THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 2, 2022

Attendance
Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, away 11-11:20), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaiib (VP External), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (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 10:46 am on Zoom.

Agenda
• The agenda was adopted (Cole, Saad).

Minutes
• The minutes of January 26 were approved with an addition from Eshana (Eshana, Lauren).

Masks
• Eshana:
  o Working with Mary.
  o Funding from the Health & Dental reserve: $135,000 to buy 65,000 masks to give out to members of the UBC community.
  o Distribution stations in the Nest.
  o We got a great price.
  o We’re doing a better job than UBC.
• Keith:
  o Residences?
• Eshana:
  o Great idea.
• Mary:
  o The Nest is more accessible.
• Eshana:
  o Boothing outside Nest.
  o People should know it’s from the student union, not the University.
• Keith:
  o The company supplying the masks can sell us rapid test kits too.
• Eshana:
  o Great thing to have in our pocket.
  o UBC is getting rapid tests from the provincial supply, but that means they have to follow provincial rules: for symptomatic people only.
  o If UBC purchases its own test kits, they can give them out more freely.
  o Trying to push UBC to do this, but if not, it’s good to have a quote for buying our own.

**Thingery**

• Lauren:
  o MoU from Chris Diplock.
  o The AMS is to pay for the shell of the space.
  o The Thingery will coordinate a donation drive with my team.
  o They will also finish the design and will carry $5 million insurance.
  o The agreement to be reviewed in nine months.
• Keith:
  o Having $5 million insurance is great.
  o We’d have to sublet the place to them for that to work: they’d have to be legally occupying it to get insurance.
  o Probably need a separate lease agreement.
• Cole:
  o Sustainability Projects Fund would be an appropriate place for funding.
  o That can be done by the Finance Committee without going to Council.
• Keith:
  o It doesn’t say how much we would pay for the shell.
  o Maybe put a limit.

[Eshana leaves.]

**Updates**

• **Keith’s update:**
  o Block Party line-up launched; 4900 tickets sold.
    • Feedback to line-up positive.
  o Wage change, as approved by Council, is being rolled out.
  o Enhancements to Health & Dental Plan.
• Cole:
  o Cap for Block Party?
• Keith:
  o 6500.
• Cole:
  o What is our decision/no-go date?
• Keith:
  o Two weeks prior, end of March.
  o If we say no, we’ll have lots of costs to pay.
  o Hope that doesn’t happen.
• Cole:
  o What is happening with the additional loan on the building project to alleviate the deficit?
  o Talking to RBC?
• Keith:
  o We have agreement in principle, but no numbers yet.
• Cole:
  o So it’s being worked on.

• Lauren’s update:
  o Launched Clubs Benefit grants via CampusBase:
    ▪ Subsidizing use of Zoom, Slack Pro, etc.
    ▪ Event assistance grant, e.g., subsidizing Dance Club classes.
    ▪ Free masks and hand sanitizer.
  o Collegia working to open for first day back in person.
  o Hatch Art Gallery:
    ▪ “Where Have We Been?” exhibit underway. Getting a good reception.
  o Sustainability:
    ▪ Preparing for first week back.
    ▪ Partnering with Constituencies.
  o Clubs Days happening:
    ▪ Modified to work around rapid testing.
    ▪ Will be Imagine Day style on Main Mall.
    ▪ February 16.

• Saad’s update:
  o Wrapping up federal lobby week. Sending letters of support to MP’s.
  o Heading into provincial lobby week today.
    ▪ Meeting the Greens.
    ▪ NDP and Liberals next week.
    ▪ Added Alliance of BC Students as partner.
    ▪ Talking about students with disabilities.
  o With SASC, working with Naloxone distributor.
  o New provincial government campaign on sexual violence prevention (“Not Yes”).
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- Want it to be big.
  - Will do a presentation to Council.
    - TransLink:
      - Wrapping up U-Pass exemptions.
      - Then the auditing process.
      - Closing the subsidy soon.
    - Working with Utile on the housing project.
      - Making sure it does not get lost.
      - Next steps for next year.

- Keith:
  - Looking at having a booth at Block Party for Naloxone.
  - Should we also have a drug testing site?

- Saad:
  - We should. Will reach out.
  - Where is the money for fentanyl strips coming from?

- Keith:
  - Didn’t know we had to buy them.

- Mitchell:
  - We received some from Eshana’s office.

- Saad:
  - We should be purchasing a good amount.
  - Can use the Health & Dental Plan.

- Cole:
  - Should be looking at partnering with St. John’s Ambulance, Good Night Out, etc.

- Keith:
  - Already doing that.
  - St. John’s Ambulance, Red Cross.
  - If there are others, let me know.

- Saad:
  - They should be included in the branding.
  - Need to let students know about the safety initiatives.
  - If we’re doing a presentation on Block Party, it should include Safety.

- Mary’s update:
  - Q3 for February 16 Council.
  - Budget reforecast being reviewed at Fincom; probably ready for February 16.
  - Health & Dental:
    - Finalizing provider for the virtual health care system for the referendum.

- Mitchell’s update:
  - Data issues. New system.
Signed MoU with UBC for the AMS Food Bank and the Acadia Food Hub.

Peer Support:
- Harm reduction boozing in Nest, February 14-18.
- Talking of positivity, mental health.
- Working with Law on training on Naloxone.

eHub:
- Working with e@UBC on mentorship, solidifying relationship.
- Figuring out the campus ecosystem.

Tutoring:
- Partnering with Beyond Tomorrow’s Scholars.

SASC is organizing training about sexualized violence.

Housing:
- Putting a plan together.

**Lorris’s update:**
- Collecting Services data. Finalizing vendor.
- Recruitment plan.
- SASC referendum question for Council.

[Eshana returns.]

**Eshana’s update:**
- Masks.
- UBC budget process.
- Affordability Plan.
- Academic Misconduct regulation.
- Rapid testing starting February 7 at UBC:
  - We pushed for that.
  - Pushing for more access, for asymptomatic individuals too.
- Academic Experience Survey going to Advocom.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.