



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 29, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, left 12:15), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:53 am and took place in person (in Room 3511) for the first time since the pandemic began.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of September 22 were deferred.

AGM

- Cole:
 - Draft agenda went out.
 - There's the four standard motions, then others on:
 - Electoral reform
 - Constitutional amendments
 - Housing (from Saad)
 - Sexual violence
- Eshana:
 - Want something on an affordability plan and tuition increases.
- Saad:
 - Is electoral reform feasible?
- Cole:
 - Just adopting it as our position, to advocate for it, in the form of proportional representation.
 - Could revise that, because ranked choice is not the same as proportional representation.

- Could get rid of the specific mention of proportional representation.
- Saad:
 - Maybe call for something to make it easier for young people to vote, like online voting.
- Cole:
 - Don't want to be too specific.
 - Proportional representation is pretty broad, as opposed to first past the post, but we could change it to just say electoral reform.
- Sheldon:
 - Not sure the Societies Act will allow us to add the proposed preamble/territorial acknowledgement (in the constitutional amendments).
 - The Act says our name and our objects are the only provisions allowed in a constitution.
- Cole:
 - I doubt the government would object.
 - Or we could consider it one of our purposes.
- Sheldon:
 - Or a preamble might not be considered a provision, so it would be okay.
- Cole:
 - Want to make the AGM a notable annual event, a tradition.
 - Like Welcome Back Barbecue and Block Party as events, we would have two opportunities for large-scale voice:
 - The AGM in the first semester
 - Elections in the second semester.
 - Will be interesting to see how many people show up this year.
 - Last year was the first time virtual and we got lots of people who were at home signing up: 3,000 people registered.
 - Still a good chance we'll hit quorum this year.
- Lauren:
 - Need to make it approachable to younger students.
 - They're just discovering the COVID university.
- Eshana:
 - Must it be virtual?
- Cole:
 - Yes, we can't get 600 people in person.
 - Virtual is great: we received feedback saying that.
 - It's easy to attend.
 - Going forward, we want to keep it virtual.
- Saad:
 - Are we offering cash prizes again as incentives to bring students in?

- Cole:
 - Still planning to do some.
 - Haven't seen an AGM at another student union at a large school that made quorum without offering incentives.
 - The focus this year will be: Come learn about the AMS, voice concerns. It will be a Town Hall really.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Fentanyl strips finalized.
 - UBC budget submission.
 - Textbook Broke a resounding success.
 - Preparing for OER Champions Night.
 - Some profs are stopping recording lectures on September 30.
 - Working with UBC Provost's office to let people know there's no expiry date on the guidelines to record lectures.
 - Some professors say there are academic freedom and intellectual property issues involved in recording lectures.
 - Also there is concern about students not being comfortable if they're recorded commenting on controversial issues.
 - Also technological issues.
 - And engagement: some professors feel students will stop showing up for lectures if they're recorded, though our survey shows that's not true.

[Eshana leaves.]

- *Saad's update:*
 - Reviewing our post-election lobbying plans.
 - Sending letters to the Prime Minister's Office to influence the mandate letters going to the ministries involved with diversity and youth, transportation, and infrastructure.
 - Want to make sure we get our wins in the letters.
 - Met MLA David Eby about the feasibility study for the Utile housing project.
 - Provincial budget submission.
 - Letter to TransLink about the suspension of the 258 and 480 bus routes: students have been expressing concern.
 - Talking with the ABCS about provincial lobbying for the rest of the year: an online lobby week in November and another in January.
 - An in person federal lobby week at the end of November or December
 - SUDS is set, just finalizing two last speaker spots.

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Clubs Days a huge success online and in person.
 - The outdoor/indoor/online combination went smoothly.
 - Vaccination checks went well; there was no negative feedback.
 - Going to send a survey to the clubs to get their feedback.
 - ISC open and available for bookings.
 - Thinking of hosting social nights.
 - Videos coming out to promote ISC (the Interactive Sustainability Centre).
 - Carbon Offsetters report complete on how sustainable the Nest is. Coming to Council tonight.
 - Thingery going to the next Council.
 - Clubs Recovery Benefit to support clubs.
 - Hiring for the Clubs Resource Centre and the Hatch Art Gallery.

Hatch Art Gallery

- Cole:
 - Should we consider relinquishing control and working collaboratively with the Faculty of Arts?
 - We're getting pretty late now for hiring a Hatch manager.
 - There would probably be no programming till January.
 - UBC's Visual Arts Department has emailed to ask what's happening.
 - Our community uses the Hatch a lot.
 - It might be a good idea to give the space to a group that can do more with it.
 - There's a chance that the Visual Arts Department (VAD) could do something better with it.
 - And maybe they could help with curating our permanent art collection too.
 - Maybe it's time to move the Hatch out of the VP Admin's office.
- Lauren:
 - Originally I was opposed because it's in the Nest.
 - But having gone through Clubs Days etc., I want to make sure it's used, and if there's another group, that could help.
- Cole:
 - The VP Admin would still be involved.
 - It's a room in the Nest.
 - But just liaising with the VAD on programming.
 - We could come up with an agreement requiring them to submit an annual plan to be approved.
 - This would give us more flexibility. Taking away two staff (a manager and assistant manager of the Hatch) would mean we can add staff elsewhere.
 - Have to engage with the VAD to see what their interest is.
- Lauren:

- Would have to be contingent on not selling any items in the permanent collection.
 - It's cool that the student union has art; don't want to give that up.
- Cole:
 - The permanent collection would still be our collection.
 - The VAD would just be operating the gallery.
 - Want to make sure the permanent collection is displayed in the gallery.
 - It won't be their collection, but I hope they might assist with the art.
 - We also need to do restoration work.
- Sheldon:
 - There was a plan to display the art online, but we needed to get the artists to sign agreements to allow that.
 - Who would sign off on the agreements now?
- Cole:
 - The art is not being preserved properly.
 - It will take \$150,000 to restore it.
 - Could the Archives take over?
- Sheldon:
 - Art and Archives are different.
 - There has been talk over the years of hiring a full-time manager to run the gallery and take care of the art.
- Cole:
 - Would need money to support that.
- Sheldon:
 - Or do you want the VAD to run it?
- Lauren:
 - First step is to talk to the VAD.

Road Safety

- Saad:
 - In light of recent events (the accident on Northwest Marine), had a discussion with David Eby about long-term solutions.
 - It's a provincially administered road.
 - Also, impaired driving was a factor.
- Lauren:
 - That area is very dark.
- Saad:
 - There's been talk of putting in road barriers or guard rails.
- Cole:
 - It's important to let the investigation conclude.
 - Right now we have no idea why this happened.

- I was surprised the University so quickly came out saying they'd advocate for better road safety.
 - Not that that's bad, but we want to wait for the RCMP investigation.
 - If there was excessive speed, maybe we want speed bumps.
- Saad:
 - Depending on what the investigation shows, we can also put out messaging about impaired driving.
- Lauren:
 - I do like the idea of pushing for better lighting there.
- Saad:
 - The ministry will review it.
- Sheldon:
 - We used to do safety audits to report on lighting etc. on campus.

Executive and Services Updates (continued)

- *Mary's update:*
 - Health and Dental:
 - Meeting to discuss subsidy criteria, to make sure they reflect current expenses.
 - The Health & Dental Committee doubled the money available for subsidies this year: from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
 - There's the issue of the flu shots at Shoppers and their connection to the health plan.
 - Financial issues: Showpass.
 - Opt-outs.
 - Financial aid, budgeting workshops.
 - Credit card apps for clubs and Constituencies.
- *Mitch's update:*
 - Hiring more Safewalkers.
 - Safewalk is using its vehicle.
 - Food Bank is recruiting more volunteers to meet the increased demand.
 - In general increasing engagement with students.
 - Peer Support holding a workshop and a Naloxone event. Also dialogue nights.
 - Tutoring has finalized its contract with Student Housing.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - Finalized orientation course on Canvas for Services.
 - May also do it for individual Services.
 - SASC recruiting.

- Met with UBC's VP Students about food insecurity and a possible community hub.
 - We're saying UBC should put more resources into that.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - New signs in Blue Chip for Blue Chip Express.
 - Fixing a Blue Chip sign.
 - Proposal for a new espresso machine for Blue Chip Express.
 - Using some Gallery furniture for the Lev Bukhman Lounge.
 - Preparing report for the AGM.
 - Presentation on the audit to the Executive next week.
- Saad:
 - Compass card sales data received.
- Keith:
 - The order is in.

Council

- Cole:
 - Three presentations.
 - Finance Committee appointments.
 - Impact Grant appointments.
 - Students at Large to be confirmed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.