



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of February 23, 2022

**Attendance**

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), 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)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:49 am in Room 3511.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted (Mary, Saad).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of February 9 were delayed.

**Just Desserts and Other Awards**

- Cole:
  - We need to choose two people to represent the AMS for Just Desserts.
  - Have developed a new Policy on Prizes and Awards, to provide guidelines.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED ESHANA:

“That the Executive recommend to Council that it approve the new Policy on Prizes and Awards.”

... Carried

**Mosque**

- Saad:
  - The Point Grey Islamic Society, a non-profit, with support from UBC, the UEL, the UNA, the unions, and the BC Attorney-General, is trying to found a mosque on UBC campus.
  - They crowdsourced \$12,000.
  - Currently there is no permanent place of prayer on campus for Muslims.
  - Been talking to UBC Campus & Community Planning, Properties Trust.
  - The Muslim Students Association is also involved.

- Eshana:
  - I like that; it's very reasonable.
  - There are prayer spaces, but they're looking for something more like Hillel.
- Lauren:
  - There's something in the Life Building.
- Eshana:
  - Phase 2 of the new Brock Hall project will create proper spaces: non-denominational prayer spaces.
- Saad:
  - Should we get approval from Council? The Executive?
- Cole:
  - We'll just send it.

### Referendum Strategy

- Cole:
  - Not allowed to poster.
  - No other rules have been published so far; waiting for the Referendum Handbook.
  - Will email the Chief Electoral Officer to find out what rules we have to follow.
- Eshana:
  - Raffle?
- Cole:
  - Opted not to.
  - Not because of rules, but because it looks like buying votes.
  - Stickers and pens being ordered; also handouts, lollipops, hot chocolate.
  - We have referendum coordinators.
  - We are doing classroom announcement.
  - It's pedal to the metal.
  - Need AMS staff to promote, get the message out to their friends.
  - Councillors too:
    - Free Block Party tickets in return.
  - Going to write a message kit to tell people what to say.
  - Services will be campaigning for the SASC referendum.
- Lorris:
  - Social media.
  - Boothing.
  - Going to classrooms.
  - Pamphlets.
  - PSA with the radio station.
  - News articles on CBC, CTV, and City News.
- Saad:

- Can put a sign on the Safewalk shuttle.
- Cole:
  - Lawn signs.
  - The Elect Change campaign (announcing that we will donate \$2 for every vote to pay for COVID vaccines).
  - Hope that will drive people to vote.
  - Hopefully, it all passes.
  - Can speak to SVPRO, but as a UBC unit, they may not want to get involved.

## Updates

- *Keith's update:*
  - Budgets for next year.
  - Mask and test distribution going well.
- Cole:
  - Pallet of 1,944 boxes of rapid tests: giving them out.
- Keith:
  - From the Building Ops desk on the main floor.
- *Eshana's update:*
  - Mask distribution going great.
  - After months of advocacy, got UBC to distribute test kits for asymptomatic people.
    - We'll help with the distribution.
    - Very happy; it's about time.
  - Affordability plan 99% finished and going to the Board of Governors; been working on that.
  - Safety Audit sent to UBC.
  - Academic Experience Survey:
    - Changing some questions on transit and harm reduction.
    - Will go out after the elections.
  - Climate Energy Week went well:
    - My assistant Justin did great work on it.
    - Events, panels.
  - Naloxone training event in the Nest: more than 25 groups got trained.
- Lorris:
  - Peer Support and SASC doing the training.
- Cole:
  - How many masks have been distributed?
- Keith:
  - About 12,000.
- *Saad's update:*

- BC budget:
  - Going to send a press release.
  - It was okay; not as great as we expected; they have to spend on debt servicing.
  - Working with the BC Liberals to question the government.
- Federal budget soon: expecting good things.
- U-Pass audit.
- Meeting the U-Pass Advisory Committee:
  - Deciding on whether U-Pass exemptions will continue indefinitely, or will we go back to everyone paying?
- U-Pass financial subsidy sent off.
- Working with the provincial government committee on leading practices in affordable housing:
  - Standards for student tenants.
  - Creating the BC Best Practices Manual to hold institutions accountable.
- Working with HOUSE, a housing development advocacy organization in Toronto creating non-profit student housing in Ontario.
  - Connected to Utile, the Quebec group we've been working with.
  - Hoping to present a feasibility study and a strategic plan for our next steps.
  
- *Cole's update:*
  - Council:
    - Not too many items on the March 2 agenda.
    - Presentations from Mimi and Michael Kingsmill.
  
- Eshana:
  - SASC budget.
  
- Cole:
  - Probably moving the meeting to 8 pm to avoid the election debate.
  
- *Lauren's update:*
  - Clubs Day a huge success.
  - Official opening of the Interactive Sustainability Centre.
  - Partnering with SEEDS on a climate-friendly food project.
  - AMS Sustainability Week in tandem with UBC Climate Emergency Week.
  - Soapstand booting: free soap.
  - Hatch exhibit "Where Have We Been?" is over.
  - Sensory rooms location.
  - AMS Accessibility Initiative.
  
- *Mary's update:*

- Funds and fees report.
- Q3/budget reforecast done.
  - Clearing up notes to create a version that can go on the website.
- New financial systems assistant trained.
- Cutting cheque for the SLFS.
- Pilot on tele-health.
- Cole:
  - Increased credit limit needed to order Uber food vouchers for Council.
- Saad:
  - The Uber vouchers need to expire later.
  - I'm too busy during the Council meeting to order.
- Others voiced similar concerns.
- Cole:
  - I sympathize with none of you.
  - I have never had a single issue ordering Uber.
- *Mitchell's update:*
  - Food Bank working with UBC.
  - Peer Support working with SASC for Naloxone.
    - Training forms on website.
    - Booting before Block Party: fentanyl strips.
  - Safewalk: outreach material.
  - Housing: new team lead.
  - Planning big recruitment.
  - Budget.
  - Videos.
  - Swag.
  - Data systems: hope for funding from CPF.
- Lorris:
  - Need \$15,000 or \$16,000.
- Cole:
  - If less than 2% of the available money in CPF, Fincom could approve.
  - But this is more; will have to go to Council.
- Lorris:
  - Could request less.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.