



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of April 7, 2022

Attendance

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

Regrets: Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager),

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am in Nest Room 3538 (Keith's office).

Agenda

- An informal agenda was accepted by consensus.

Minutes

- The minutes of March 23 and 30 were approved (Saad, Lauren).

Budget

- Mary:
 - Proposed deficit is pretty big: \$980,000.
 - We'll need to cut across the board.
 - Big increase in Student Services, though the increase in the SASC fee should offset it to some extent.
 - Overhead costs increased.
 - Student Council decreased.
- Cole:
 - We should only budget for what our fees bring in.
 - Business contribution is just bonus money.
- Mary:
 - \$4.2 million is coming in (revenue for next year).
- Cole:
 - No way we're spending \$4.2 million.
- Mary:
 - Overhead is \$1.8 million.

- Cole:
 - Isn't that paid by the businesses?
- Keith:
 - No, it used to be 50-50 (businesses and the rest of the Society).
 - Now it's 100% by the Society.
- Cole:
 - Are we double counting?
- Keith:
 - The businesses after overhead are in a loss position.
- Mary:
 - Have to see if any cuts can be done in Services.
- Cole:
 - Something still sounds off.
 - Coming out of the pandemic, we shouldn't be this much in the hole.
- Mary:
 - The pay increase probably contributes a lot.
- Cole:
 - I really think we should be getting as close to zero as possible for the deficit.
 - It's hard to cut: that means cutting staff, which we've just done over the past two years.
 - There's not much room to cut more.
- Mary:
 - Could cut hours instead of staff.
- Cole:
 - Enrolment Services should be processing U-Pass exemptions instead of us (saving us staff).
- Saad:
 - We wanted to be involved.
 - UBC is over capacity.
 - We pay for one of their positions (but we get the money back).
- Eshana:
 - It's good to push things to the University.
- Cole:
 - Some positions could be outsourced, like the PR Communications position in the VP External office.
- Eshana:
 - We need more in the Communications Department instead of in each Executive's office.
- Cole:
 - Could delay some hiring till September.
 - I'll look at the budget.

- Mary:
 - The Safewalk budget has increased.
- Lorris:
 - Going to two teams a night.
- Eshana:
 - Coms needs more staff.
- Cole:
 - Can hire through Work Learn.
- Keith:
 - Hiring full-time staff in Coms is more expensive: full-time comes with benefits.
- Cole:
 - Is there an agency we can work with?
- Keith:
 - That would be more expensive.
- Cole:
 - Not necessarily.
 - We would only pay them 40 hours here and there.
- Eshana:
 - Work Learn is good.
 - Not keen on the agency idea.
 - Want to get away from outsourcing.
- Lauren:
 - If you have temporary staff in Coms, they each have their own style and you lose consistency.
- Eshana:
 - Capacity in Coms is less about social media and more about design, videos, etc.

RBC/Climate Justice

- Eshana:
 - Climate Justice came to us.
 - Their asks are not feasible.
 - We would be putting millions of student dollars at risk.
 - They want us to lobby companies, but that should not be what the AMS does; we lobby government and the University.
 - It's not in our mandate as a student union.
 - We need to be focusing on getting students more financial aid, affordable housing, reducing food insecurity, and implementing climate emergency task force recommendations.
 - Things that affect students day to day.
- Lauren:
 - Climate Justice doesn't want banks booting in the Nest.

- Wants talks with branch managers.
- Cole:
 - We're not talking with branch managers.
 - That's not the purpose of the society.
- Saad:
 - We could write a letter to the government about climate change.
- Cole:
 - It's not the purpose of this organization to lobby businesses.
 - It's a violation of the Societies Act.
 - Nowhere in our constitution does it say to lobby companies.
- Sheldon:
 - Student Court once ruled that Council cannot spend money on a whim, but only in accordance with the purposes in our constitution.
- Cole:
 - Asking us to look at our partnership with RBC is fine, but expecting financial commitment or advocacy is not.
- Eshana:
 - The RBC lease in the building is up for renewal in 2024: it's down the line.

eHub Get Seeded

- Eshana:
 - Mitchell was saying the RBC agreement with eHub is coming to an end, and I think they're looking for more relevant organizations for student entrepreneurship.
 - I think with the Services Review coming up I might want to make some changes, so it would be nice to not be bound by contracts that restrict what we change.
- Keith:
 - Who would replace RBC for Get Seeded?
- Cole:
 - Can reach out to accelerators.
- Lorris:
 - Venture capitalists?
- Cole:
 - Not necessarily.
 - Smaller companies.
 - Small sponsorships.
 - It's just a few thousand dollars.
 - More relevant to students.
- Lauren:
 - Hoot Suite.
- Eshana:

- Red Bull, lol.

Updates

- *Keith's update:*
 - Banner project finally approved (at Council last night).
 - Preliminary budget.
 - Orientations.
 - Interviews for Executive support staff.
 - Year End.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.