



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 19, 2022

Attendance

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

Regrets: Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:36 am on Zoom.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Saad).

Minutes

- The minutes of January 12 were approved (Mary, Saad).

Club Bookings

- Lauren:
 - New restrictions, so can't have events till February 16.
 - Difficult situation: cancel all till then?
 - But businesses are still doing workshops in the Nest.
 - It seems weird to be telling clubs they can't use space because it's being given to a business.
 - I'd rather prioritize the clubs, the students.
 - Is there anything we can offer clubs?
 - I realize there's a staff shortage that complicates things.
- Cole:
 - It's your call as VP Administration.
 - Business bookings during the school year have to be greenlit by you, especially if we're restricting club space.
 - I'm always for more space for clubs because the Nest is a student building.

- Keith:
 - Totally agree: we prioritize clubs over business bookings.
 - 85% of our bookings are for clubs; they're subsidized by the other 15%.
 - Our businesses are not bringing in much revenue at the moment.
 - We're just trying to survive until the latest Public Health Order ends: February 16, at which point we can return to club bookings.
 - We don't have the staffing.
- Saad:
 - On the staffing issue, is there an option for clubs to do the work that staff would do?
 - And what sort of events are the businesses holding?
- Keith:
 - The events by the businesses are just some workshops for massage therapy.
 - Nothing else. Not conferences.
- Saad:
 - Can the clubs do the setting up of tables for themselves? Using volunteers?
- Keith:
 - The problem is that if a club doesn't follow the PHO, the remedy is taken against the whole building.
 - From the Society's point of view it's safer not to have club events until we can get regular staff.
- Saad:
 - Is the AMS offering Zoom accounts to the clubs?
- Lauren:
 - The videoconferencing grant for Zoom and other video options is relaunching.
 - We've also ordered N95 masks for clubs.
 - As to staffing, the concern is more with doing vaccine checks than setting up tables.
 - I just want to give the clubs something.
 - They're not even hosting real events; it's more just meeting space that they want.
- Saad:
 - Do you need vaccination checks for in-person meetings?
- Lauren:
 - Yes.
 - So we're looking at virtual options, platforms, making Campus Base more user friendly, paying for Zoom accounts.
 - Don't know what else we can do.
- Saad:
 - I guess all we can do is provide the best virtual options, or we can deal with the staffing shortage, the revenue issue.

- Lauren:
 - Is there any way to get more staffing?
 - I'd like to be involved in the conversation.
- Cole:
 - It is your call.
 - If that's the direction you want to go in, assert that.
 - The important thing is to make sure clubs are supported.
 - We're giving them what we can.
 - I think we should try to avoid external bookings in the school year.
 - We'll support whatever decision you make.

Updates

- *Cole's update:*
 - The application to the CCSF (Canada Cultural Spaces Fund) for the Auditorium project is still to be done.
 - Next week talking to the Faculty of Arts about the project.
 - Deciding where the Goddess of Democracy will go after the Recreation Centre is built.
 - Having discussions about improving our service offerings concerning LinkedIn Learning.
 - Orientations and transitions.
 - Governance changes:
 - Getting away from the Internal/External divide in the Policies. Making them more like Board of Governors policies.
 - Decided not to move forward with major structural changes, but will look at committees.
 - We may want another governance review: still some structural things to look at. Most we'd do is tender an RFP.
 - Michael Kingsmill and I are looking to spend money from the SUB Management Fund and the Clubs Benefit Fund on:
 - Rejuvenating the club precinct areas.
 - Bringing in new digital locks.
 - The outdoor roof patio.
 - The Lower Level lounge across from Grand Noodle: the 2020 Grad Class gift (a mural).
 - Student Experience Survey results coming.
- Saad:
 - How long did the last governance review take?
- Sheldon:
 - A year or two, 2016-17.

- Cole:
 - This one would be more limited.
 - Just on the Board structure.
 - Could make it a follow-up report if we go with MNP again.
 - Don't want to start a two-year process.
- Saad:
 - Did MNP recommend Board changes?
- Cole:
 - Yes, and Council adopted all of them in principle, but the implementation committee (GORICOM) said we couldn't do one of them: the introduction of two-year terms for Councillors.
 - We did reduce the size of AMS Council as recommended, but that was not a huge shift; didn't change the vibe.
- Sheldon:
 - MNP also spoke of dealing with redundancy between committees and student government staff.
- Cole:
 - Any changes could go to an AGM or to a referendum.
 - Still thinking about this.
 - Not sure we'll do an RFP or even do the project at all.
- *Saad's update:*
 - Federal lobby week has begun. Throughout the next couple of weeks, the AMS, in coordination with UCRU, will be advocating on issues of student financial aid, student employment, mental health, and supporting students with disabilities.
 - Currently finalizing the logistics and planning for the AMS's joint provincial lobby week alongside the GSS and Alliance of BC Students.
 - The Terms of Reference for the AMS-UNA Joint Advisory Committee were approved by the UNA Board last night and will be brought to the next Council for approval/review.
 - Working with the province and UBC on consulting with student unions across BC on the Leading Practices in Student Housing Agreements manual which solidifies student tenancy rights further.
 - Working towards completing the Memorandum of Understanding between Regent College and the AMS to ensure that Regent College students will be able to take part in AMS Elections more effectively.
- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Branding the Safewalk vehicles with their names.
 - Working on finalizing an MoU with UBC for funding for the AMS Food Bank and Acadia Food Hub this term.
 - Coordinator hiring underway, hoping to have them start working next week.

- Planning for online operations this term, with the exception of some harm reduction events and initiatives once COVID guidelines allow them.
- Meeting with IKB staff to discuss additional funding opportunities for AMS Tutoring.
- Gearing up for the incoming services-wide hiring, revamping how we do interviews, evaluate candidates, and select successful applicants.
- Setting up the services transition processes to ensure a successful transition of knowledge.
- Saad:
 - Can you talk more about SASC and Naloxone distribution?
- Mitchell:
 - I will follow up after checking in with Aashna at SASC.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Collaborating with SASC on Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
 - UBC Budget.
 - Campus Safety Audit coming to Council.
 - Academic Experience Survey questions.
 - Want to get UBC to buy rapid testing kits.
 - Looking at External Policy Manual.
- Saad:
 - Forward the Campus Safety Audit to Campus & Community Planning.
 - We can use the Health & Dental Plan reserve to buy rapid tests.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Transitioning financial systems.
 - Talking about investments.
 - Mental health increase got approved.
 - Met with the Social Justice Centre about Resource Group funds:
 - Probably not pursuing fee changes.
 - Don't think we'll be changing many fees.
 - If we do a collection pause, it won't be too big a one.
 - Budget amendments.
- *Lauren's update:*
 - Revamp of Clubs Resource Centre to create commuter student space is underway.
 - Purchasing furniture and appliances.
 - Soft opening end of January.
 - Clubs recovery benefit:
 - PPE and hand sanitizer on the way.
 - Relaunching videoconferencing grant.

- Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Previous exhibit finished.
 - The new staff are going to do another.
- Clubs Days:
 - Did two surveys to figure out what clubs want.
 - Exploring dates.
- Soapstand and Waste Hub projects underway.
- Announcing that we are now carbon neutral.
- Will send out message on club bookings.
- Keith:
 - Link up with Michael Kingsmill about furniture and appliances.
 - Want to make sure what we get is long lasting.
- Lauren:
 - Just getting some little things from Ikea.
- *Keith's update:*
 - Plan was to reopen Grand Noodle and Honour Roll next week, but if in person classes are not happening, maybe not.
 - No layoffs.
 - Trying to get masks and rapid testing kits.
 - COVID safety plans in place again.
 - Meeting the Climate Hub about investing.
- Eshana:
 - Met the Climate Hub about UBC investing.
 - Can show you what came of that re climate justice.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.