they think it's steep?
- Keith:
 - What they want to book is one of our most popular rooms for September through December.
 - That will mean a hefty price tag.
 - Clubs won't be able to book that room.
 - Or can they clear out in the evening and allow clubs to use the room in the evening?
- Saad:
 - 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:
 - I'm not opposed to keeping out the permanent staff's salaries.
 - But the Executive are elected; what they make should be transparent.
- Cole:
 - I'll send the summary template to Mary and Keith.

Committee Scheduling

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

- Helping Constituencies with purchases.
- Looking at RBC avion card.
- Also looking at expense management program for credit cards.

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Applied for Work-Learn positions for Services staff.
 - Hiring Assistant Student Services Manager.
 - New jackets and ID cards for Safewalk, expecting more in person interactions.
 - Will make them more recognizable.
 - Discussing one-time funding grant between eHub and e@UBC.

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

- *Eshana's update:*
 - 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.
 - Still working on trying to get vaccinations mandated in residences:
 - Planning to bring a letter on this to Council.
 - Also gauging if we can have UBC mandate masks in large lecture halls.

- *Saad's update:*
 - 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
 - Working with UCRU on the federal budget.
 - Working with McMaster and Western on a Get Out the Vote campaign for a potential federal election.
 - Working with Regent College on an MoU about gathering information about their students while respecting their privacy.

- Keith:
 - Regent wants issues resolved with Simply Voting.

- Saad:
 - 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.

