THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 13, 2021

Attendance
Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance, arrived 11:55), Saad Shoaiib (VP External, left 12:05), 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)

Guests: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office), Vishwa Mohan (Food & Beverage Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order
- The meeting was called to order at 11:12 am and took place in person (in Nest Room 3511).

Agenda
- The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Saad).

Minutes
- The minutes of October 7 were approved (Lauren, Eshana).

Executive Goals
- Cole:
  - We’re supposed to chat about the progress on our goals before presenting to Council in November.
  - Executive Committee Goals as a Whole:
    - Communications and Engagement:
      - So far doing well. Follower counts climbing on social media.
      - Good engagement over the statement we issued about the deaths of the two students on Marine Drive.
      - The AGM will be a good tool.
      - Branding guidelines are being implemented; look lovely. Maybe I’ll have Communications distribute them.
      - Electoral Engagement Committee has yet to meet. I will most likely assume the chair and get things moving.
Pandemic Recovery:
- Restart Plan, recovery campaigns: going well.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion:
- Consultation ongoing.
- Not just for this year.

Policy Reviews:
- I-17 and I-18 (on sexual violence and respectful community) need more of an overhaul than we first thought; hope to have it done by the end of this term.
- I-5 (communication with the Musqueam): Still have not established a consistent connection with them. Going to check with UBC. Maybe the new Policy Advisor can be designated the point of contact.
- Media Policy on backburner.

President’s Goals:
- Strategic Plan:
  - Coming to Council this evening.
  - Hope to get it done by end of fiscal year.
- Return to Campus on track.
- EDI on track.
  - Need to look at training on such things as QPR (suicide training), procedural fairness.
  - Looking to create a more consistent process for I-17 and I-18, a centralized ladder system to be more efficient.
- Indigenous Presence and Engagement:
  - Ongoing.
  - Indigenous Culture Month.
  - Installation: have to touch base with the Musqueam and the Indigenous Committee.
- Community Engagement:
  - First year programming: Communications team. Getting better and better.
  - Cross-campus collaboration.

Eshana:
- VPAUA goals:
  - Remote invigilation (Proctorio) goal completed:
    - Restricting the use of it.
    - Looking for an equitable replacement.
- Affordability:
  - On Affordability Task Force.
• Pressing for there to be no tuition increases without an affordability plan.
• Allocation of funding should connect to real student priorities.
• Pushing for needs-based grants.
• Budget submission.

- Open Education Resources:
  • Successful campaign.
  • Open Champions Night.
  • At Senate, policy to put a cap on textbook costs.

- Indigenous Student Support:
  • Survey leading to focused advocacy.

- Audit of honorary degrees.

- Return to In Person:
  • Advocating for more lecture capture.
  • Rapid testing/soft vaccine mandate.
  • Solid advocacy for mask mandate.
  • Working with the Administration for international students who are not yet back.

- Mental Health:
  • Campaign next month.

- Food insecurity:
  • $1 million for Meal Share Program.
  • Hoping for more.
  • Campaign to reduce social stigma.

- Sexual violence and safety:
  • Working on getting committee going.

- Graduate advocacy:
  • Working with the GSS on tuition waiver for PhD students.

[Shana leaves.]

• Saad:
  - VP External Goals:
    • Transparency and Accountability:
      • Partnering with Shana on advocacy updates.
    • Housing affordability and Tenancy Rights:
      • Meeting with Leading Practices Subcommittee.
    • AMS co-op housing:
      • Talking to BC Housing.
      • Recommendations for BC budget accepted: $2 million in housing initiatives.
Student financial aid:
- Advocating for removal of interest on student loans.
  - Adopted by UCRU.
- Making recommendations with the GSS to the province about grad student grants.

International student support:
- Meeting with Ministry of Advanced Education.
- Working with BCFS on tuition.

COVID Recovery.
- Recommendation to province to increase funding for sexual violence policies at postsecondary institutions.

Climate Action Strategic Plan.
- Lobbying for SkyTrain to UBC.

Promoting student candidates in the UNA elections.

Indigenous student support.

Equity-based grants.

Lauren:
- VP Admin Goals:
  - Supporting clubs beyond the pandemic:
    - Video tutorials on how to navigate CampusBase.
    - Clubs newsletter.
    - Videoconferencing, but perhaps changing focus on that because things are less virtual now.
    - COVID-19 safety materials.
  - CampusBase:
    - Moved onto a Canadian server.
    - Meeting their reps.
    - Driving awareness.
    - Reconfiguring the layout.
  - Communication:
    - COVID-19 dashboard on website for Nest policies.
  - Accessibility initiative second term.
  - Sustainability:
    - More inclusive – attended Indigenous Committee meeting.
    - Installed dashboard at the ISC.
    - Carbon Offsetters compiled data for us:
      - AMS has completed most of the steps.
      - Mostly we just need to encourage AMS staff to walk to work.
  - Inclusive space in the Nest:
    - Sensory Room (presentation to Council tonight).
• Prayer spaces (maybe January).
  ▪ First Year and in person: variety of comfort levels.
  ▪ Convenient spaces for commuter students:
    ▪ Clubs Resource Centre: hiring staff.
• Hatch Art Galley:
  ▪ Perhaps passing some responsibility to the Visual Arts Student Association.

• Mitchell:
  o SSM Goals:
    ▪ AMS Housing Service: database for April.
    ▪ Increase engagement for all Services:
      ▪ Outreach plan.
      ▪ Social media assistant.
    ▪ Increasing students’ use of Services.
    ▪ Social Media presence growing.
    ▪ Streamline training, provide courses for Services.
    ▪ Gearing up for Services Review.
    ▪ Cross-campus collaboration on food services.

**Gallery Furniture**

• Michael Kingsmill:
  o Reimagining the Gallery Lounge.
  o Want to improve the decor.
  o Currently a mixture of furniture suffering wear and tear.
  o Looking for a more cohesive, updated look:
    ▪ Furniture, flooring (mosaic), glass tile for the bar.
  o Aim is to be a casual dining room and lounge like Milestone’s or Brown’s; not high end like our old Perch.
  o Very high ceiling now, which decreases intimacy.
  o Proposals in evolution.
  o Normally do decor first, furniture second, but because of timing, want to go forward with the furniture.
  o Some existing furniture can be reused/restored:
    ▪ The tall tables and three low tables can be brought back to life.
    ▪ Would like to reuse the 22 grey tweed chairs and the tall barstools.

[Mary arrives.]

• Michael Kingsmill (continued):
  o Looking to reuse but refinish seats, make things cohesive.
o Plan to introduce new lightweight sofas: each with two or three seats, costing $2300 each, plus $1000 each for fabric.
o Dark tone on the floor, lighter tone on chair fabrics, dark ceiling.
o Would purchase ten 24 x 24 tables.
o Reupholster booths.
o Add plants.
o Overall furniture budget originally $70,000, but by reusing some existing furniture, the actual cost will be $42,000 for the furniture.
o Total cost of the Gallery upgrade: $150,000.

• Michael showed pictures.
• Cole:
o Looks great.
o Love the walnut style dark finish.
o Really like the foliage, the drop ceiling, and the lighting.
o But the sofas:
  ▪ Not really efficient seating.
  ▪ You’ll get two people on a three-person sofa.
  ▪ Personally more in favour of more tables and benches.
  ▪ Then could have multiple groups for when it’s busy.
• Saad:
o Colour will get torn up by drink spillage.
o Dark colour would be better.
• Vishwa:
o Flooring will be even.
o Couches will most likely have vinyl or fake leather material.
• Lauren:
o Looks great.
o Couches: I do like something to break up the seating: accent seats.
o Maybe two instead of four.

[Saad leaves.]

• Mary:
o Wood flooring could be scratchable (people pushing chairs).
• Lauren:
o Like look of drop-down ceiling, but will it affect the light?
o If we do couches, it would be fun to have accent rugs as well, to lighten the look.
• Michael:
o I like the gesture of something domestic like rugs, but they’re tripping hazards.
o Re light: there’s an abundance of windows: the drop ceiling would not significantly diminish the natural light.
o Thinking of TV’s (flat screens) for sports events.
o Not quite a sports bar: more casual dining with a youthful feel.
  o Floors do delaminate: veneer can wear off. But hardwood floors properly
    finished should last.
  o Upper deck of seating is carpeted now: need to look at that.
  o The mini-arcade could go there.
  o Re sofas:
    ▪ Well-taken point.
    ▪ Not everyone is comfortable on a three-person sofa.
    ▪ That’s why we are also thinking of two-person sofas.
    ▪ But perhaps we could do more tables and chairs.
    ▪ Don’t want to lose all the sofas: they do get patronized.
    ▪ But maybe three-seat ones are ill-advised.
    ▪ Better to have two-seat ones that could be joined to make fours.
  • Lauren:
    ▪ What kind of material would be in the drop-down ceiling?
  • Michael:
    ▪ Wooden slats on edge.
  • Lauren:
    ▪ What kind of furniture would be in the back area?
  • Michael:
    ▪ That’s the arcade: you mostly stand up.
  • Sheldon:
    ▪ Billiard table?
  • Michael:
    ▪ Too big.
  • Cole:
    ▪ Ping pong.
  • Michael:
    ▪ Too big.
  • Cole:
    ▪ Insulating the patio?
    ▪ Retractable cover?
  • Michael:
    ▪ Contemplating that.
    ▪ The area is very much exposed to wind.
    ▪ Retractable awnings are flimsy.
    ▪ Challenging and costly, but would add seating capacity.
  • Schedule (from Michael):
    ▪ November 5: tender documents.
    ▪ November 9: Finance Committee about funding.
    ▪ November 10: Council.
o November 12: Award project.
o December 7: Delivery.
o Ready for January and return to classes.
o Maybe another presentation to the Executive.

Managing Director’s Update

- Keith:
  o Finance Committee considering a payroll system replacement.
  o Finance Committee also considering a proposal to add market reviews of salaries
    and a new compensation structure to Dayforce.
  o Espresso machine for Blue Chip Express.
  o Financial system replacement.

- Lorris:
  o Replacing the Food Bank freezer is also going to the Finance Committee.

- Keith:
  o Interviewing for new HR Manager.

Executive Goals (part 2)

- Mary:
  o VP Finance goals:
    - Canvas course done.
    - Health & Dental:
      - Mental health subsidy.
      - Mental health network.
      - Utilizing the fund.
      - Survey.
    - Funds and fees review.
    - Communications:
      - Not done yet. On backburner.

Council

- Cole:
  o Three presentations: Audit, Strategic Plan, Sensory Room.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.