



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of February 9, 2022

**Attendance**

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

Guests: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office), Aashna Josh and Ashni Gill (SASC)

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, Lauren).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of February 2 were approved (Saad, Mary).

**SASC (Sexual Assault Support Centre)**

- Cole:
  - Council is in favour of raising the SASC fee, but expressed concerns about raising it too much.
  - We might do multiple proposals and let Council decide.
- Aashna:
  - After email discussions, we'd like to hold onto an initial \$5 increase for the first year, then \$2 a year, going up to \$25.
- Cole:
  - Didn't think it would go as high as \$25.
  - What's behind that rather than stopping at \$21?
- Aashna:
  - Long-term planning.
  - It would be nice not to have to go to referendum every three years.
- Cole:
  - It's just that it's a lot of money. A high number. A lot to ask.

- Also it will be tied to CPI.
  - We have to think about what will pass.
- Saad:
  - What will the money be going towards?
  - Expansion? Growth of operations?
- Aashna:
  - General restructuring.
  - We need to add staff to meet demand.
  - Need to be able to accept drop-ins and pick up the phone.
  - Need a full-time educator: have had to delay presentations because we don't have one.
- Eshana:
  - I'm not strongly in favour of \$25.
  - There's a risk of it not passing.
  - This is about it passing.
  - Is there time to raise awareness, given how close we are to the referendum?
- Aashna:
  - It's only \$5 or \$5.50 now.
  - It would be a graduated increase.
  - Won't hit \$25 till 2027.
- Eshana:
  - Okay, that changes things.
- Ashni:
  - The numbers have been going up.
  - In 2018 we had 726 appointments.
  - Then it rose to 1145.
  - Last year 2028.
  - It doubled in two years, so we should really be increasing by \$12, not \$6, so we're settling.
  - Currently, SASC has 11 people; used to be six.
  - We can no longer support our service with \$9.58 per student.
- Aashna:
  - Looking at growth, planning for the future.
- Eshana:
  - No one is opposed to that.
  - We're just trying to ensure this passes.
- Saad:
  - Are there surpluses that can be transferred to SASC?
- Lorris:
  - The Services are on track for their spending, on budget so far.
  - Any money left over would go to sexual initiative grants.

- Aashna:
  - Right now the initiatives fund is in deficit.
- Cole:
  - In your presentation to Council you will need to justify the immediate increase to \$15 and also talk of the long-term vision requiring \$25.
  - Be prepared to answer questions on that.
  - Also think how SASC will push the referendum.
  - We have referendum coordinators, but we also need SASC itself; that lends legitimacy.
- Eshana:
  - The Bike Kitchen has got so many signatures for their fee question.
  - SASC should be getting out there.
- Aashna:
  - What are we allowed to say?
- Cole:
  - You can say you want to increase the SASC fee.
  - Can't be specific about numbers till Council approves.
- Ashni:
  - Presentation to Council: How long can it be? 30 minutes? Will that include question time?
- Cole:
  - Can give you as much time as you need.
  - 30 minutes is long.
- Ashni:
  - Can we send a summary ahead of time to Council?
- Cole:
  - I encourage that.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED ESHANA:

“That Council call a referendum to raise the fee for sexual assault support services from \$9.58 to \$15 and then a \$2 increase every year up to \$25, with indexing to CPI after it hits \$25.”

... Carried

### Fee Optimization

- Cole:
  - The fee question would ask for:
    - Eliminating the \$1.18 fee for the Childcare Bursary Fund.
    - Reducing the fee for the Capital Projects Fund from \$8.43 to \$7.
    - Renaming the Lighter Footprint/Sustainable Projects fee as the Climate Action fee and reducing it from \$2.66 to \$1.50.

- Reducing the fee for the Clubs Benefit Fund from \$1.78 to \$0.75.
  - Requiring all opt-outable fees to be opt-outable by digital means.
  - All these would save about \$5, which is what we would be adding to the SASC fee.
- Lauren:
  - Lighter Footprint and Sustainable Projects?
- Mary:
  - They're the same thing.
- Lauren:
  - Worried about reducing that.
  - Want to pull money from SPF for the Thingery.
  - I'd be opposed to reducing SPF.
  - There's only \$40,000 in it now.
- Cole:
  - No, there's \$600,000 in the fund.
- Mary:
  - \$40,000 is what's left from this year's intake.
- Cole:
  - In 2019 we collected \$135,000 and spent \$26,000.
  - Last year we collected \$140,000 and spent \$70,000.
  - The thought is that we're collecting way too much money.
  - You'll have enough money for as many Thingeries as you want.
- Lauren:
  - Still may be better to keep it as it is in case there's lots of projects to approve.
- Cole:
  - It would still be bringing in \$90,000 a year, and there's \$600,000 in reserve, plus CPI.
  - We shouldn't collect more money than we need and have it sit around in our funds.
  - We just have to be clear that by reducing the fee we're not spending less on sustainability.
  - Even spending \$70,000 a year, like we did last year (which was unusually high) – we could still support that for eight years from the reserve without collecting a fee at all.
- Lauren:
  - As long as we're communicating that properly.
  - We're bringing out videos promoting SPF and at the same time we're reducing SPF.
  - If fund ever got depleted, I'd want some way to bring back the fee.
- Cole:
  - Nothing's changing with students accessing the fund.
  - Just there will be less excess funding.
  - We could reduce to \$2 instead of \$1.50.
- Keith:
  - There will be pushback from Climate Action.

- They'll say the AMS is reducing its commitment to sustainability.
- Cole:
  - Possibly.
  - There would still be more people enthusiastic about reducing their fees.
  - It might be good to have a note saying this won't affect services or saying how much is in each fund's reserve.
- Eshana:
  - So will the reduction be to \$2 or \$1.50?
- Mary:
  - We need to make clear we have a large surplus in the reserve.
- Cole:
  - Concerns were raised at Council about reducing the CPF.
- Keith:
  - We have some big projects coming up that might eat away at reserves.
  - Might have to revisit this in a couple of years.
- Cole:
  - That's the one fund whose reserves we will eventually need.
  - So we could drop the CPF reduction.
  - That leaves us with the childcare fee, the Climate Action fee, and the Clubs Benefit fee.
  - There's also the requirement that people be allowed to opt out digitally from opt-outable fees.
  - Whatever organization is collecting an opt-outable fee needs to offer a digital opt-out.
  - But we should give them until 2023 to comply.
- There was consensus on sending the fee question to Council.

## Mural Project

- Michael Kingsmill:
  - The mural project in the lower level of the Life Building ran into a number of snags, but an idea came out of it:
    - Maybe use an audio-visual system instead of putting actual murals on the wall.
    - Would use projectors shining into bays.
    - This is in the sustainability corridor between the Life Building and the Nest.
    - Each projector would show murals or other graphic content.
    - Could be used to publicize AMS elections.
    - Or a whole other theme.
    - Lots of versatility.
    - Could be different images in each bay or the same one.
    - The projectors could be on 24/7 or shut off after 11 pm.

- Budget was originally going to be \$25,000, but now would be \$32,000 with all the features.
  - And with installation costs and powering up, cable lines, electrical work, it will creep up to \$37,000, plus taxes.
- Keith:
  - Future maintenance?
  - When bulbs burn out etc.
  - How do we fund that?
- Michael:
  - Very pertinent question.
  - There is a three-year warranty.
  - After that, maybe Sustainability Projects Fund.
- Keith:
  - \$32,000 sounds like a lot of money.
  - Could we rerun the mural competition?
- Michael:
  - I've become keen about this audio-visual project.
  - If a mural goes up, it has only a certain lifespan:
    - It could get damaged or just age out.
  - Another mural we're doing is going to cost \$20,000.
- Cole:
  - I thought the audio-visual project could be a long-term solution for the corridor.
  - I think it's a great project, but the price has crept up, making it harder to put through.
  - It does bring value and gives us flexibility on the walls.
  - The cost is no more than putting murals up and taking them down.
  - This will be a high traffic corridor.
  - Could look at it more economically.
- Lauren:
  - I really do like this.
  - There were so many issues in trying to get the original murals on the walls.
  - Having something projected would be super-awesome.
  - It would save on costs down the line.
  - Could have artists come and talk about their work.
- Eshana:
  - Really cool.
  - Rolls Royces don't come cheap.
- Cole:
  - Michael and I can do a cost breakdown.
  - Maybe split costs with the SUB Management Reserve and the Sustainability Projects Fund: spread the cost.
  - Some other projects too:

- New seats and microwaves across from Grand Noodle.
- Adding heaters to the rooftop garden to make it a usable space.
- Lauren:
  - ETA for the microwaves?
  - Students have been asking.
  - We really need them.
- Cole:
  - Not very soon.
- Eshana:
  - Aren't there microwaves in the Nest?
- Lauren:
  - We need more.
- Cole:
  - Can buy one for the CRC.
  - But industrial grade microwaves will have to wait for March 2 Council.

### Refinancing Nest

In camera.

### Great Trekker Award

In camera.

### Bylaw referendum

- Questions were raised about changes to the VP duties.
- It was agreed to discuss further offline.

### Updates

- *Saad's update:*
  - Finalizing the MoU with Regent.
    - Want to make a submission.
- *Cole's update:*
  - Election event:
    - Can we check to make sure all health rules are enforced?
    - Maybe push it to next week after the PHO expires.
    - Apparently 110 people have RSVP'ed.
    - Unless they're seated and not moving, it won't be allowed.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.