



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of July 28, 2021

**Attendance**

Present: Saad Shoab (VP External), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Cole Evans (President), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm and took place by videoconference, with Saad in the chair.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted (Mary, Eshana).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of July 21 were approved (Mary, Eshana).

**Code change**

- Change to abolish weekend meetings of committees.
- Lauren:
  - This is a really good thing for work-life balance for staff and Executives.
- Saad:
  - Next step would be to eliminate meetings on weekday evenings or maybe set an 8 pm limit (or earlier or later).

MOVED LAUREN, SECONDED ESHANA:

“That the Executive Committee recommend that Council approve the Code change entitled Code Changes 2021: Committee Meeting Times.”

... Carried

**Managing Director’s Update**

- Keith:
  - Away next week.
  - Supply chain issues because of the wildfires have led to rising prices.

- Hiring for the fall slower than usual because not everyone is here yet.
- Lease for the old Merit Travel space.
- Touch screen on the third floor will be for FAQ's so students can access information when the office is closed.
- Audit still underway; should be done by mid to late August.

## Executive Updates

- *Lorris's update:*
  - Away for two weeks.
  - Plans for September:
    - In person orientations with Affiliates.
    - Trying to arrange with Jump Start and Imagine Day.
    - If that doesn't work, we will be with Events.
  - Policy Advisor: Three interviews done; one more to go.
  - Reviewing orientation course material.
  - Working on course for Services staff (for financial issues).
- *Saad's update:*
  - Working on U-Pass communication for the fall:
    - Continuing the same U-Pass exemptions and subsidies.
  - Federal pre-budget submission:
    - Removing the interest on student loans.
    - Student grants.
  - Provincial budget submission. Recommending:
    - Funding for Indigenous language programs.
    - Financial support for mental health.
  - Working on Get Out the Vote campaign with Western and McMaster.
- *Lauren's update:*
  - Gearing up: next month will be crazy.
  - Pride cookies doing well at Blue Chip. Would love to do more campaigns like that.
  - Clubs Days will be September 28 to October 1 in the Atrium, outdoors, and virtually.
    - Surveying to gauge comfort levels.
    - Applications for boothing opening soon.
  - Wrapping up club audit.
  - New club applications open.
  - Interactive Sustainability Centre opening in September.
  - Sensory Room: to Council.
  - Two rooms reserved for prayer spaces in the Nest:
    - Talking to UBC about guidelines/expectations.

- Thingery budget to Council soon.
- *Eshana's update:*
  - Summary report from the survey (on return to campus).
  - Been doing media interviews about the Return to Campus letter (about mandating vaccinations in residences and masking in lecture halls).
    - We did receive a response to our letter, and now we will respond back.
    - We're not giving up yet.
- Lauren:
  - My mother heard you on the radio.
- *Mary's update:*
  - Budget passed.
  - Treasurer procedures.
  - Health & Dental Committee is looking at increasing subsidies.
  - U-Pass subsidies extended until August 6.
  - Helping Constituencies.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.