



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 3, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, 12:10-1 pm), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guest: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office)

Regrets: Lauren Benson (VP Administration)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:42 am in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of October 20 and 27 were approved (Mary, Saad).

Referendum Planning

- Cole:
 - Lots of things on our radar:
 - Fee restructuring.
 - Brewery.
 - Bylaw changes:
 - To comply with Societies Act changes.
 - Maybe we should even change Bylaws to allow Council to make changes like this (complying with the Societies Act).
 - Digital fee opt-out:
 - So people don't have to show up in person to opt out.
 - For most AMS fees, this can already be done; for some non-AMS fees it cannot.
 - Health & Dental Plan changes.
 - Housing:

- The planned housing development.
- Saad:
 - With the changes to the Societies Act, does the Regent MoU become unnecessary?
- Cole:
 - Not necessarily.
 - The new provisions merely allow the government to pass a regulation requiring postsecondary institutions to transfer student information to their student societies. It doesn't automatically happen.
- Sheldon:
 - Also, even if the government passes the regulation, there may be conditions on transferring student information that could be included in an MoU.
- Cole:
 - Other bylaw changes:
 - Updating Executive duties.
 - Some seats on Council are for graduate students only, and they are already represented by the GSS:
 - Population & Public Health, Audiology, Library-Archival, Planning.
 - The first two also don't have student associations.
 - And then there's Architecture, which is three associations in one.
 - Last time I proposed giving Council the power to change its composition, so it could remove Audiology, say, if done unanimously.
 - But the prospect of removing a seat was not popular.
- Sheldon:
 - An Indigenous Constituency?
- Cole:
 - We were thinking the Indigenous Committee may not be the best structure.
 - One idea was to create a self-governing Indigenous student society similar to our Constituencies.
 - But we've been busy with Indigenous Culture Month.
 - A lot of work and consultation would be needed on this.
- Mitchell:
 - A seat for the Residence Hall Association on Council?
- Cole:
 - No. They're overseen by UBC and are not independent.
 - Mostly the 2020 AGM made the bylaw changes that had been backlogged from failed referendums.
 - Maybe we can go to Governance to ask if there's anything they'd like to go to referendum.

Council Social and Merch Planning

- Cole:
 - We should do a social activity.
 - We have a good Council this year.
- Mary:
 - We could go to an amusement park.
- Cole:
 - We give out hoodies every year.
 - I am also ordering pins incorporating the new logo.
- Mary:
 - Windbreakers – but they can be cheap.
- Cole:
 - We could bring back Council blazers and ties.

Get Thrifty

- Cole:
 - Lots of progress on the expansion.
 - When we discussed the Norm/Auditorium project at Council, Council said the Get Thrifty situation had to be resolved, so we've been working on a solution.
 - This has delayed us on the Auditorium, but we've accelerated the Get Thrifty expansion so it can be done by next summer, separate from the big Auditorium project.

[Eshana arrives.]

- Cole:
 - The budget for the Get Thrifty expansion will be about \$340,000.
 - We're aiming for cost-sharing between the Get Thrifty fund and the AMS Capital Projects Fund.
 - Still in discussions, but possibly a 70-30 split.
 - The 70 will come from the Get Thrifty fund; it doesn't have it, so we'll front it and get repaid out of their fund.
- Mary:
 - Their revenue and the money they get from the Get Thrifty fee will not be enough for them to pay back what they owe.
- Cole:
 - How they pay it off will be a question for them.
- Michael Kingsmill:
 - There is a cavernous area in the Life Building behind Get Thrifty.

- We were aiming to repurpose it into an expansion of the lobby for the new theatre.
- The plan now will be to use space underneath the expanded lobby for the Get Thrifty expansion.
- It will be a no frills project, including a seismic upgrade.
- We are still expanding the theatre lobby, but we will also expand Get Thrifty.
- Get Thrifty's expansion space will be under the new lobby.
- Part of it will have a ceiling less than seven feet high, which is less than required by code, but it will only be used for storage.
- Mary:
 - Are we sure Get Thrifty will be here six years from now.
- Cole:
 - Get Thrifty is in a good position to succeed.
 - If something goes bad, we'll still have a renovated space.
 - But I have full confidence in their success.

Student Engagement Survey

- Cole:
 - Revised draft.
 - Close to finalizing.
 - Lots of feedback.
 - Tried to incorporate what people recommended.
 - Eric (Communications) suggested adding context.
 - Still kept it short enough to be completed in 15 minutes.
- Eshana:
 - Incentivized?
- Cole:
 - Way more prizes than we usually do for these surveys: \$4500.
- Eshana:
 - I gave \$2000 for the Return to Campus Survey.
- Cole:
 - There are lots of good questions that can be tracked year to year.
 - This is just the first year of it, so it can be revised.
 - Some of it comes from the old Nest Survey (2019), so we can use that data for comparisons.
 - November 16 launch date: it will be open for the last two and half weeks of classes.

Election Planning

- Cole:
 - Thinking of what we want to do to create buzz around the elections.

- Supporting the Elections Team.
- We can do information sessions about our jobs, give advice on how to campaign, so students can learn in a less intimidating way.
- In the past they would have to approach the Executives, which has the potential to lead to gatekeeping.
- Saad:
 - We have an amazing Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).
 - We should do everything to support them.
 - Isn't it more the Elections Team that is doing this?
- Cole:
 - We can work with AMS Elections; there's also responsibility on the Executives.
 - The Elections Team is not going to talk about Executive job duties or campaigning methods.
- Eshana:
 - It's awkward to teach people how to campaign, but we should reduce barriers.
- Cole:
 - There are people who are interested in running, but they don't know where to start.
 - They need a path to success, advice.
 - There is no expectation that people (in the current Executive) who are planning to run themselves will have to encourage people to run for their position.
 - Last year I wasn't comfortable asking people to run for President when I was running for President.
 - But as an Executive Committee we can come up with ideas.
 - As one not running in the elections, I'm more than happy to run workshops. Could bring in Max, Julia, etc. (past Executives who are still active).
 - This would be something from the Executive Committee, not individual Executives.
- Eshana:
 - Maybe produce a guide.
- Cole:
 - We can distribute a two-pager to Constituency executives, clubs, other groups, to encourage people who might be thinking of running.

Surrey Expansion

- Keith:
 - There is news about UBC building in Surrey.
 - Will this be a satellite campus?
- Eshana:
 - More details will come out later today.
- Keith:

- Would it have its own student union?
- People thought not.
- Cole:
 - The question is, long term what will our presence look like in Surrey.
 - Not that we'd put up a building, but maybe some office space, an outpost, running Peer Support out of there.
- Eshana:
 - UBC is not sure what it will be: academic, residential?

[Eshana leaves.]

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - New benefit: Massage Therapy for staff.
 - Some bookings.
 - Great service.
 - Staff hirings because of resignations:
 - Burnout resulting from lack of staff.
 - A problem hiring for a number of our outlets:
 - Pie R, Porch, Gallery.
 - It's not just us; in the Vancouver market a lot of people in the hospitality industry don't want to return to it.
 - Truth and Reconciliation hiring.
- Saad:
 - Good to do an appreciation of Yash, who's leaving as manager of the Gallery.
 - For recruitment, can speak to Vancouver Culinary College.
- Keith:
 - We have been.
- Cole:
 - How do things stand re the HR Manager?
- Keith:
 - Still interviewing.
 - Haven't found a successful candidate.
- Cole:
 - Should we hire a recruiting company?
- Keith:
 - It would cost \$20,000.
 - But we can do it.
- Cole:
 - It's worth it if it means we can get an HR Manager sooner.
- Keith:

- Yes, a good use of money.
- Cole:
 - And more likely to get a good candidate.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Minor accident with a Safewalk shuttle.
 - Peer Support:
 - Training program on fentanyl strips.
- Saad:
 - Working with SASC and Services to become a designated Naloxone distribution site.
- Cole:
 - Council on Monday won't be long.
 - Get Thrifty presentation.
- Mary:
 - Budget amendment.
- Cole:
 - Maybe we need a Bylaw change so that not every budget amendment has to go to Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.