



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of September 15, 2021

### **Attendance**

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, left 1:05), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External, left 1:03), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director, left 1:05), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

### **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:24 pm and took place by videoconference.

### **Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Saad).

### **Minutes**

- The minutes of September 8 were approved (Eshana, Saad).

### **IFC (Fraternities)**

- Saad recused himself from the discussion.
- Cole:
  - What is the IFC (Inter-Fraternity Council) doing about bids day?
  - We don't want crowding at the Nest.
  - There's also the issue of frats and partying and COVID scares: is that something we want to tie ourselves to? I'd say no.
  - We can say you can use your room to hand out bids, but you can't be in the area of the Nest up to our dripline, and cannot use our stairs.
- Keith:
  - They're not a club.
  - We don't have to give them bookings.
  - We can tell Conferences & Catering to decline any frat requests for the building.
- Cole:
  - Do we mean only about bids day?
  - Let's cancel them for that day or the days around then.
  - I'm not confident they can have that event and abide by public health guidelines.

**“Almost” Welcome Back Barbecue**

- Keith:
  - We’re having problems with the University; roadblocks.
  - They say they need to report to the province.
  - Rish (the AMS Events Manager) is not happy.
- Eshana:
  - They’re being very strict.
- Cole:
  - And it’s supposed to rain Friday.
  - I’ve asked Rish if we want to consider changing the day.
  - UBC hasn’t approved the event yet and there’s a weather warning.
  - It will be a pain to postpone, but worse to try and hold it in a torrential downpour.
- Keith:
  - Investigating whether we can move it to next Friday.
  - Don’t want to move it into the Nest.
- Lauren:
  - Next Friday is Clubs Day, which will be outside.
- Keith:
  - So not a possibility.
  - We’ll let you know when then.
- Lauren:
  - Clubs have already had their places allocated.
- Cole:
  - When did it move outside?
  - You could relocate outside clubs inside or elsewhere outside.
- Saad:
  - UBC is specifically allocating everyone to specific spaces now.
- Mary:
  - Awkward to change Clubs Days.
  - Clubs are itching to get going.
- Cole:
  - Welcome Back can’t be indoors; has to be outside.
  - So we’re looking at postponement or cancellation.
  - Could postpone for two weeks, to October 1, but Rish is trying to do a virtual Homecoming.
  - Ultimately, the call lies with Rish.
  - Cannot have this event with this amount of rainfall; we won’t have people show up.
  - I’d rather postpone it than force it to happen.
- Keith:
  - I agree.

- We have one more call with the University this afternoon.
- Cole:
  - I'd hate for us to push for this week and then six hours later say never mind.
  - Maybe we should tell UBC that we can't have the event now anyway because of the weather and ask if we can aim for a better time.
- Keith:
  - I will tell Rish before his meeting.

[Keith left briefly to speak to Rish.]

- Lauren:
  - Is there anything we can do to make it easier to book with the University in general?
- Saad:
  - They have to make sure there's no outbreak on their property.

## Executive Updates

- *Eshana's update:*
  - Rapid testing at IKB had an operational hiccup, but it should get going again soon.
  - Advocating for symptomatic rapid testing and a vaccine clinic.
  - Working on budget submission.
  - Submission to Board of Governors on transparency and accountability because of their many closed door discussions.
  - Harm reduction.
  - Textbook Broke campaign.
- *Lauren's update:*
  - Focused on Clubs Days: bookings, security, allocating space to clubs.
  - Interactive Sustainability Centre: making sure it's ready to go.
- Cole:
  - What is happening with the 3310 hallway?
  - Supposed to be AMS office space.
  - Worried we've allocated clubs in those rooms.
- Lauren:
  - Will doublecheck.
- *Mary's update:*
  - Q1 finished, going to Council.
  - Clubs getting back into it.
  - Hiring for financial system, funds and grants.

- Credit card.
- Club financial issues.
- *Saad's update:*
  - Get Out the Vote campaign.
  - Asking about the possibility of students getting time off from classes to vote.
  - BC budget consultation submission Monday with ABCS and Uvic student society.
  - Sending a letter to TransLink about the 250 and 480 buses; UBC has also expressed concern about the suspension of those routes.
  - Compass Card vending machine in the Nest.
  - Harm reduction campaign: meeting with biotech company.
  - Finalizing SUDS: 65 delegates confirmed.
  - UTILE meeting right now.

### Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
  - Spoke to Rish.
    - He will talk to UBC about postponing the Welcome Back Barbecue.
    - They're meeting now.
    - This will create a softer tone.
  - Very busy in the building: beating the competition.
  - Starbucks next door and Tim Hortons nearby, but our Blue Chip is demolishing them.
  - Our Asian food outlets are also demolishing the competition.
  - Having difficulties hiring culinary staff.
    - Just managed to open the Porch today.
    - The other places are coming as soon as possible.
- Eshana:
  - The line-ups have been crazy at Blue Chip.
- Keith:
  - Cash registers ringing merrily.
- Cole:
  - Forgot to mention that Praneet is resigning as HR Manager, which is unfortunate.
  - The position is posted.
  - Still have a relatively robust HR department.

[Saad, Eshana, and Keith leave.]

### Services Updates

- *Mitchell's update:*

- Peer Support:
  - Launched this week in person and online.
  - Holding an event.
  - Drug testing.
- Housing ran its first support session.
- Food Bank is working on getting a new freezer for increased capacity, and is returning to the grocery store model.
- Hiring an Assistant Student Services Manager.
  
- *Lorris's update:*
  - Talking to Studentcare about possible collaboration with Peer Support in offering mental health workshops for students.
  - In person booting is going really well.
  - Working with UBC Wellness: they've invited us to speak at their Resource Fair (for their student staff and volunteers).

**Council**

- Cole:
  - In person.
  - Presentations (Strategic Plan, Brewery).
  - Council introduction meeting at end.
  - Food: burgers, vegan chili, and other stuff.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.