



**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 Shoaib (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.

[Eshana leaves.]

- Saad:
  - VP External Goals:
    - Transparency and Accountability:
      - Partnering with Eshana 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:
  - 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:
  - Reimagining the Gallery Lounge.
  - Want to improve the decor.
  - Currently a mixture of furniture suffering wear and tear.
  - Looking for a more cohesive, updated look:
    - Furniture, flooring (mosaic), glass tile for the bar.
  - Aim is to be a casual dining room and lounge like Milestone's or Brown's; not high end like our old Perch.
  - Very high ceiling now, which decreases intimacy.
  - Proposals in evolution.
  - Normally do decor first, furniture second, but because of timing, want to go forward with the furniture.
  - 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):
  - Looking to reuse but refinish seats, make things cohesive.

- Plan to introduce new lightweight sofas: each with two or three seats, costing \$2300 each, plus \$1000 each for fabric.
- Dark tone on the floor, lighter tone on chair fabrics, dark ceiling.
- Would purchase ten 24 x 24 tables.
- Reupholster booths.
- Add plants.
- Overall furniture budget originally \$70,000, but by reusing some existing furniture, the actual cost will be \$42,000 for the furniture.
- Total cost of the Gallery upgrade: \$150,000.
- Michael showed pictures.
- Cole:
  - Looks great.
  - Love the walnut style dark finish.
  - Really like the foliage, the drop ceiling, and the lighting.
  - 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:
  - Colour will get torn up by drink spillage.
  - Dark colour would be better.
- Vishwa:
  - Flooring will be even.
  - Couches will most likely have vinyl or fake leather material.
- Lauren:
  - Looks great.
  - Couches: I do like something to break up the seating: accent seats.
  - Maybe two instead of four.

[Saad leaves.]

- Mary:
  - Wood flooring could be scratchable (people pushing chairs).
- Lauren:
  - Like look of drop-down ceiling, but will it affect the light?
  - If we do couches, it would be fun to have accent rugs as well, to lighten the look.
- Michael:
  - I like the gesture of something domestic like rugs, but they're tripping hazards.
  - Re light: there's an abundance of windows: the drop ceiling would not significantly diminish the natural light.
  - Thinking of TV's (flat screens) for sports events.

- Not quite a sports bar: more casual dining with a youthful feel.
- Floors do delaminate: veneer can wear off. But hardwood floors properly finished should last.
- Upper deck of seating is carpeted now: need to look at that.
- The mini-arcade could go there.
- 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.

- November 12: Award project.
- December 7: Delivery.
- Ready for January and return to classes.
- Maybe another presentation to the Executive.

**Managing Director's Update**

- Keith:
  - Finance Committee considering a payroll system replacement.
  - Finance Committee also considering a proposal to add market reviews of salaries and a new compensation structure to Dayforce.
  - Espresso machine for Blue Chip Express.
  - Financial system replacement.
- Lorris:
  - Replacing the Food Bank freezer is also going to the Finance Committee.
- Keith:
  - Interviewing for new HR Manager.

**Executive Goals (part 2)**

- Mary:
  - 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:
  - Three presentations: Audit, Strategic Plan, Sensory Room.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.