



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 13, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External, left 12:55), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director, left 12:48), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:14 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Lucia, Sylvester).

Minutes

- The minutes of December 9 were approved (Sylvester, Kalith).

Co-op Housing

- Ian:
 - I've circulated a document, a feasibility study from Utile, the non-profit organization that promotes student housing co-operatives.
 - We made an application for funding, but it was denied; we're looking for other sources.
 - Will send the feasibility study to Council.
 - Looking for feedback.
 - Hope to get going this term.

Surveys

- Cole:
 - Have received a bazillion requests for surveys: surveys on the Equity Plan, Utile co-op housing, elections, a legal service.
 - This is the worst term to run them; they'll conflict with the Academic Experience Survey (AES).
 - Which ones should we do? And how schedule them to avoid conflicts?
- Lucia:
 - When is the AES?

- Georgia:
 - Hoping to align with the elections, beginning in February and wrapping up in March. Haven't finalized the date.
- Lucia:
 - Is it a targeted survey or a mass survey?
- Georgia:
 - Some surveys are huge; some are super long; some take only two minutes.
 - Can we combine some to avoid having so many?
 - Is there a centralized coordination body for surveys that we can check with?
- Cole:
 - I think the Executive Committee is that body.
 - We want to avoid annoying our members with a survey in every newsletter every month.
 - If it's on our social media, though, I'd consider that not a violation, if it just said go check out this survey.
 - Out of the surveys, the most important is probably the Equity Plan.
 - The least important is probably elections for Isabelle (the Chief Electoral Officer).
 - The Utile survey: maybe in April?
- Ian:
 - I'll check with Utile.
- Kalith:
 - I think we can do it whenever.
 - The sooner, the better; but April should be fine.
- Cole:
 - The legal service: probably could run on social.
 - Hard to ask: people won't know what it is.
- Lucia:
 - The survey would be an opportunity for students to learn about the service.
 - Essentially, we'd be asking whether they'd pay a fee (suggesting a possible fee range) to cover services like this (legal services).
 - Nicolas at the GSS is working on this.
 - The GSS could run it.
- Cole:
 - Just because we get another organization to do it doesn't mean we can do it.
 - And we should only be asking about fees if we're seriously interested.
 - People will say the AMS is doing this.
 - Running a survey is not necessarily the best way to do this: maybe gather anecdotal responses instead.
- Lucia:

- The plan originally was to do a targeted survey, but the Health and Dental Committee had a discussion and decided that for a big thing like this it would probably be better to engage a larger group.
- We got feedback on what to do with the health and dental surplus that way, and got a good result.
- So we were thinking of doing the same thing with this.
- But we could hold off for another year.
- Sylvester:
 - Focus groups may give more input.
- Cole:
 - Maybe build it into a general survey on the Health & Dental Plan. ...
 - So there's nothing imminent beyond the AES.

Athletics & Recreation Fee

- Georgia:
 - We have been advocating to the University to lower the amount of this fee, but they've said a discount is not possible due to problems re-programming the system: it would have to be all or nothing.
 - Students are concerned over not being able to access services or the athletic and recreational facilities.
 - But Athletics & Recreation is still doing programming that students can access, and a lot goes to facility maintenance.
 - Communication was not the greatest on this: they did discuss the possibility of not charging the fee, but then we learned they were going ahead with charging it.
 - Options:
 - Could work with Enrolment Services to create a subsidy like we do for the U-Pass for those not able to access services and facilities. But not sure of our capacity to administer that.
 - Leave things as is, and advise those in financial need to seek general financial aid, though people may not qualify for that.
- Cole:
 - A subsidy program would be hard to manage; it's a lot more blurry than the U-Pass (which simply depends on establishing if someone is in the Lower Mainland).
 - For this, if you're in Surrey, do you have access or not?
 - It's an unpopular fee: lots may apply.
 - Are we going to administer a subsidy program for a University fee?
 - Maybe ask the University to put more funding into financial aid.
- Georgia:
 - In a regular year, that could function well.

- This year students are bringing up the issue of gaps: who can qualify for aid or get enough aid?
- UBC is using very old data without considering the emergency situation: hope to see some improvement on that.
- There are students who need financial relief despite not being in traditional categories of receiving aid.
- Cole:
 - I don't think the AMS should be in the situation of providing subsidies for University fees.
 - I'd be in favour of putting pressure on the administration.
- Georgia:
 - We were exploring the possibility of UBC reducing the fee, but the Student Services Centre old programming makes that difficult.
 - The biggest thing would be to give refunds.
 - UBC said students should pursue financial aid.
 - Could ask UBC to handle the subsidy.
 - It would be good to put out a statement.

[Keith left.]

Indigenous Coordination Focus Group

- Sylvester:
 - All the Executives have been invited to a focus group hosted by the UBC Indigenous Plan Manager.
 - Purpose of it is for us to assess and reflect, to analyze the organization and understand gaps in services.
 - Have also invited Keith. Will invite Ian.

[Kalith leaves.]

Council

- Cole:
 - I'll chair the meeting tonight.
 - Kareem is still Speaker, but can't attend.
 - He is still going to host an Ethics and Accountability meeting.
 - There's an issue with the old referendum that created some of our fees, especially the Clubs Benefit fee.
 - Asking Sheldon to look into the documentation for that fee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 20, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President, left 12:45), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Lilly Callender (AMS Equity & Inclusion Associate)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of January 13 were approved (Sylvester, Kalith).

Surveys

- Lilly:
 - Planning an Equity Plan survey.
 - Did do some small group consultations, but now seeking broader input.
 - There will be demographic questions.
 - Temperature check on being involved.
 - Have received illuminating comments already, for instance about clubs.
 - Looking at gender inclusivity.
- Keith:
 - Is there anything for HR to do?
- Lilly:
 - Was going to wait till the survey closed and reach out to them then.
- Sheldon:
 - Will need a Council vote to approve doing a new survey.
 - Under Policy I-12 (the Academic Experience Survey policy).
- Georgia:
 - Need a new policy.

- Cole:
 - Yes, something broader on surveys generally instead of one that seems to be just on the AES.
 - Elections also wants to do a survey, but it could be attached to the elections ballot.

MOVED COLE:

“That the Executive Committee recommend to Council that it authorize a survey on the Equity Plan.”

... Carried

- Lilley:
 - Would like to close it by mid-February.
- Cole:
 - Maybe include the link to it in the newsletter after Council next week.
- Kalith:
 - I’ve run the Utile survey agreement (on housing) by Keith and Sheldon.
 - Does this have to go to Council?
 - I’m not sure we even needed a contract for this.
- Cole:
 - It should go to Council.

Interactive Sustainability Centre (ISC)

- Sylvester:
 - Held consultation in 2019 about the space.
 - A SEEDS class did a report on space and programming.
 - This term my team is working with sustainability-oriented clubs and other groups connected to sustainability.
 - Space to allow clubs to meet; also events, workshops, a resource-sharing centre, library, outreach.
 - Run by the Sustainability team, with volunteers on honoraria.
 - Lots of sustainability groups on campus: the idea is to connect them all.
 - ISC budget \$26,000.
 - Includes furniture, dashboard on sustainability progress, etc.
 - Sustainability Corridor will include the ISC, a mural, the dashboard, a weigh scale (for weighing our waste).
 - There will be a “Thingery,” the library.
- Keith
 - Will there be space for meeting rooms?

- Sylvester:
 - No, it will be small.
 - More just a lounge area.
 - Can engage with individuals or take resources.
 - We'll need an events space: the Clubs Resource Centre or other spaces.
- Sylvester:
 - Is it okay to add the dashboard to Capital Projects?
- Cole:
 - Are you referring to the annual fee?
 - How much is it?
- Sylvester:
 - I think \$1,000-2,000.
- Keith:
 - In the description, change where it says "service contract."
 - This is just for the original installation: that does fall under the Capital Projects Fund.
- Sheldon:
 - Not for annual fees.
- Cole:
 - Will there be flexibility for the space if it doesn't work out as a sustainability area?
 - Can we make it into something else?
- Sylvester:
 - Not doing much alteration: just removing a door.
 - Would be flexible.

Referendum

- Cole:
 - Any interest in running a referendum this year?
 - Additional bylaw amendments?
 - Skeptical about turnout if we don't have a fee question.
 - If not a U-Pass year, then doubtful we can attract people.
- Lucia:
 - Fee restructure?
- Cole:
 - Fee-related changes get people out.
 - But it will be hard to campaign if no one's on campus.
- Ian:
 - Can frame it for COVID.
 - Say we have starving children on campus.

- Cole:
 - If we're just talking about childcare, we may be able to change that in Code.
- Keith:
 - Could do that for the Clubs Benefit Fund, but not sure about the Child Care Bursary Fund.
- Cole:
 - If Code is the authority for the fee, then we can amend Code.
- Lucia:
 - Have to wait for the lawyers.
 - We'd need a lot of support to run a general fee restructure.
- Cole:
 - I'm concerned about the time.
 - We'd need ample consultation with Council, student groups, etc.
 - There's only three and a half or four weeks till the deadline.
- Lucia:
 - Some AMS fees could be combined and slashed: CPF, SPF, etc.
 - This would produce more flexibility.
- Cole:
 - 99% sure that proposal wouldn't make it out of Council.
 - It could take three or four months.
 - In October I met opposition for rushing things on the Bylaw changes.
 - I'm worried it would be the same with this.
 - But start thinking about it.

[Cole leaves. Kalith took the chair.]

Updates

- *Ian's update:*
 - Restarting Services: Peer Support and Tutoring relaunched on Monday.
 - SASC involved in Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
 - Looking to start new Housing Service.
 - Co-op Housing.
- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Clubs Days. Livestreaming club activities.
 - Canvas module.
 - Hatch exhibition.
- *Georgia's update:*
 - UBC budget submission.
 - UBC student strategic plan.

- Meeting on Proctorio.
- Digital Meal Donation program soft-launched: Meal Share Program.
- Naming Policy review.
- Engaging with Indigenous groups.

- *Lucia's update:*
 - Budget end of February.
 - Funding report for February.
 - U-Pass and other subsidies.
 - Technical issues re CiTR opt-out.
 - Health & Dental meeting at end of month about mental health coverage: may increase it to \$1,000.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Reforecast.
 - Budgets for next year.
 - Recruiting because the Accounts Supervisor is leaving.
 - Legal consultation on the fees.

- *Kalith's update:*
 - Lobby Week:
 - Met 20 NDP MLA's Monday and 8-15 yesterday.
 - Also met the BC Liberal caucus and will be meeting the Greens.
 - Group meetings.
 - Will have met pretty much the whole Legislature.
 - Discussed housing, affordability, Indigenous support, postsecondary funding, graduate support.
 - U-Pass programs going on: audit for exemption program.
 - UCRU governance committee looking at revised bylaws received from the lawyers. When ready will come to the AMS, and we can take them to Council.
 - Knock Out Interest campaign (on student loan interest) with the BCFS.
 - SkyTrain to UBC awareness initiative.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 27, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director, arrived 12:20), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Adeline Huynh (equity consultant)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm with Kalith in the chair and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Georgia, Sylvester).

Minutes

- The minutes of January 20 were approved (Sylvester, Georgia).

Equity Plan Data

- Adeline:
 - I was engaged by the AMS to develop an equity plan.
 - I organized seven focus groups, including one for students of colour, one for students with disabilities, another for LGBTQ2+, an intersectional group, and two open groups.
 - Results were presented to the advisory committee.
 - Six main themes emerged:
 - Organizational functional structures and processes.
 - Accessibility.
 - Oppressive culture.
 - Recommendations.
 - Lack of accountability.
 - Strengths.

- Strong opinions about the AMS were expressed, based on perceptions and experience.
- Organizational/functional:
 - Participants felt there was insufficient outreach.
 - They said the AMS seemed in a bubble that people could not penetrate.
 - They asked for more communication, said it was difficult to find information, difficult to connect with AMS personnel.
 - Also they perceived a lack of transparency on spending.
 - They wondered about accountability and business ethics: does the AMS always engage with ethical businesses? There was mention of Starbucks in the Nest. Also of the referendum to divest from Israeli companies.
 - Participants said, Why can't the AMS do business with ethical local businesses?
 - They said the AMS seemed a closed club.
 - They also said its regular turnover made it difficult to address issues.
 - There was a perception of disorganized administrative practices.
- Accessibility:
 - The participants made comments about political exclusivity, "cronyism," lack of accommodation for diverse abilities, lack of racial diversity (though they noted it was different this year on the Executive), favouritism towards Greek Life, and administrative red tape.
- Oppressive culture:
 - The participants spoke of a lack of racial representation, racial erasure (this came from Indigenous students), systemic racism and colonialism, tokenism, an expectation that students from certain communities be representative of those communities, a lack of Indigenous art in the Nest, hierarchy in the AMS, certain groups being denied club status, people's pronouns being assumed during the AGM.

[Keith arrived.]

- Recommendations:
 - Improve outreach.
 - Increase accessibility.
 - Equity training.
 - Financial support for under-represented students.
 - Increase diversity.
- Strengths:
 - Services and space: people appreciated the Nest.
 - A lot of students felt a sense of belonging.
 - Accommodation for diverse abilities.
 - Organizational flexibility: able to be responsive when needed.

- Sylvester:
 - How many participants were there?
- Adeline:
 - About 50 students in the seven focus groups.
 - Those are good focus group numbers, a good cross-section, especially in terms of identity groups.
- Sylvester:
 - A lot of this is not necessarily new. I agree with a lot.
 - Want to consider ways to address these issues.
 - We need more than the students on this call.
- Adeline:
 - This may be more perception than experience.
 - Reputational perception.
 - The AMS is seen as not welcoming.
 - The majority were not involved in the AMS and they're letting you know why.
 - Some of these things have been addressed, but people don't know it.
 - Wouldn't it be great to have AMS 101 to explain the AMS?
 - People don't understand, don't know how to get involved.
- Cole:
 - The issues you've brought up are issues we need to work on.
 - One thing we struggle with is to find the time and capacity.
 - Some things are inherent in student societies.
 - The Equity Plan can be a guide.
- Sheldon:
 - Outreach came up a lot.
 - Have you spoken about this to Eric, the Communications Manager?
- Adeline:
 - Not yet, but a good idea.
 - The Equity Plan will come with action items beyond these preliminary recommendations from the focus groups.

UTILE

- Kalith:
 - UTILE is presenting tonight on student housing.
 - Do we need a motion (for the agreement with them)?
- Sylvester:
 - It's being submitted just for information.

Housing Service

- Ian:
 - Code is supposed to stipulate what the Services are.
 - Can the Executive recommend creating the Housing Service (to be called AMS Housing)?
- Cole:
 - Maybe we should do a launch.
- Keith:
 - As Ian says, this needs something in Code.
 - We don't want people asking how this was done without approval.
- Ian:
 - Next time.

Updates

- *Ian's update:*
 - New Assistant Manager starting.
 - New Nimbus features.
- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Clubs Days on Zoom and YouTube.
 - Carbon Offsetters.
- *Georgia's update:*
 - Exam hardship policy: people struggling with time zones.
 - Equitable access.
 - Creating culturally appropriate mental health resources.
 - New Academic Experience Survey.
 - UBC budget advocacy.
 - Proctorio.
- Keith:
 - Can you speak to Lucia about our own mental health subsidy?
- Georgia:
 - Yes.
 - Am also meeting about the Athletics & Recreation fee subsidy.
- *Cole's update:*
 - On panel with the Green Party.
 - Working with the University on appointments.
- *Kalith's update:*
 - Meetings about student housing with the Ministry of Advanced Education.

- Meeting with the Green Party.
- U-Pass in full swing.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Budgets for next year.
 - Interviewing for a new SASC Manager.
 - Second All-Staff meeting went well.

- *Lucia's update:*
 - Budget.
 - Three reports to Council.
 - Club transactions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 3, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration, left 1:10), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Bahareh Jokar (Studentcare), Lilly Callender ((AMS Equity & Inclusion Associate)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Georgia).

Minutes

- The minutes of January 27 and the revised minutes of January 20 were approved (Lucia, Sylvester).

Black History Month

- Lilly:
 - The Black Student Union is doing meaningful events.
 - With COVID, it makes more sense for us to support those rather than do our own.
 - We are seeking to put stories on the website about Black student leaders and Black student businesses.
 - Will put material in the newsletter and also planning an Educate and Activate workshop.

Intersectionality Workshops

- Lilly:
 - Adeline, our equity consultant, does workshops.
 - We could do some during Reading Week.
 - Not sure what people think about making them mandatory.

- It would be great to have a professional facilitator like Adeline do them for us.
- Sylvester:
 - Would these be for AMS Executives, staff, the student body?
- Lilly:
 - Specifically for Executives, but it would be great if student staff could attend.
- Georgia:
 - There are three audiences:
 - Executives and their staff.
 - Internal staff generally.
 - Council members.
- Lilly:
 - Adeline can only do a certain number of people.
 - The main focus would be on student staff.
- Sylvester:
 - We should encourage all staff to attend.
 - Permanent staff too: look at the audience we got for the AMS staff meetings.
- Lilly:
 - Adeline said she can do two workshops.
 - Can extend to others, but a limit to the number in a workshop.
- Keith:
 - Can you share the points she will go over?
 - In a document to go out to those who can't attend?
- Lilly:
 - Can send out a pdf, but the workshops are interactive; it's not as effective just sending a document.
- Cole:
 - Interesting to talk about longer-range plans.
 - It's the end of the year now, but we could look to annual training for each year's new Council, new Executive.
 - As to permanent staff, do you want to focus on the management level? We have lots of staff.

Legal Service

- Bahareh:
 - Talk of doing a survey.
 - Legwork done at the Health & Dental Committee; the GSS has provided feedback.
 - Does the AMS feel comfortable conducting the survey? Or you could have the GSS or Studentcare do it.
 - Studentcare would target 5-7,000 students rather than the full population.
 - Results would then get presented to the committee.

- Lucia:
 - Lots of surveys happening now.
 - Don't want to bombard students.
 - Maybe a more targeted one like past Studentcare ones rather than a blast to the whole student body.
 - Last time we did a survey sent to the whole student body it led to anxiety about fee increases. People wondered what was happening.
 - A more targeted one would be more controlled.
 - It would be nice to get it out this year.
- Ian:
 - How is this different from UBC's Student Assistance Program (SAP)?
- Bahareh:
 - This would be different.
 - It would give students support and legal representation over housing, academics, employment. There would also be a legal hotline.
 - If we find an appetite in the survey, we will look at options.
 - This is just taking the temperature.
- Lucia:
 - If there is interest, we'd do an RFP.
 - The legal service would not come under the Health & Dental Plan Committee.
 - It would be of a different nature, with a different fee from the Health & Dental Plan.
 - At this stage we want to gather information.
- Bahareh:
 - There's been some revision to the question we originally provided.
 - Originally we said this would be for unlimited legal support.
 - Now it says unlimited or limited; can't really be both, so I'd recommend saying one or the other.
 - If you want to add demographic questions, that would be fine.
 - Essentially we're asking: Do you have need? What are you open to?
- Cole:
 - Could potentially turn this into an expanded survey of the Health & Dental Plan.
 - I'm hesitant to launch a survey specific to a proposed service, especially if it's including a fee increase.
 - If we're not careful, it will look like we're barreling towards a new \$30 fee, which might not be a good idea, especially now.
 - I'd like to keep it as high level as possible because I don't think we're close to implementing anything.
 - I don't think the survey will tell us anything: everyone will say it's important to have good access to lawyers.
 - It might seem set up to validate the need for a service, as if designed to get a certain response.

- Could put it at end of another survey and say we're looking into a legal service: would you pay \$30 for it?
- Bahareh:
 - Open to feedback on questions.
 - I encourage you to do your own research: our suggestion is \$29.50 with an option to opt out.
 - We want to see if students are interested before going to referendum.
 - It's possible to tag it on to a Health & Dental survey, but the Health & Dental Committee was reluctant: it's a different service.
- Cole:
 - My concern climate-wise is with cost-benefit. Will students think paying an extra \$30 is worth it?
 - As to making it opt-outable, lots of students don't bother to opt out.
 - I'm worried it will be viewed poorly to have the AMS doing consultation over a relatively expensive fee.
 - It may seem tone deaf.
 - Affordability is an issue now; we're against raising tuition, but we're going to present a new fee?
 - Contradictory messages.
- Bahareh:
 - We're reviewing this on a national level.
 - We understand the impact of COVID-19.
 - Would it be helpful if the survey said: This is a preliminary temperature check.
 - Would ultimately have to go to referendum.
 - Is there ever a good time to introduce a new service with a cost?
 - There are so many instances of students being affected: the academic misconduct issues in that one class; rental issues; employment hours being cut.
 - That's where we see the connection to COVID.
 - How can we make it more palatable?
- Cole:
 - Maybe it would make sense to do something less broad than a survey.
 - A focus group, looking for anecdotal feedback. A couple of hundred people.
 - We did something similar for the proposal of a cannabis dispensary. A focus group of 50 people.
 - Start with a small group, then ramp up.
- Bahareh:
 - We have a similar approach: we choose a small pool, but large enough for statistical relevance.
 - The problem with anecdotal data is whether it's representative.
 - But I defer to the Executive Committee.
 - Can go back to the Studentcare communications team to ask them about focus groups.

- Or perhaps a smaller survey? 2,000 instead of 5,000?
 - At first we wanted something larger, but I can understand the effect.
- Sylvester:
 - I agree with the focus group approach, a discussion setting.
- Bahareh:
 - No one in BC is doing anything similar to this proposed service.
 - This would be changing the narrative about support in legal matters, legal representation.
 - Georgia asked about the Student Legal Fund Society.
 - I think the nature of their work is a little bit different.
 - Potentially combining with that fund could be useful, but the work is different.
 - I'm assuming you're not proceeding with the proposed survey. I can discuss this further with Lucia offline.
- Cole:
 - If we're talking about a separate service, the Executive should discuss further.

UCRU

- Kalith:
 - The Bylaws have been finalized.
 - Now is our chance to give feedback.
 - I think they're fine, but this is your chance.
 - There's also an agreement on joining UCRU, with easy out provisions.
 - The system will be one-school, one-vote.
 - All the schools are in the U-15, so they're similar in size and nature.
 - No fee for this year.
 - Will we have to go to referendum?
- Sheldon:
 - Unless you want to create a new fee for our members to pay, no referendum is required.
 - Code allows Council to decide on joining organizations: it's a regular resolution (simple majority) if no charge is involved.
 - If we have to pay, then a two-thirds resolution is required.
- Kalith:
 - Should this go to the Governance Committee?
- Cole:
 - The Governance Committee is just internal.
 - But a committee should look this over: the Executive probably.
- Kalith:
 - Would like to go to the next Council meeting.

- Cole:
 - What are the expectations of us as a member?
 - If UCRU is in legal trouble, is there any liability for us?
- Kalith:
 - No, liability is with UCRU: it's incorporated now.
- Keith:
 - There will be an annual audit, which will have to be paid for.
 - If there's no funding, how will that expense be paid?
- Kalith:
 - We all pooled \$10,000 to create a legal fund to pay the lawyers.
 - Usually the chair covers costs.
 - This year that's been Western.
 - Before that it was us, and before that, Manitoba.
- Cole:
 - We want no exposure to risk or liability.
- Kalith:
 - We could send this to our lawyers.
 - But it's been vetted by Western's lawyers; it might be redundant.
- Keith:
 - Could you provide us with the legal opinion from the Western lawyers?
- Kalith:
 - The bylaws were drawn up by the lawyers.
 - Their opinions are in the bylaws.
 - There was no separate legal opinion.
- Cole:
 - Timeline?
- Kalith:
 - I would like to give this to Council and get their feedback next week.
 - Then the Executive Committee can bring it back to Council for approval later.
 - We have a guest from UCRU attending the next Council meeting.

Childcare Bursary

- Lucia:
 - The lawyers said we can't use the current childcare bursary fund for the Food Bank project (for food, diapers, etc. for parents).
 - Right now we're just collecting the childcare fee and not planning to use it.
 - Childcare needs on campus have changed.
 - We helped the University finance childcare and contributed to the program in the Nest.

- Now the government is providing money for childcare, so our money could better be used for other expenses, but we're not allowed to do that under the terms of the old referendum.
- It would be good to run a new referendum to expand the wording of the fund.
- Do people want to have a referendum on this issue this year?
- Cole:
 - I don't think there's an appetite for that this year, especially since we're close to the deadline for calling a referendum.
 - But definitely in the future.
 - Are there ways we can use the money for traditional childcare? Can we contact the GSS?
- Lucia:
 - The GSS is aware of this funding, but setting up a new bursary is difficult.
 - We always funnelled our bursaries through the University instead of evaluating individuals' needs ourselves.
 - There needs to be a plan.
 - It doesn't make sense to charge a fee that there's no use for.

[Sylvester leaves.]

- Keith:
 - There's \$300,000 in the fund now.
- Lucia:
 - Do we want to assess the fee next year?
 - If there's no need, I'll cut it out.
- Georgia:
 - Students are not aware of this bursary.
- Lucia:
 - There was never a fund set up for students to apply to.
 - We would need to create a service: who's going to deliver the service?
- Cole:
 - I think this year we're too late. Have to wait till a later time.
 - We still want to keep the fee, but broaden it out.
- Ian:
 - Couldn't we run a referendum even if we don't have a referendum coordinator?
- Cole:
 - I'm not worried about that; it's more that there's no time to develop the vision for this fee.
 - There's just five days till the Council meeting.
- Ian:
 - It's just a small tweak in wording.

- Lucia:
 - There's a clear vision: supporting the Food Hub, which is in need of support.
 - This would be for that purpose.
 - We just have to specify what childcare is.
- Cole:
 - If you want to take it to the Finance Committee, you can do that.
 - It's just that at the last Council meeting we had a discussion and the decision was not to pursue a referendum.
 - This will seem rushed.
- Lucia:
 - We've been discussing this since October.
 - Not publicly, but internally.
- Cole:
 - If you want to bring it, the Finance Committee can bring it.
 - Might be a tough sell.
 - And what's the plan for passing the referendum?
 - It may be difficult to hit quorum.
 - It can be added to the ballot, but I'm skeptical about it passing.
- Ian:
 - I'm keen to get this passed. I don't think it's a hard sell.
 - If we don't meet quorum, such is life.
 - I don't think it hurts to try. It's for a good cause.
- Cole:
 - Go for it.
 - But I don't want it dished off to someone to coordinate the campaign.
 - And you'll need to consult Governance Committee about adjusting Code.
- Ian:
 - Happy to consult with whoever it's necessary to consult.
- Cole:
 - Will have to explain what the fee's been used for up to now.
 - Council will ask.
 - Challenging to do that in this timeframe.

New Senior Manager of Student Services

- Keith welcomed Lorris Leung.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 10, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Designer), Kavier Toor (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Michael Tan (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Gord Hopper (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Nico McEown (UBC Athletics & Recreation), Romilly Cavanaugh (Carbon Offsetters)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of February 3 were approved (Sylvester, Lucia).

Carbon Offsetters

- Romilly:
 - Carbon Offsetters helps clients (local and international) move to carbon neutrality.
 - We look at the sources of your carbon footprint:
 - These used to be travel and the use of fossil fuels.
 - Less travel now because of COVID.
 - We look at direct sources (vehicles, buildings) and indirect (electricity, district heating) and everything else (flights, etc.).
 - We do data collection for you and can do outreach to your tenants.
 - You're a Platinum LEED building, which is great, something to build on.
 - We do energy audits, quantifying emissions, and advise on purchasing offsets.
 - Before offsetting, the first step is to reduce emissions.

- Then offsets: real, additional, permanent; things that wouldn't have taken place otherwise, not business as usual.
 - Greenhouse Gas Protocol: two approaches: equity or control.
 - We recommend operational control.
- Michael Kingsmill:
 - Talked briefly about this with Sylvester.
 - We're going to discuss it further with Keith.
- Sylvester:
 - How much control do we have over our tenants?
- Keith:
 - It's part of our leases: they have to adhere to our sustainability standards.
 - So far we've only applied that to purchasing.
- Romilly showed a form on which they would gather data about number of employees, building space, heating, electricity, etc.

Athletics & Recreation (A&R)

- Kavie:
 - Five years ago the AMS asked for a voice in the budgeting process and we agreed.
 - Excellence and Inclusivity are A&R's top values.
 - Priority this year is to extend the Thunderbird brand beyond A&R so all students will feel pride in being a Thunderbird.
 - Budget:
 - Programs have been limited because of COVID.
 - Aquatic Centre expensive, but valuable to the community.
 - Uncertainty about when we can resume full capacity.
 - Deficit of \$2.4 million for the coming year.
 - Business operations are not as robust as normally.
 - Trying to enhance the equity lens for funding of women's and men's sports.
- Cole:
 - Into the new fiscal year, what are things looking like?
 - By September will there be more mass participation events?
 - The Winter Classic?
- Michael Tan:
 - We hope by second term to have more mass events, for instance Storm the Wall.
 - The Day of the Longboat will be more of a challenge.
- Gord:
 - Planning for a regular Varsity schedule in the fall, but also preparing modified schedules and we expect we will go to those, with less travel.
 - COVID is still a challenge.

- No festival events September- December.
 - But festival events post-January, including the Winter Classic.
- Ian:
 - There's been a lot of chat about the A&R fee.
 - Students ask why they're still paying it.
 - Lack of communication seems to be a problem.
- Kavier:
 - Need to find a way to articulate.
 - Need a lot more education about what students still have access to, at home programs; also about the structure of fees.
 - Would like to communicate this.
- Georgia:
 - Working with Enrolment Services on a subsidy for the A&R fee.
- Kavier:
 - It's fair for students to ask affordability questions.
 - Happy to share the breadth of services available.
- Georgia:
 - Would love to explore financial options if students want to participate.
- Kavier:
 - Happy to have these conversations.
 - Don't want cost to be a barrier.
 - Probably focus on user fee issue.
- Georgia:
 - Yes, the question often is why do they have to pay an additional fee for the ARC fitness centre or for the Longboat when they're already paying the A&R fee.
 - It would be useful to present reasons to the student body.
- Kavier:
 - Happy to address that.
 - Also would like to work with AMS Communications on the new Recreation Centre.
- Michael Tan:
 - Fitness bit: Intake form to get insight on what students want.
 - Things are different in the COVID environment.
 - Gym membership: can we enhance fitness offerings?
 - Special membership fee for summer programs: an extra \$5 to get you 12 weekly classes: spin classes, boot camps, typical fitness classes.
 - In person if public health orders allow: May-August.

Filming in Nest

- Keith:
 - The company that was here in the fall wants to come back on March 15.

- Should we close the Nest that day?
 - They'll be in the Atrium.
- Georgia:
 - If they're in a public spot, probably close the Nest.
 - Otherwise need traffic coordination.
- Keith:
 - May get backlash from those who want to study in the Nest that day.
 - Have to announce well in advance.
- Cole:
 - The easiest thing is to close as much of the building as possible.
 - Could keep Gallery, Honour Roll, Blue Chip open.
 - Can we remove seating? Just allow people to get food, but no studying.
- Sylvester:
 - Do we have personnel to control things?
- Keith:
 - Not really; there are too many entrances.
- Cole:
 - Could open just Blue Chip, just that one door.
- Keith:
 - Yes, and rope off the rest of the building.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 17, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Ian Stone (Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of February 10 were approved (Kalith, Lucia).

Proctorio

- Georgia:
 - Several faculties have agreed to discontinue Proctorio (and other similar remote invigilation tools), so I'm very happy.
 - But other faculties (Medicine, Sauder, Pharmacy, Law, Applied Science) have accreditation issues requiring remote proctoring software.
 - We're pushing for the accreditation body in each case to say specifically what software it requires.
- Cole:
 - This discontinuation is good news.
 - For the accredited schools, why do they want Proctorio?
- Georgia:
 - There's an RFP process, actually.

Hong Kong

- Kalith:
 - First some good news: Loujain al-Hathloul, the former UBC student imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, has been released.
 - The campaign we were part of on her behalf has ended successfully.
 - Next is our statement in support of the people of Hong Kong.
 - Georgia and I drafted it, based on consultations with the students who brought the motion to Council.
 - It explains the situation, providing background on the activists who have been detained without charge.
 - It's not anti-China or against any government; it's just about human rights.
 - We don't want to alienate Chinese students.
 - We're standing in solidarity with student activists and condemning the deterioration of civil liberties and civil rights.
 - We oppose the anti-democratic actions of the Chinese government in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang.
- Georgia:
 - We are showing how the AMS upholds democratic values and human rights.
- Kalith:
 - This is a call to action, pushing the Canadian government to play a larger role.
 - We're drawing on what McGill, U of T, and other UCRU student unions are calling for.
- Georgia:
 - We are also opposing the systemic oppression of the Uyghur and Hui peoples in China.
 - We are also in solidarity with them; the issues are very much related.
 - As UBC students we have a responsibility to advocate for UBC students of Hong Kong etc. heritage.
 - We could expand on that.
- Cole:
 - For the sake of this letter, I'm inclined to focus on what Council directed us to focus on.
- Kalith:
 - Originally, I wasn't planning on including that, but Georgia wrote something about it.
 - We're still primarily focusing on Hong Kong and the asylum seekers, but I don't see a problem with mentioning the others – but I would not expand it.
 - I like the part referring to UBC students of Hong Kong descent.
- Sheldon:
 - How does Taiwan fit in?
- Georgia:

- This is the South China Sea situation, the aggression there.
- But good point, if the focus is on human rights.
- Cole:
 - It's one thing to talk about human rights.
 - Not sure we should be wading into geopolitics.
- Kalith:
 - I agree that we should focus on human rights.

Updates

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Clubs Days and CampusBase:
 - Clubs Days went rather well: 543 participants, 1832 booth visits.
 - The Club Expo was not that popular, but clubs that did participate were appreciative and used the video for other purposes.
 - CampusBase gives us the opportunity to reimagine how Clubs Days should take place.
 - The KUS was excited to use CampusBase for their regular career fair. They had 290 participants and 2197 booth visits.
 - Draft pilot for AMS Canvas course:
 - Looking to have a workable course by mid-March.
 - Hopefully it can be used for the club executive orientations.
 - Sustainability:
 - Couldn't attend last week's Council meeting.
 - I'm enthusiastic about attending next week to explain the funding request for the Sustainability Centre.
 - Hatch Art Gallery:
 - A zine responding to SASC's call for submissions.
 - Finalizing the process for obtaining rights from artists to showcase their pieces online.
- *Lucia's update:*
 - Subsidies, budget, Q3, reforecast.
 - Main focus is on subsidies: 1,900 Health and Dental requests, 670 for U-Pass, 100 for the AMS fee.
- *Georgia's update:*
 - The Board of Governors endorsed the Climate Emergency Report.
 - The Proctorio conversation is wrapping up: a motion will go to Senate.
 - Ramping up with other student groups about the tuition discussions coming to the Board of Governors in April.

- Discussion on the exam hardship policy.
- Mental Health Resilience Committee discussion on diverse mental health resources.
- *Kalith's update:*
 - Spoke to the GSS about how advocacy week went.
 - The U-Pass programs are wrapping up, including the audit.
 - SkyTrain to UBC discussions.
 - Equity-based grants research.
 - Meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education.
 - UCRU:
 - Hoping to get bylaws passed.
 - New strategic plan.
 - Hosting webinar series on co-ops: housing co-ops the first topic. Our new Housing Coordinator Mitchell will be a panelist.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - Things are going well.
 - Meeting with Ian.
 - Recruitment phase for new Student Services Manager, Assistant Student Services Manager, and Coordinators.
- *Keith's update:*
 - Lorris and Lucia working on mental health subsidies.
 - Flood in mechanical room, but hasn't affected the elevators or anything else crucial.
 - Next all-staff meeting March 23.
 - Saad and I are working on the provincial lobbying registry.
- *Cole's update:*
 - Met Alumni UBC about the Great Trekker award. They have some ideas.
 - Met with UBCO about their new Forestry program.
 - It's at UBCO but is administered by UBC Vancouver.
 - Hard for UBCO to charge the fees; waiting to hear from the UBCO student union.
 - Steering Committee meeting to discuss changes to its ToR.
 - Linked-In Learning (UBC and Linked-In):
 - We're no longer the middle man, which is good.
 - Hope UBC will try to do something with Linked-In Learning.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 24, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Georgia).

Minutes

- The minutes of February 17 were approved (Sylvester, Lucia).

Code/Services

MOVED COLE, SECONDED SYLVESTER:

“That the Executive Committee recommend that Council create a new Student Service, to be called AMS Housing, and amend Code accordingly.”

... Carried

Great Trekker

- Cole:
 - Received a recommendation from Alumni UBC of a pair of candidates, an involved UBC couple.
- Sylvester:
 - Do we have to do what Alumni UBC says?

- Cole:
 - We can do what we want, but we tend to rely on Alumni UBC.
- Sheldon:
 - We gave to a couple once before.
- Sylvester:
 - Do we have a relationship with the recipients after they get their award?
- Cole:
 - Nothing formal.
- Sheldon:
 - They usually give a speech at the All Presidents Dinner, but nothing after.
 - The award goes back to 1950.
 - The first recipient's daughter did bring back her father's trophy (a serving dish) for us to put on display.
- Cole:
 - This award is from the student body, so is different from other UBC awards.
 - We'll be doing a virtual reception for them this year in lieu of the All Presidents Dinner.
- Georgia:
 - I've been wondering about the process for creating awards and for making awards.
 - Should we put a formal process in place?
- Cole:
 - We could create a process, an Awards Policy.
- Sheldon:
 - The procedure for Councillor of the Year is in Code.
 - Other awards are not.
- Georgia:
 - Thinking of formalizing the Open Education Resources (OER) awards.
- Cole:
 - It may make sense to have an awards policy.
 - Make the Executive responsible.

Branding

- Sylvester:
 - Curious where things are at.
 - What's the word from the firm we're working with?
- Keith:
 - Still working on it.
 - Presentation next week.
 - A couple of years ago we got a new logo; this will address what the logo means to us, how to use it, etc.

- Looking for creative direction.
- Sylvester:
 - Would love to come out of the process with a visual identity and a brand image.
 - Currently it's up to whoever controls our social media channels.
 - Hope it's more than just the logo.
 - Want to be making the AMS more identifiable.
- Keith:
 - That's the exact idea.
- Cole:
 - I don't know if any of the Executives have engaged with this process.
 - If the final product is in the works, that's good, but I'm wary of the product arriving and the Executive saying no to it.
 - This is a topic of interest to the Executive team.

Councillor Orientations

- Cole:
 - Encouraging people to think of ideas about how to do them better.
 - In years past there'd be a weekend for Councillors and Constituency Executives.
 - This past year we had two days of three-hour sessions.
 - Maybe develop a Canvas module: make it more like a course.
 - People who show up during the year, after May 1, don't get the same introduction as others: a Canvas module might be helpful for that; it could certify them to be a Councillor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 3, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs, left 1:20), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External, left early), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Daniel Coculescu (AMS Food & Beverage)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Georgia).

Minutes

- The minutes of February 24 were approved (Sylvester, Georgia).
- Georgia noted that last week's meeting was short because people had to leave for another meeting.

AMS Businesses

- Keith:
 - Life after COVID.
 - Historically, there was a downward trend in the business contribution from 2009 through 2016.
 - I took over in 2016, and after that we consistently made \$1 million a year in the business contribution, through the 2018-19 year.
 - COVID started affecting us in January 2020, and the business contribution went down.
 - We closed the Nest altogether in March 2020.
 - We just broke even in 2020-21 and are forecasting a loss for 2021-22.
 - The government wage subsidy ends in June.
 - Minimum wage increases are still scheduled to happen.
 - We've had a limited opening: only 5 outlets are open now.

- We've been focusing on the safety of our members: sanitizing, etc.
- We reopened the Nest in May; we're one of the few buildings open on campus.
- The idea was to reduce our members' isolation.
- The businesses are open to provide a service; they're just breaking even.
- But we are working on new menu items for when we all reopen.
- Planning to create a mini Blue Chip on the patio.
- Reduced business has affected our tenants.
- Merit Travel has bowed out.
- We're investigating a dentist for that space.
- Conferences & Catering can't do bookings, so is pivoting to focusing on film production, e.g., Zoe's Extraordinary Playlist (a show that filmed here last fall).
- We're trying to get film companies to use our venue: it's quite profitable.
- We do have conference bookings for post-COVID, and C&C is keeping in touch with old clients.
- Daniel:
 - The Blue Chip patio is almost finished: we'll see how much business it brings in during the summer.
 - We looked into having a dentist before: we'll see if we can bring one in.
 - Ironing out software issues with loyalty and gift cards (Squirrel).
 - UBC Card: seeing how we can work either with it or without it
 - Squirrel versus UBC Firewall issues.
- Keith:
 - For the future, planning a staggered reopening.
 - Classes will still be online in September.
 - Will continue with the outlets that are currently open.
 - Hoping to open the rest in January 2022.
 - Hoping C&C can do more off campus: other catering companies have gone bankrupt; hope to move in and get a new revenue stream there.
 - Blue Chip patio will open in January.
 - Digital Menu Boards.
 - New menu at the Gallery.
 - Revised menus at other outlets.
 - In January Iwanataco will become a test kitchen, as planned before COVID: different foods on a rotation.
 - All our menus have "value items" or weekly specials, a more affordable item.
 - Hope to reopen fully in January, but it will take time to rebuild.
 - Estimated recovery by 2024.
- Daniel:
 - Navigating reduced numbers on campus.
- Keith:
 - Our current debt is \$58.9 million (from our loan on the building). To be repaid in 15 years. Drawing on the \$100 per student SUB Renewal Fee.

- We were going to pay UBC \$92.6 million over 35 years, but we refinanced the loan through RBC and are saving \$70 million.
- Our deficit (the excess of expenses over revenues) is \$4.2 million, most of which (\$4.05 million) came from renovating the lower level of the Life Building.
 - The rest is from last year, from COVID.
- Hoping to repay the deficit from excess business contributions in future years (2022-25).
- Why repay deficit?
- That will put us in a strong financial position to get extra financing from external lenders.
- Also, a higher deficit means less flexibility; don't have the backing to weather crises.
- Student fees don't cover everything; we need the business contribution.
- What should we do?
 - Reimagine our businesses (already doing that).
 - Maximize sources of revenue (Tutoring is doing that; C&C is looking for off campus revenue).
 - Look at all expenses.
 - Repay the deficit.
 - Fee restructure: we need that; we have too many small fees; need to rationalize.
- Investment market good, but safe, so not huge returns.
- Why are we in deficit?
 - Overhead increasing because of wage increases.
 - Student government expenses increasing:
 - Increased hours and rates of pay; need to bring down.
 - Don't want to skimp on services.
 - Communications has increased a little, especially with COVID: new digital media coordinator.
 - Events down this year: no in-person events.
- Before 2019-20, revenue was well above expenses.

Questions

- Ian:
 - What's going on with T-Dot?
 - Where do ideas come from?
 - Is there student feedback about foods?
- Daniel:
 - T-Dot is waiting for their permit in order to take up occupancy.
 - There are some deficiencies to fix.
 - As to ideas, we use social media for suggestions.
 - And we have weekly meetings with the chef.
- Georgia:

- Is this presentation going to Council?
- Keith:
 - Bringing it here first for feedback.
 - The intention is to present to Council.
- Georgia:
 - Glad to see the emphasis on member safety.
 - We could do more on that to address concerns that arose after the Halloween and Valentine's Day promotions.
 - We need to have something to say, This is our plan: we're doing more than just following provincial guidelines.
- Keith:
 - Yes, that's a great idea.
- Daniel:
 - We're in new territory.
 - When we do promotional things, we need to ensure that nothing is interpreted as an event.
 - We're taking steps to make sure promotion doesn't allow that interpretation.
 - The focus will be on the food.
- Georgia:
 - Re the dentist: do we have facilities for a dental office? Biohazard issues.
- Daniel:
 - Definitely considering all that.
 - Looking into the many steps, provincial guidelines, etc.
 - Planning a filtering system to prevent discharge from entering UBC discharge.
- Georgia:
 - There could be student opportunities for employment at the dentist.
 - We could communicate with the professional faculties.
- Keith:
 - Our current leases do include clauses for giving preference to students.
 - It's a great idea to contact the faculties.
- Sylvester:
 - May be good to have a process of online questionnaires for feedback and also to give information about our plans.
- Lucia:
 - We've introduced UBC Work Learn positions in the Services.
- Sylvester:
 - Should we pursue more of those?
- Keith:
 - Great idea.
 - Do need a stable source: not two one year, 15 the next.
 - Normally UBC looks at their own positions first.

Advisory Board

- Cole:
 - This is a pre-proposal.
 - Looking to achieve without disruption.
 - Preliminary idea is reconceive the Advisory Board as an Executive Board (we may want to change the name; it could be confusing).
 - Council is a large body with a large focus, representing various subdivisions.
 - Inefficient for nitty-gritty.
 - Though Council is supposed to be a managerial board, the people on it aren't equipped to provide meaningful feedback on business.
 - People on Council lack expertise; they don't know the needs of our business operations.
 - The Executive Committee ends up taking on that role, but it's not really equipped as a governance structure.
 - The Executive Committee ends up playing middleman between Council and the businesses: Council says one thing, business says something else. The result is inefficiency.
 - Thinking about how to bring in expertise to remove the middleman situation.
 - Want to create something that can provide more meaningful engagement and feedback.
 - We looked at Western, where they have a bicameral structure: a student council like ours, which focuses on Executive oversight, advocacy, governance.
 - They also have a Board of Directors elected separately who focus more on business.
 - Staff report to both.
 - The idea here is to come up with a better iteration of the Advisory Board.
 - The Executive Board would have more of an operational focus.
 - At first it would be a committee of Council because our bylaws say Council can't delegate its powers.
 - It would look at business operations performance, budget approval, collective bargaining, senior manager evaluation, IT: things Council is not equipped to handle.
 - As a possible structure, it would include:
 - The Executive
 - Students at Large (maybe business-oriented students)
 - Professional Members, providing expertise
 - The Managing Director (non-voting).
 - The Advisory Board provides feedback now, but nothing actionable.
 - This would be the Advisory Board on steroids.
 - It doesn't change a whole lot; it provides a new body.
 - Would meet monthly and be open.

- There would be a pre-meeting cycle like the Board of Governors for subcommittees of it to meet.
- It would submit motions to Council for approval.
- Timeline:
 - February-April: developing this and drafting Code.
 - If Council likes it, try it out in May.
 - Evaluate.
 - Get rid of it if it's not working.
 - Or keep it as a committee or amend Bylaws to give it authority.
 - Run elections for it in 2022.
- The Advisory Board hasn't been as effective as we hoped.
- Will ask the Advisory Board for its input on this new approach.
- Need to try something new.

Questions

- Keith:
 - A lot of work obviously went into this.
 - I'm always open to improving business efficiency. We did do a restructuring.
 - Lots of questions about this restructuring.
 - Why are we looking at this in the middle of a pandemic?
 - We shouldn't do any restructuring until we are safely out of that.
- Cole:
 - I don't see this as a restructure.
 - Not affecting anything below Council level.
 - Just turning the Advisory Board into a different kind of body.
- Keith:
 - This winds us back to where we were in 2015.
 - We had BAGB then instead of the Advisory Board.
 - We set up two distinct sides to the AMS.
 - It didn't work. It cost us a lot of money.
 - It's a large part of why my position was created.
 - Why are we contemplating this?
- Cole:
 - We're not dividing.
 - We're trying to create better connections, better governance, more relevant feedback mechanisms.
 - There's a disconnect between what Council can do and what's going on.
 - The new board would be more operational.
- Keith:
 - Daniel and I just showed that the businesses have been performing extremely well.
 - Not sure why we're putting in an extra level of oversight.

- Cole:
 - This is not a concern about performance.
 - Want means of feedback.
 - Want to have better conversations about our businesses.
 - The Executive team can't take this on.
 - The goal is to come up with a way to have consistent communication, to get ideas, to mitigate some inefficiency.
- Keith:
 - What was the consultation process for coming up with this plan?
- Cole:
 - Spoke to past Executives.
 - Did research into other organizations.
 - Floated it by the current Executive who seemed favourable.
- Georgia:
 - I would second that.
 - Heard from Councillors who are interested in having more student involvement in business operations.
 - Need to be examining things more closely.
 - Not replicating the old bicameral system from before 2015, just adding more touch points.
 - Seeking more student involvement on the Advisory Board.
 - Acting on some of the recommendations from Councillors.
 - Lots of consultation needs to be done.
- Keith:
 - This won't increase student involvement.
 - It's just making the Advisory Board more broad.
 - We don't need a restructure.
 - Restructuring has a terrible effect on morale.
 - Had to rebuild morale after the 2016 restructure.
- Lucia:
 - Re retention of professional members on the Advisory Board.
 - Can we be sure that they will attend?
 - What about their compensation if they're meeting more often?
- Cole:
 - Have to find the right people.
 - Have to look at compensation.
 - People may want to meaningfully contribute.
- Daniel:
 - The Western model had a CEO.
- Cole:
 - That was more extreme, bicameral.

- Their CEO would be like our Managing Director.
- Their Student Council doesn't touch on business that often.
- Daniel:
 - I'm concerned about the perception that students are not involved in the guidance of the outlets.
 - As long as I've been here, there have been suggestions from the Executive or Council.
- Cole:
 - The ultimate goal is to mitigate the situation where we're telling staff on an ad hoc basis that something needs to be corrected.
 - That doesn't contribute to morale – if we're only correcting when issues come up.
 - A better approach would be to get people on the same page, not just a top-down approach.
 - A revamped Advisory Board could be better at goal setting.
 - We need some better way than just five Executives issuing commands.
 - Have to get the students involved.
 - Have to be able to provide more meaningful engagement with the permanent staff, so they're not having to adjust their goals because of communication from a single Executive.

[Georgia leaves. Kalith left earlier.]

- Daniel:
 - Some staff at the AMS are professionals, in IT, communications, accounting.
 - Do you want that expertise?
 - Or do you want from outside the AMS?
 - Do you want monthly meetings between the professional staff and the Executive?
 - Would that also work?
- Cole:
 - I think the point of advisory groups is not necessarily to say we don't have expertise.
 - We have lots of knowledgeable people with expertise.
 - In corporate governance structures the point is to bring in additional perspectives, not to replace internal professionals.
 - We want to combat groupthink and attachment to the idea that we should do something a certain way because this is how we've always done it.
 - But Keith is right: Are there potentially other ways to do this? Absolutely.
 - We need a better advisory body, maybe less on student oversight.
 - Maybe put the Advisory Board on hiatus for now and focus on goal-setting.
 - Need to hammer out what the issues and solutions are.

- Don't want to create things that are just annoying.
 - The goal is to make sure senior staff don't feel pushed around by student Executives.
 - How do we make things work better?
- Lucia:
 - To engage Council with the businesses, we have:
 - The budget.
 - Quarterly reports, which are extremely weak now: just stats. These should come from the President's office, not the VP Finance. We had a good idea for revising them, but we never followed through on it.
- Sylvester:
 - There are so many ways to address things.
 - I'd like to see a streamlined goal-setting process.
 - Departments in the organization should be involved.
 - I think Cole's proposal is a decent option to consider; it's adding an external voice.
- Cole:
 - Have to combat reactive governance.
 - Council never steps in till something goes wrong, e.g., the promotional issue in the Gallery.
 - Need to create a game plan on a regular basis.
 - Long-term employees and their long-term goals, and factor in the annual goals of the student leadership.
 - What is the mechanism to combine them and be visible to the student body?
- Keith:
 - Aligning goals is a great idea.
 - The first step would be a strategic plan: when we had one, we were able to align senior managers' goals.
 - The Advisory Board was not supposed to be just for business, but for the whole society; this proposal restricts it to business again.
 - HR should be involved in this: It will cost money and affect people's lives.
- Sylvester:
 - Are there additional costs from this proposal?
- Keith:
 - This particular proposal would mean the Advisory Board meets monthly instead of quarterly; its members will have to be paid more.
 - This restructuring would lead to people leaving.
- Sylvester:
 - We've had previous discussions about a strategic plan.
 - Can it be done in house?
- Keith:
 - Absolutely.

- It's something the President's office has done in the past.
- Cole:
 - The intention is not to disrupt or to affect current positions.
 - That's why HR was not involved.
 - And we won't necessarily pay the Advisory Board members more.
 - If this is going to impact staff, we can talk offline.
 - I didn't foresee a negative impact.
- Lucia:
 - In terms of a strategic plan, is it too late for this year?
- Cole:
 - Definitely too late for this year.
 - We went to Council in June and they identified it as not a priority this year, so we didn't pursue it.
 - It could be a goal for next year; definitely doable.
 - Have to figure out the logistics of who would be running it.
 - It would take at least six months to do.
 - Still have to figure out what to do about the Advisory Board.

Designated Staff for I-9

- Cole:
 - Policy I-9 requires us to assign staff to assist the incoming Executive.
 - We should talk to the staff first.
 - Let's defer this to a later meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 10, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration)

Guests: Hong-Lok Li (AMS Chief Technology Officer)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Georgia, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of March 3 were approved (Kalith, Lucia).

AMS Email System

- Hong:
 - Alarming situation.
 - Been using Microsoft Exchange for 20 years or so. No problems before.
 - But as it evolves, it is becoming complicated, expensive, and vulnerable.
 - We have seen this in the past couple of days.
 - We need to act quickly and move to something cloud-based.
 - Currently we are using Microsoft 2016.
 - The next version will be Microsoft 2022.
 - If we host it ourselves, it will cost more: there's going to be a subscription fee.
 - The recent attack on Microsoft Exchange was extremely bad.
 - We received no support from Microsoft.
 - We're not supposed to run patches by ourselves, but yesterday I went ahead and installed a patch, and things are fine now.

- But this is not a sustainable situation.
- We have two options:
 - UBC has offered to allow us onto their domain; that would probably be best.
 - Or we could move to Office 365: it has more storage, but is much more expensive (9 times).
- We need a secure, supported system.
- It's a huge risk if we can't get support.
- Cole
 - We're all enthusiastic about updating and moving to something cloud-based; we talked about that earlier in the year.
 - UBC FASmail is just email support.
 - Office 365 is a full suite.
- Hong:
 - Yes, that's why it is more expensive.
 - I also looked into G-suite, but there are issues. Our systems wouldn't work with it.
 - But if you want G-suite for certain groups, it can be done without email.
- Cole:
 - There'd be a cost of retraining and also incompatibility issues with G-suite.
 - Let's make sure our apps are cloud-based.
- Hong:
 - If you decide on 365, I can pursue that.
- Cole:
 - Do we pay a licensing fee currently?
- Hong:
 - We paid a one-time fee for the current version, but that's the last time for that.
 - The next version won't allow that.
 - Microsoft wants people to move to 365.
- Kalith:
 - This is a blessing in disguise, allowing us to shift to something new and better.
- Georgia:
 - Thanks for all your work on this, Hong. We are very appreciative.
 - Can we get an alternate email auto-reply for staff not coming to the office?
- Hong:
 - Another option would be to go to UBC email and also use Office 365 without their email.
 - But we need to act: this is the most dangerous situation I've encountered in my career.
- Cole:
 - Hong and Keith can come up with proposals.
 - I lean to Office 365.

- Probably have to go to the Finance Committee in the next couple of weeks.
- Hong:
 - Yes, it's our top priority to make ourselves safe.
 - The only concern about Office 365 is the cost.
 - It has features that a lot of people won't use.
 - Could make Office 365 available to staff on demand, not give it automatically to everyone.
 - That would save us a lot of money.
- Cole:
 - Maybe a hybrid option.
 - Work with Keith and Lucia on a proposal for Fincom.

Return to In Person

- Cole:
 - The news is that UBC, following guidance from the provincial government, is planning increased activity on campus in the fall.
 - They didn't quite say In Person, but it looks like more people on campus and some classes in person.
 - I met the UBC leadership before this announcement.
 - A lot of people will be excited, but some will be concerned over health issues and study permits for international students.
 - UBC needs to make plans to communicate to the students.
 - Faculty members may have issues too.
 - But we're cautiously excited.
 - For the AMS, it's good news: a healthier number of students will be good for our businesses.
 - We'll have to come up with our reopening strategy for the fall, for businesses and also clubs, bookings, people in the building.
- Georgia:
 - Looking to get student feedback about student comfort levels, returning to residences and classrooms.
 - The concerns may be more outside class.
 - Looking at doing a survey, a shorter one.
- Cole:
 - Most students will be excited, but let's identify concerns: personal safety and guidelines, vaccinations, testing. For our advocacy.
- Georgia:
 - Can start compiling a list of asks.

Updates

- *Kalith's update:*
 - Made decision to continue the U-Pass for the summer: seeing increased ridership; the province will be moving to Phase 4 of vaccinations, so we're expecting even more ridership.
 - The BC Liberals' Opposition Critic for Advanced Education, Coralee Oakes, has been raising our advocacy asks, which is good.
 - UCRU is consolidating the feedback on the proposed bylaws.
 - The audit report on U-Pass exemptions is being finalized.
 - SkyTrain to UBC campaign.

- *Georgia's update:*
 - Tuition consultation.
 - Educate and Activate campaign about microaggressions and bystander intervention.
 - International student time zone challenges.
 - Multi-language resources.
 - Working with Food Bank to destigmatize food insecurity.
 - Increasing diversity resources for mental health.
 - On the Provost Reappointment Committee.

- *Lucia's update:*
 - AMS budget reforecast.
 - Budget for next year.
 - Received feedback about a new budget format to address transparency and accessibility issues.
 - Responses from fee-receiving groups.
 - Follow-ups on subsidies.
 - WUSC allowance allocation being shifted to UBC from us; the same for the CUS co-op fees. This will make things easier for students.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Great news: New SASC Manager and Assistant Manager have been hired. SASC will be back to being fully staffed.
 - Lorris is working on an update to the Services Review.
 - Further to the news about in-person, going to redo the budget.
 - Orientations for Executives.

- *Cole:*
 - What's the latest on the Communications presentation?

- *Keith:*
 - The company is meeting us.

- A preview before coming to the Executive.

- *Ian's update:*
 - Budget for next year.
 - Hiring soon: for next Student Services Manager, a new person in my role; they will be shadowing me.
 - Hiring for Coordinators will be starting soon.
 - RBC Get Seeded at the end of the month.
 - Everything else is going along as normal.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 24, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference, with Georgia chairing.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Sylvester, Kalith).

Minutes

- The minutes of March 10 were approved (Cole, Lucia).

COVID Preparation

- Georgia:
 - UBC is looking at the Alumni Centre as a possible site for vaccinations.
 - Also looking for a testing site.
 - Needs funding.
- Sylvester:
 - For September? Summer?
- Georgia:
 - There's no ETA that I'm aware of.
- Sylvester:
 - With COVID still active, our bookings are suspended till the end of term, and I've heard we're heading into the third wave.
 - May have to revisit our safety plan for the Nest.
- Keith:
 - There's so little information on next term that we haven't prepared anything new.
 - We have our existing precautions.

- Ian:
 - I'm not expecting a huge Welcome Back BBQ, but it would be good to put on our radar what we're planning.
- Keith:
 - We are planning a First Week celebration, but not Welcome Back BBQ.
 - Thinking about Block Party for April 2022.
- Sylvester:
 - The province is saying most people will be vaccinated by the middle of summer.
 - We could do something similar to Welcome Back.
 - This year's first year cohort didn't experience much this year.
 - We need to have something beyond just the new first years.
 - Perhaps we can work with other UBC bodies, e.g., UBC Rec, to do something: not a festival, but something to share student feeling.
 - UBC Rec has reached out about a virtual Imagine Day collaboration.
 - Also things catering to first years.
 - A sandbox event for current first years and transfer students who haven't seen campus: second year students coming to campus for the first time.
- Keith:
 - You can connect to the Events Department.
- Sylvester:
 - Absolutely.

Tuition

- Georgia:
 - Vote on tuition and on the UBC budget in the next Board of Governors cycle.
 - I will have a conflict of interest because of my new role as a BoG rep, so will be unable to sign off on the tuition letter several groups are planning to submit to oppose a tuition increase, in line with the mandate of the AMS referendum.
 - Also discussing operational funding from the province.

Updates

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Clubs:
 - Because of COVID restrictions, all pre-made bookings are cancelled until April 30.
 - Clubs have been using the videoconferencing grant.
 - CampusBase traffic is stable: more usership this month.
 - Clubs are embarking on renewals via CampusBase, can run elections on it (and we are also offering alternative election resources).
 - Workshop for student leaders about inclusivity, sexual harm, and safer event spaces: 40 clubs have registered.

- Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Permanent art collection show tonight.
 - Drafting contract for digital rights for art works.
- Sustainability:
 - Submitting report to Council: satisfied with what we were able to do this year.
 - Interactive Sustainability Centre project underway.
 - Net zero data collection is ongoing.
- Georgia:
 - Further to the inclusivity workshop, is there anything in the Operations Committee Manual on training for club executives?
- Sylvester:
 - Nothing in policy.
 - Various people have been working on this.
 - If people feel it would be helpful to include something in a policy, OpsCom could look into it.
 - We have created a club execs Canvas module for transition.
- Georgia:
 - It would be good to have a policy or guidelines saying what's covered in orientations.
- *Kalith's update:*
 - Meeting the province's Advanced Education team about housing operators: creating leading practices for Student Housing to refer to, respecting students' rights.
 - Working with the University about the SkyTrain to UBC campaign.
 - U-Pass:
 - Continuing for summer and fall.
 - Advocating for other measures.
 - Working with the U-Pass Advisory Committee to speak to the government, especially about COVID recovery.
 - Transition: Saad, the incoming VP External, has been with me (as AVP) all year.
 - The BC Liberals' Opposition Critic for Advanced Education, Coralee Oakes, has been raising our advocacy asks, which is good.
 - Positioning on UCRU:
 - We're the only student association representing graduate as well as undergraduate students.
 - Talking to graduate students to make sure they're properly represented.
- Ian:
 - Like to see those best practices for our Housing Service.

- Kalith:
 - It's not a law, just a government document recommending the best practices for operators to be following.

- *Lucia's update:*
 - AMS budget: salary/wage increase.
 - New budget format; making sure graphs and charts transfer correctly.
 - A lot more funding applications to Student Initiatives and Clubs Benefit funds.
 - Orientations on the way: Mary (the AVP and incoming VP Finance) is working on that.
 - The list of our student fees has been sent to the University.
 - Created an opt-in period for graduate students for health and dental, so they can have coverage in the summer.

- *Ian's update:*
 - Interviewing for Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators in the Services.
 - Wrapping up projects.
 - One long-term project: Accessibility Shuttles for Safewalk coming in May.
 - RBC Get Seeded tomorrow night.
 - Housing moving along: feasibility study.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Canvas module: starting to create a general orientation course on HR, Building Operations, Privacy.
 - Marketing plan for Services: feedback has been that we need more consistency in marketing and promotion.

- Sylvester:
 - I like that: a framework of what should and can be advertised.
 - Should be done throughout the organization.
 - Branding.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Working on getting the Health and Dental premium down; the insurance company presented a high figure.
 - Speaking to the lawyers about last year's flood in SASC.
 - Budget.
 - Recruiting an accounting supervisor.

- Sylvester:
 - Is there a timeline for branding?
 - Are we getting an update from Communications?

- Keith:
 - The company has been delayed.

- We're meeting them Monday; then they'll present, maybe next Wednesday.
- Sylvester:
 - Obviously an important exercise for an organization like us: students have been commenting.
- Keith:
 - I've seen the comments on Reddit too.
- Sylvester:
 - Want to make sure Communications and Marketing are top tier.
- Georgia:
 - We should be making sure we're reflecting student consultation.

- *Georgia's update:*
 - Really happy Senate voted to restrict the use of remote invigilation software.
 - There are some follow-up pieces to ensure it's implemented properly.
 - Upcoming joint BoG-Senate anti-oppressive policy. Will Shelling is on the committee.
 - Campus Vision discussions.
 - Upcoming submissions to the Board of Governors:
 - Housing Action Plan (supporting continuing rent freeze)
 - Career Plan
 - Tuition
 - A lot of onboarding and transition for Eshana, the incoming VPAUA.
 - Policy on sexual assault: will pass on to Lorris.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm (motion from Kalith and Georgia).



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of April 7, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager, arrived 12:20), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Lucia, Sylvester).

Minutes

- The minutes of March 31 were postponed until next time.

Project Lightbox

- Lucia:
 - This is a Mental Health Resource website.
 - Been talking to them about funding.
 - They're looking for something long-term.
 - Not sure who to direct them to: Services? Communications? The VP Admin?
 - Cool idea, but a bit pricey, and our goal this year is to reduce student government spending.
 - They want an annual subsidy of \$25,000 to make the website more robust: they would hire developers, engage with students.
- Cole:
 - If they're looking for a partnership, we could absorb it and run it ourselves, perhaps as a new Service.
- Lucia:
 - They're looking to work with us, to be integrated, for long-term sustainability.

- They're students.
- Lorris:
 - If we're absorbing them, we'd have to see how much work it would take.
 - Ian and I did talk to them, with Peer Support.
 - We can't afford to give that much money.
 - Could forward this to the Services, to become part of Peer Support.
 - It would mean hiring another Assistant Coordinator.
 - A website means a lot of work.
 - We would have to think about this.
- Cole:
 - We need to get a clearer idea of their ask.
 - Do they want us to take it over, or do they just want funding?
- Lucia:
 - They don't want to be absorbed.
 - They're a registered non-profit.
 - They want partnership and money.

[Ian arrives.]

- Cole:
 - I like Lightbox.
- Lucia:
 - They're looking for a partnership.
- Lorris:
 - Why don't they apply for funding?
- Cole:
 - If they're looking for integration, maybe reach out to Ian.
 - Loop in the Services.

Preliminary Budget

- Keith:
 - What's the status?
- Lucia:
 - Waiting for edits.
- Cole:
 - Waiting for staff plans from Executives so we can get the right numbers.
 - Lucia and I will meet and discuss.
- Lucia:
 - Making a conscious effort to reduce student government spending while maintaining Services.
 - Details to be worked out with the Finance Committee.

Executive Goals

- Sylvester:
 - What are the reporting expectations?
- Cole:
 - We're doing a presentation on the three main things each of us worked on.
 - Plus a reflection document on how our goals went.
 - In the past there was a lot of writing, but probably it doesn't need to be that long.
 - Try to do less than last year.
 - Council seems to be saying less is more.
 - Be succinct, short, though obviously detailed.

Council Dates

- Sylvester:
 - What are the upcoming dates?
- Cole:
 - Going to ask at Council tonight.
 - But I've heard that the 28th is probably better than the 21st because the 21st is in the middle of exam period and the 28th is at the end.
 - We'll poll people.

Updates

- *Sylvester's update:*
 - Follow-up with SVPRO about club executives.
 - Canvas course for club executives on creating safe places and communities and addressing disclosures.
 - Club executive transitions the last week of April: Canvas course and an FAQ.
 - Club renewals end April 15.
 - Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Managers finalizing the Directors Show.
 - Inviting past Directors to contribute.
 - Sustainability:
 - Data collection about net zero has been slow, but we're making progress.
 - Preliminary report at the end of April.
 - Eastside furniture project nearing completion:
 - Been cutting costs.
 - All furniture has been sourced locally.
 - Saved money from the original budget.
 - Chairs arrived today.

- Reaching out to undergraduate societies about giving away the old red chairs.
- Cole:
 - Music, Science, Kinesiology, and Engineering have all asked about the red chairs, and I'm sure there's more.
- *Cole's update:*
 - Transition: Going to set up meeting between us and the incoming Exec and going to invite them to the rest of our meetings.
 - Council transition planning:
 - Ideally put in a Canvas module.
 - Maybe a Zoom orientation but also something more interactive.
 - Norm Theatre project coming along well. Estimated completion date: mid-May.
 - Consultation with Athletics & Recreation about the new Recreation Centre. Looking nice.
 - Question of when to start charging the fee for the Rec Centre: this year or next?
- Keith:
 - The agreement with the University says the September after construction starts, so that will be September 2022.
- Cole:
 - Great Trekker invitation is going out.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - Hired four Coordinators. Looking for the other three.
 - Reviewing and interviewing candidates for Assistant Coordinators.
 - Working with Communications about marketing plans.
 - Canvas module.
 - Food Bank:
 - A volunteer tested positive for COVID.
 - UBC did a deep clean.
 - We can open tomorrow.
- *Lucia's update:*
 - Treasurer orientations: two sessions in April because there's been lots of turnover.
 - SUS reached out to pay off building debt, so students will not have to pay as long.
 - The Health & Dental Committee is meeting with Indigenous students to better support their needs.
 - The auditors want us to get more accurate numbers for the Health & Dental Plan, but there's an opt-out in July which may affect things.
 - WUSC Coordinator has been hired.

- *Keith's update:*
 - Hired a new accounting supervisor: great to fill that hole.
 - Year/End reconciliation: working with auditors.
 - Hong mentioned an email upgrade a few meetings ago; it was approved at the Finance Committee last Thursday.
 - The new Provincial Health Order means no more dining in the Gallery Lounge.
 - Completed repairs to the revolving gardens.
 - Outdoor signage is close to being approved.
 - Insurance renewal.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of April 28, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Georgia Yee (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lucia Liang (VP Finance), Sylvester Mensah Jr. (VP Administration), Kalith Nanayakkara (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Ian Stone (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Members of the incoming Executive: Lauren Benson (VP Administration-elect), Saad Shoaib (VP External-elect)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:16 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Kalith, Georgia).

Minutes

- The minutes of April 14 were approved (Georgia, Lucia).

Awards

- Georgia:
 - Sharing the love, recognizing people, especially in such a difficult year.
 - And post-COVID, we should explore the awards we offer.
 - Look into expansion of existing awards.

Current awards include Councillor of the Year, Great Trekker, Just Desserts, awards for clubs, and awards for professors who make good use of Open Education Resources.

- Georgia:
 - We need an index.
 - And we could look into donations, creating an AMS Foundation.
- Cole:
 - We could have an Internal Policy on awards.

- List them, provide the criteria.
 - The Executive Committee could be responsible.
- Georgia:
 - It would also be cool to recognize general members who've contributed by serving on committees etc.
 - I will send in thoughts.

Party in Pit

- Sylvester:
 - If you're reading this, it's too late.
- Lorris:
 - Maybe bubble soccer as an alternative activity.
- Georgia:
 - Should we make it clear this is a joke?
- Keith:
 - We could pass a motion about a party bus.
- Cole:
 - Yes, it's a tradition.
- Kalith:
 - Who drives the bus?
 - Where to?

MOVED COLE, SECONDED GEORGIA:

"Be it resolved that the AMS look into purchasing a party bus to take us to the other side.

Be it further resolved that Keith drive the bus."

... Carried

The Year We Missed a Lot

- Cole:
 - The current Executive want to be invited to next year's Block Party, SUDS, and the All-Presidents Dinner.
- Georgia:
 - And the Welcome Back Barbecue should be a real barbecue.
- Keith:
 - It used to be.
- Cole:
 - Or if not a real barbecue, then change the name.

AMS Feedback

- Georgia:
 - Currently we rely on the Academic Experience Survey for feedback.
 - We were going to do a broader AMS Experience Survey.
- Saad:
 - One of my platform points was to have Town Halls.
- Cole:
 - Looking to hold Town Halls specific to government advocacy.
 - Looking forward to engaging students on the issues that we are working on.
- Georgia:
 - What would these look like?
 - How often would they happen?
- Saad:
 - We're looking at quarterly, maybe every term.
 - We'll see what the most effective way to gather student feedback is and have accessible channels for feedback

Transition Expectations

- Cole:
 - Hope everyone is doing their transition reports.
 - Ideally, give them to your successors on the day they take office.
 - Especially this year with people not in the office down the hall.
 - Potentially, I'll bring you to the new Exec meeting discussing Exec goals, in accordance with the revised Policy I-9.
 - Throughout May you're expected to be reachable by your successor if they have any questions: make sure to get back to them in a reasonable time.
 - Your transitional honorarium is based on satisfying this.
 - Make sure you're available for your successor.
 - Hopefully they won't need you a ton, but likely there will be a number of times someone will ask how to do something.
 - There's no limit to how much they can ask.
 - You're being paid for this: \$1,200 for a month's work.
- Sylvester:
 - Anything to do with Council? Committees?
- Cole:
 - There are committee chair transitions.
 - Lucia will have to do one for the Finance Committee.
 - Wait to see if Mary (the incoming VP Finance) is going to chair Fincom; if she is, then the transition would just be part of the general Executive transition: no extra work.

- Sylvester:
 - What's happening tonight at Council?
 - Will it go long?
 - What about the Executive Team presentation?
- Cole:
 - Need everyone to fill in their part of the presentation.
 - Council will be quite long; there's a lot on the agenda.
 - Four presentations:
 - Executive Goals
 - Equity Plan
 - Preliminary Budget
 - Services
 - New version of Policy I-9 to approve.
 - New ad hoc committee.
 - Discussion Period items.
 - Will fill the full four hours.
- Ian:
 - Is everyone okay if I continue to work as a non-employee on co-op housing?
- Cole:
 - Obviously, you're passionate about it.
 - Have to speak to Lorris about your status: volunteer?
 - Nothing better than someone who wants to work for free.
- Sylvester:
 - I'm in full support, for continuity.
- Georgia:
 - When does our email cut off? April 30?
- Keith:
 - 11:59 pm.
 - A lot of your current addresses will be transferred to your successors, so you won't be using them anymore.
- Cole:
 - Your key card may still work, but not your email addresses.
 - Ideally, give your successor the key over the weekend or April 30, the Friday.
 - Make sure they have keys in hand for Monday.
- Sylvester:
 - Custodial clean-up of offices over the weekend?
 - Sanitizing for COVID?
- Keith:
 - We'd have to put a special request in.
- Sheldon:
 - If you have documents etc. in your office, I can take them for the Archives.

- Saad:
 - Will the transition to Office 365 cause interruptions?
- Keith:
 - Should be seamless.
 - IT will probably come to your office.
- Georgia:
 - I'm feeling emotional; it's the last Executive meeting.
 - Simp from all of you.

[Translator's Note: Simp means doing way too much for someone.]

- Sylvester:
 - Great year. Appreciate you all.
 - Enjoyed every bit of it.
- Kalith:
 - It's great how we developed friendships.
 - We'd never have crossed paths otherwise.
 - The AMS has brought so many people together.
 - We've had the opportunity to work with experienced professionals like Keith, Sheldon, and Lorris.
 - Love you all: I'm being mushy too.
- Cole:
 - This must have been the worst year to be on the AMS Executive, what with the pandemic happening.
 - Was there ever a worse year?
- Georgia:
 - 1918?
- Cole:
 - Okay, World War I.
 - There's no book on how to run a student union in a pandemic.
 - We had to adapt and turn old things into new things.
 - Didn't see people in person.
 - Never had our full teams in the office.
 - We missed out on a lot of the fun, exciting parts of things, like the Winter Classic, the Battle of the Bats ...
 - So it was a bad year, but I'm super proud of all of you and the work you put in, and I think we had a very successful year.
 - An experience you wouldn't want to repeat but which you'll never regret ever.
- Keith:
 - An unorthodox year.
 - Thanks for what you did, and the very best in the future.

- Cole:
 - In 2070 Sheldon will be pulling out pictures of us to say this was the Executive during the pandemic.
- Sheldon:
 - That's assuming the pandemic will be over by then.
- Lorris:
 - I've only been here a short time, but you guys have done an amazing job.
- Lucia:
 - It's been a great two years.
 - We were able to accomplish a lot.
 - There was lots that was unprecedented.

Georgia took Zoom photos.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 12, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 12:38), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Mary Gan (VP Finance)

Guest: Jason Pang (AMS AVP Sustainability)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Lauren).

Minutes

- The minutes of April 28 were approved (Lauren, Saad).

Plan for Executive Meetings

- Cole:
 - Meetings will now be scheduled for two hours instead of one.
 - Going to try to have more conversation at the formal Executive Committee meeting, in line with the feedback we've received.
 - Also going to set agendas ahead of time after the team check-in on Monday.
 - Hope to make things more productive this way.

New Awards Policy

- Cole:
 - At the last Executive meeting, we discussed AMS awards like the Great Trekker and Just Desserts.
 - There are no real procedures or criteria for most of these; they're done ad hoc.

- For the Great Trekker we get names from Alumni UBC, and then it's not clear who decides.
 - It would be good to have a policy on how to give these awards.
- Sheldon:
 - Current awards include Councillor of the Year, Great Trekker, Just Desserts, awards for clubs, and awards for professors who make good use of Open Education Resources.
- Lauren:
 - There's also one for Constituency of the Year.
- Keith:
 - HR does awards for staff.
- Cole:
 - Sheldon can dig up information on how these awards have been done in the past, and he and I and my assistant Dana can draft a policy.
 - We can touch base with Praneet (the HR Manager) about the HR awards.

Contacting the Exec

- Cole:
 - Council passed a motion directing us to standardize access to Executives.
 - Maybe set us each up on Calendly as Georgia suggested last year.
 - Each of us could designate hours when people can book in.
- Mitchell:
 - There can also be some rules requiring bookings to be made, say, 48 hours in advance.
 - Also options for how long an appointment will be for.
- Saad:
 - We need to improve our communication.
 - Make sure students know.
- Cole:
 - Maybe tell Eric (the Marketing and Communications Manager).
 - Code currently requires office hours and public hours.
 - Maybe if Calendly works better, we could just switch to that permanently.
 - Often, before the pandemic, when we had in person office hours, no one showed up; people usually contacted us in advance; very rare to have walk-ins.
 - Maybe we could have a system of registering through Calendly and then hold either an in-person meeting or a Zoom call.
- Saad:
 - Would this be a change to Code: having online office hours?

Public Health Office

- Cole:
 - Attended a virtual meeting event with Dr. Bonnie Henry and people from the Public Health Office (PHO).
 - Also attended by the presidents of BC's postsecondary education institutions.
 - The general vibe from the PHO was more optimistic than from the university presidents.
 - The PHO seemed quite confident that by September things will be pretty safe.
 - The idea is to transition away from restriction towards vaccination.
 - They avoided answering a question on mask wearing:
 - They said where transmission is high, masking is effective.
 - They seemed to be suggesting that where transmission is not high, it was less important to mask.
 - They're looking to vaccinate as the main tool to combat COVID, but they're expecting COVID to remain for a while, like colds or the flu: just not as serious as in the past 15 months.
 - So we will need to look at messaging to tell people we no longer need restrictions.
 - Have reached out to Santa (UBC President Santa Ono) and Ainsley (UBC's VP Students, Ainsley Carry) about a joint campaign, a unified message.
- Keith:
 - There's still a bit of a wait and see approach concerning reopening: nothing that is currently closed will reopen till October, and we're not booking in Conferences & Catering yet.
- Cole:
 - Good approach.
 - Even though it's looking positive, there could be surprises.

SEEDS and Sustainability

- Jason Pang:
 - SEEDS is a UBC program that partners classes with faculty, staff, etc.
 - We've been partners with them for several years.
 - Worked with them on the Interactive Sustainability Centre, our Sustainability Action Plan, food security, etc.
 - We're looking for new ideas for SEEDS.

[Eshana arrived.]

- Saad:
 - External does have a project.
 - How do we proceed?

- Jason:
 - Just send over the information and reach out to the UBC SEEDS coordinator.

All-Staff Meeting

- Keith:
 - May 25.
 - Good opportunity for Execs to meet the staff.
- Cole:
 - These are regular meetings to keep everyone engaged.
 - They sometimes have themes, e.g., communications, COVID.
 - It's important to show up.
 - Good to meet the staff.
 - Let them know what you do.

Committee Appointments

- The Executive made the following appointments to the Executive positions on committees:
 - Governance Committee: Saad
 - Finance Committee: Cole
 - Fermentation Lab Committee: Saad

Updates

- *Keith's update:*
 - Beginning next week, can send in weekly items.
 - Main thing right now is Year-End.
- Cole:
 - The building will close on Sundays now?
- Keith:
 - Just for the summer. Barely anyone comes in; didn't really make sense to pay a duty manager.
 - May change the Monday-Friday hours: 8-8 instead of 9-9: some people were concerned they couldn't get in the building in the morning.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Been settling in.
 - Meeting University administrators.
 - On the hiring committee for the position of Managing Director of Student Affairs, a new position under the VP Students.
 - And on the group looking into teaching and learning beyond COVID.
- Sheldon:
 - Eshana and I are also meeting to discuss the Planning Students situation.

- Cole:
 - Should we have some sort of Constituency audit?
 - Has there ever been such a thing?
- Sheldon:
 - There's Presidents Council.
- Cole:
 - They did reach out to me about introducing a rotating chair system for our meetings.
- Keith:
 - Constituency finances might be something for Mary to look into
- *Lauren's update:*
 - Clubs newsletter.
 - Canvas course for clubs.
 - Clubs audit.
 - Sustainability focus: murals and dashboard at the Interactive Sustainability Centre.
- Cole:
 - If you're auditing clubs, maybe you could audit Constituencies too.
- Lauren:
 - Would make sense.
 - The Affiliates Committee is going to get going next week.
- *Saad's update:*
 - SkyTrain to UBC campaign.
 - UCRU elections: I'm running unopposed for vice-chair.
 - Researching a problem with work permits for students at affiliated colleges.
 - Drafting a PIPA submission that's also about the affiliates.
 - Will be going to the Affiliates Committee meeting.
 - Utile co-op housing: looking at the direction on that project.
- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Services busy: transitioning, check-ins.
 - Working on smooth transition for the Food Bank to make sure it is not interrupted.
 - Our Food Bank volunteers are now eligible for the vaccine.
 - Appointment tutoring has begun.
 - Looking into outreach strategy, messaging, to align better with the AMS brand.
 - Services orientations.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - SASC fund-raising month.
 - Mitchell and I are working on engagement and awareness re the Services.
 - Policy Advisor:
 - Asked HR to pre-screen. Forwarding resumés to Eshana and Saad.
 - Scheduling interviews.

Council

- Cole:
 - Straightforward tonight.
 - Planning to present on carryover projects: Strategic Plan, Equity Plan.
 - If anyone has big things they'd like me to mention, message me.
- Lauren:
 - Is this separate from the Executive goals?
- Cole:
 - Yes, this is just a primer to get people excited.

Archives and Email

- Sheldon:
 - I can make sure your email is being copied to the Archives from your desktop accounts.
 - Also for your AVP's and other assistants.
- Cole:
 - Can this also be done from the web app?
- Sheldon:
 - I will look into that.

Goddess of Democracy

- Keith:
 - The Chinese Student and Scholars Association of UBC has been in touch with us and the Belkin Art Gallery asking about the Goddess statue.
 - They're saying the current location of the statue was only meant to be temporary, and they want to know when it's moving.
 - Also, they say it needs cleaning.
- Lauren:
 - I have a meeting with the Belkin on this.
- Keith:
 - Michael Kingsmill, who was involved when the statue was moved to its current location (in order to build the Nest), agrees that the location it's at now (on the path to Brock Hall) was supposed to be temporary – though it's been there about nine years.

- Michael says there is landscaping work being done in the area, but the landscapers may be able to work around the statue.
- The statue may need a power washing/cleaning.
- Cole:
 - At the meeting with the Belkin we should not be committing to anything.
 - It's a somewhat controversial statue, connected to pro-democracy groups in China.
 - Ideally, the statue could stay where it is and just be cleaned.

In camera

The meeting went in camera at 1:41 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 19, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 12:45), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Lauren).

Minutes

- The minutes of May 12 were approved (Saad, Lauren).

Departmental Plans

- Keith:
 - Main feature this year is COVID Recovery.
 - We're hearing that UBC will be back in September, though it's not 100% certain.
 - Planning to reopen some currently closed outlets in October; others in January.
 - The problem with reopening is that it means hiring staff, and then if UBC is not really back, there's a problem.
 - So we're still in a bit of a wait and see mode.
 - Services:
 - Researching a data collection system: need new one to replace previous one.
 - Marketing plan: some people don't know what we offer.
 - Revisiting the Services Review, especially in relation to international students.
 - SASC:
 - Strategic Plan for SASC.
 - Improving confidentiality for SASC records.
 - New workshops for survivors.

- Food & Beverage:
 - All currently open outlets will remain open.
 - Reopening Grand Noodle Emporium in October.
 - Transforming Iwanataco into a test kitchen.
 - Pie R Squared saw a decline in revenue, so we closed it earlier this year; looking to reopen in October.
 - Pit Night will return in January 2022.
 - All of this is dependent on government Public Health Orders.
 - We're looking to lease the former Merit Travel location.
 - Three times a day sanitizing by us in the Nest will continue till January, after which we'll switch to using UBC Custodial, except in our outlets, where our sanitizing will continue.
- Conferences & Catering:
 - Looking to resume bookings, focusing on multi-day conferences, weddings, filming.
 - Commercial booking is only for the summer; in the school year, clubs are the ones we book into the Nest. Have to look at our club bookings policy.
 - We've acquired new A/V equipment to allow livestreaming.
- Building Operations:
 - Ensuring COVID protocols are followed: masks, one person to a table, etc.
 - Training duty managers on first aid for all open hours.
 - Working with UBC on repairs. Increasing our collaboration with them.
- Communications:
 - Finalizing the brand strategy.
 - Streamlining internal submission process.
 - Complaints about the website (hard to navigate and find things); going to redevelop.
 - Communications about COVID reopening.
- Events:
 - Hybrid First Week (virtual and in person) for first and second year students, since second years weren't on campus in their first year: this will be their first year.
 - Expanding into working on campaigns.
 - Check-ins with the Executive to make sure we can collaborate.
- Administration:
 - Changing account system from Dynamics to a cloud-based system.
 - Integration with the Moneris payment platform and the Certify credit card platform.
- HR:
 - Employment engagement.
 - COVID disrupted plans for employee events. This year looking for ways to encourage connections and improve morale.

- IT:
 - Migrating Outlook to Microsoft 365 in the cloud; it's taking a while.
 - Emphasis on security.
 - Encouraging staff to follow policies and procedures.
 - Looking at introducing the IT Subcommittee to oversee any big changes in the IT structure.
- Saad:
 - Will there be a briefing on the branding?
- Keith:
 - Tomorrow talk of direction at the monthly meeting of managers and Executives.
 - Later a presentation on guidelines.
 - There will be some changes based on previous meetings.
- Mitchell:
 - Will we get a real-time view of the budget with the new finance system?
- Keith:
 - Yes.
- Cole:
 - IT Subcommittee?
- Keith:
 - Maybe different from what it was, but we need something.

Updates

- *Keith's update:*
 - Year-End.
 - Staff need to get their reviews in.
- Cole:
 - New cannabis store (Burb) coming in the Village.
 - They asked us for a letter of support.
 - What is our stance?
- Keith:
 - None so far.
 - We were considering one ourselves in the building.
 - Not sure the status of that.
- Cole:
 - It fell flat.
 - I assume the University Endowment Lands, where this one will go, is exempt from UBC permitting.
 - When we talked to the University, they told us it would take a long time to get permits.
 - Personally, if there's a store two blocks away, I don't think it makes sense for us to pursue the same thing.

- Saad:
 - Where in the Village will it be?
- Mitchell:
 - In the old Copy Smart location, next to the A&W.
- Saad:
 - So there won't be one in the Nest.
- Keith:
 - Wouldn't make sense, but I'm leery of contributing a letter of support if we're considering our own.
- Cole:
 - I don't think we're close.
 - Not even sure what space it would go in.
 - I have no issue providing them a letter of support.

[Eshana arrives.]

- *Mary's update:*
 - Club treasurers canvas course out.
 - Q4 report due end of May.
 - Subsidies, U-Pass subsidies, opt-outs.
 - Transitioning new team.
- *Saad's update:*
 - UCRU elections: The AMS will hold the vice-chair position.
 - AMS-GSS MoU on external advocacy:
 - Presenting to GSS Council tomorrow and presenting to the AMS Executive.
 - U-Pass Advisory Council discussions about U-Pass.
 - Not everyone will be on campus.
 - Exemptions.
 - Budget submission: collaborating with multiple stakeholders.
- *Lauren's update:*
 - First clubs newsletter.
 - Clubs orientation canvas course.
 - Interactive Sustainability Centre construction.
 - Scoping areas for capital projects with UBC for space.
 - SEEDS.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Keith and I are talking to UBC about an MoU for the UBC Ombudsoffice:

- What will they provide to us?
- Met with the UBC VP Academic's office about flexibility for students in the fall.

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Setting up Services office.
 - Figuring out finances.
 - Living Lab approach to Campus Food Hub.
 - Transitioning staff.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Marketing plan with Eric (Communications).
 - Engagement and awareness.
 - One-pager on Services to be translated into Chinese, the number 1 other language at UBC.
 - Looking at supporting international students.
 - Policy Advisor: candidates.
 - SASC fundraising.
 - Hiring staff.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 2, 2021

Attendance

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

Guest: Eric Lowe (Marketing & Communications Manager)

Regrets: Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Lauren).

Minutes

- The minutes of May 27 were approved (Saad, Mary).

Branding Guidelines

- Eric:
 - In the 106 years of the AMS no one has ever done this.
 - We've had discussions about the visual identity of the AMS, but that's usually the last part of branding.
 - Need the essence first, the core purpose of the organization.
 - We started almost a year ago working with Partner & Hawes on brand strategy and communications strategy.
 - Now we're ready for the visual language system and the social media playbook.
 - Our core idea is Students First: when students thrive, everyone wins.
 - In our advocacy, services, events, etc., we want to be putting student needs first.
 - We want to be accountable, nimble, and flexible.
 - We collaborate with UBC and the government, but we protect our autonomy.
 - We encourage all students to get involved.

- We want to make a giant university seem smaller.
- We're bold, inclusive, accessible, transparent, savvy.
- We want to make student life safer, healthier, accessible, affordable, social, fun, and fulfilling.
- We're here to be of service to students; students are at the centre of what we do.
- Our message: If you're a student, you're one of us and we're here for you.
- We want to build more awareness and understanding of the AMS, and get students more engaged, especially in early years.
- We know that the distinction between UBC and the AMS can be unclear.
- There's also a lack of trust of the AMS, and a perception that the AMS is an exclusive club.
- There's also a perception among some students that they don't need the AMS, even though AMS work does impact their life.
- And there's a lack of emotional resonance.
- We want to demonstrate how we impact students and how our work improves student life.
- The message should be that what we do is important for students (and not just for the AMS).
- We want to get more of a student focus on our channels.
- Currently, we're a service brand; we want to become more a lifestyle brand embodying personality, fun, and guts.
- At times we sound like UBC. We should sound like students.
- We need to capitalize on social events to create greater engagement and tell stories.
- Have to recognize that students are not homogenous.
- Metrics: follows, website visits, inquiries, volunteers, voter turnout, awareness, positive sentiment.
- Social media channel strategy:
 - Instagram is our strongest, but we have too many accounts; need to rationalize.
 - We also use Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
 - Want to explore TikTok.
 - Maybe Spotify.
 - Facebook has seen a downturn in student usage.
 - We have to make sure not to hide what we do; let people know that AMS food outlets produce revenue that supports our services.
 - Consolidation of our Instagram accounts into four main channels:
 - An AMS account, including several now independent accounts (e.g., AMS Elections).
 - AMS Events (which we may broaden and rename AMS Social).
 - AMS Nest (including the Pit and the Gallery).
 - AMS Services.

- Two other accounts:
 - SASC.
 - Catering (which doesn't target students).
- Eshana:
 - Why merging Elections with the main AMS account?
 - I'm hesitant because current Execs run for election.
 - There's supposed to be neutrality.
- Eric:
 - Talked with Isabelle (the former Electoral Officer).
 - The Elections Instagram account had a limited reach; it would disappear for much of the year, and that meant it would disappear from people's feeds.
 - The role of Elections is to engage, but with their separate account they weren't reaching that many students.
 - A lot of their content and ours would be pretty neutral; we would never promote any single candidate; we'd be promoting the idea of elections.
 - Only in a referendum would we promote the referendum, and that would be something coming from the AMS.
- Eshana:
 - An example would be Georgia as VP doing things and then running for election.
 - It will cause inequities.
- Eric:
 - Maybe that is something: if you run for a second term.
- Cole:
 - There's always the advantage of being the incumbent.
 - But engagement is a more important thing: achieving a wider reach.
 - The issue is how to encourage engagement.
 - An independent channel just fragments the audience.
- Saad:
 - Can you provide more specifics on the posts?
- Eric:
 - Four major areas of the AMS.
 - The AMS account would be the broadest.
 - AMS Events would be for the social side.
 - Nest.
 - Services.
- Saad:
 - We could have campaign posts (e.g., on SkyTrain to UBC) on all four channels?
- Lauren:
 - On the elections issue:
 - When I ran, I declared my conflict of interest.
 - That's feasible.

- It's more equitable to use the main channel for elections because it reaches more students.
- Eric:
 - Visual look:
 - We want something with personality, edgy. (Not necessarily outrageous.)
 - Advocacy with attitude.
 - Our pictures don't always have to look super pretty; student life is not always pretty.
 - Our colour has been dark blue, but we are looking at a lighter blue.
 - We chose dark blue to match UBC, but that's not necessarily a good thing.
 - Looking at different fonts, a squatter font with more energy.
 - Was hoping to have a draft ready, but it's been delayed.
 - The idea is to have it done this month and then roll out.
 - The font could be installed on everyone's computer to allow everyone to design.
 - It's not too edgy; you'll be able to submit to government.
- Lauren:
 - Executives can boost engagement by commenting on Instagram posts.
 - If the comments are just official AMS comments, it's lacklustre.
- Eric:
 - Good thought: please do it.

BC Restart Plan

- Cole:
 - BC issued it last week.
 - Very exciting.
 - Still not set in stone, but 70% vaccinated now, which is great, and there is optimism.
 - The Executive attended a Town Hall with Dr. Bonnie Henry, who said anyone will be able to get their second dose by the end of August.
 - Masks won't be needed in September for most purposes.
 - Large events not happening in September (big concerts etc.);
 - Don't think we'll be planning a regular Welcome Back Barbecue.
 - There may not be any restrictions preventing it, but still not advisable.
 - Looking at controlled events, including alternative ways to participate.
 - Messaging: Making sure to build understanding, make people feel comfortable, there may be anxiety, get people acclimatized.
 - We're hearing from UBC that they're going to follow Public Health orders; they won't be more restrictive than the PHO.
 - Hope to deliver a presentation to Council on June 23 on our plans for restart.
- Keith:

- Rish (the Events Manager) and I will come to Exec next week to present.
- Conferences & Catering, Food & Beverage: working on restart plans.

Exec Goals

- Cole:
 - We've briefly chatted earlier this week.
 - The goals are due soon.
 - Need to get them to Communications by June 11 and then approve them at Exec before going to Council.
 - Also need collective goals for the Executive: usually there's not too many.
- Saad:
 - General communications would be a big one. Engagement.
- Lauren:
 - Communications management: I'd really like to see the Executive team be available through social media.
 - Sometimes the Executive seems distant.
 - We need to be reflecting our values: putting students first.
- Cole:
 - Another one would be pandemic recovery and the restart.
- Saad:
 - Affordability.
 - Electoral engagement: candidate and voter turnout.
- Lauren:
 - Equity and Inclusion: be more active with external groups.
- Eshana:
 - Relations with the Musqueam, Indigenous engagement.
- Cole:
 - Policy I-5 (on communicating with the Musqueam) is up for review.
 - Also I-17 and I-18 (on sexual violence and respectful community):
 - Feedback being asked for so we can update by September.
 - Mostly the policies are fine, but there are some procedural things that don't make sense.
- Keith:
 - Make sure to involve Praneet (HR) and SASC.
- Cole:
 - They're on the list of who to consult.
- Mary:
 - Lowering the burden on students: affordability and financial support.

Senate Degree Review

- Eshana:
 - Tragic news out of Kamloops (discovery of Indigenous children's mass grave at the site of a former residential school).
 - The principal of that school has an honorary degree from UBC.
 - A review of that degree has begun.
 - We're also asking for an audit of all honorary degrees, to rescind any for people who were involved in residential schools and genocide.
 - Working with the student Senators.

Contracts

- Sheldon:
 - Just a reminder on our contract procedures.
 - They are supposed to go to Keith for business and legal issues and to me for privacy issues.
 - And after being signed they should go to the Archives.
- Cole:
 - Code is not effective on this.
 - Should we be looking into software?
- Lorris:
 - Maybe a one-pager on contracts would help.
- Sheldon:
 - If you are asking about what goes into a contract as well as the approval process, perhaps both could be handled in a one-pager.
 - I can do one and show it to Keith.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Vishwa Mohan has started as Food & Beverage Manager.
 - Mary and I are working on revising the budget.
 - Year-End.
 - Working on reviews from my direct reports.
- Cole:
 - Air-conditioning presentation?
- Keith:
 - Michael Kingsmill and I gave Council an update about adding partial air conditioning in parts of the Nest in a sustainable way.
 - Council approved funding for an investigation into that.
 - Michael will present first to Exec and then to Council.

Updates

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Working with the student Senators on the honorary degree issue.
 - Submission to the Board of Governors about tuition revenue allocation:
 - We'd like input on making sure students are not falling through the cracks.
 - Registration is out. Courses indicate In Person: Yes or No.
 - Problem because students may be required to attend in person.
 - Need to work something out for students who cannot attend.

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Club-focused:
 - Orientations course.
 - Biweekly newsletter.
 - Audit: making sure the clubs are in accordance with Code and Bylaws.
 - Meeting UBC about clubs, involvement in Jump Start etc., in light of the new situation on COVID.
 - CampusBase is ready to go.
 - Meeting Campus Groups to discuss goals for the platform; shifting to a Canadian server.

- Cole:
 - Will there be an additional cost for that?

- Lauren:
 - No.

- *Mary's update:*
 - U-Pass subsidy, AMS fee subsidies: sending information to UBC.
 - Budget.
 - Treasurer authorizations.
 - RBC cards.
 - Canvas course working.

- *Saad's update:*
 - Scoping for SUDS:
 - Backgrounder on it to UCRU.
 - Consulting with other student unions.
 - Beginning to introduce goals to government.
 - Relationship building with Western, McMaster, SFU, ABCS.
 - Equity-based grants research.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Mitchell away, but here are his updates:

- Finalizing Safewalk accessibility shuttles.
- Volunteer hiring.
- Goal setting for Services.
- My updates:
 - Policy Advisor candidate going to final stage.
 - Met two of the three Affiliate Colleges to arrange to be part of their orientation.
 - A lot don't know what they're eligible for.
- Sheldon:
 - We do have an Affiliates Committee dealing with that. Chaired by Lauren.
- Lorris:
 - Can meet with Lauren.
- Saad:
 - I've been doing quite a bit of work with the Affiliates about U-Pass, advocacy.
 - Would like to be part of that conversation.

Council Preview

- Cole:
 - Probably not a long meeting. Estimated time: 126 minutes.
 - Ubysey presentation.
 - Saad on the GSS MoU.
 - Executive Committee motions to reinstate the \$21 athletics fee and allow Constituencies to waive all or part of their fees, and a motion from the CUS to do that.
 - Discussion on the Restart Plan.
 - Perhaps as early as July have hybrid Council meetings, with full in person by the fall.
 - Will see what people think.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 9, 2021

Attendance

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

Guests: Rish Das (Events Manager), Michael Kingsmill (Design Office)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Eshana).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 2 were approved (Eshana, Saad).

Events

- Rish:
 - New social media coordinator being hired; also a First Week coordinator.
 - Collaborating with Services for First Week program in September.
 - Used to charge hefty fee to sponsors for First Week events outside the Nest: banks, Shaw, Telus.
 - They would benefit from foot traffic and would try to sign students up.
 - This year we can't guarantee the same exposure, so are reducing the fee by 50%.
 - Extra if they want to add an item to the First Week kit.
 - Usually the kit would include a wrist band providing admission to Welcome Back Barbecue, but there's no barbecue this year.
 - So the plan this year would be that the kits will just include items from sponsors and we'll be giving them away free instead of charging for them.
 - We'll give away 500 kits, first come, first served.
 - The kits may or may not happen, depending on interest from sponsors.

- We plan to host 25 events in September: in person or virtual, the majority in person; there will be more people on campus.
- Special events for the Affiliated colleges: talking to them to try to get them more attached to the AMS.
 - Looking for events that would appeal more to them, to 25-year-olds, e.g., Comedy Nights.
- Fewer paid events: have to get people comfortable coming to events again, so will do free events or events charging no more than \$20.
- The Events Department will also be supporting upcoming Executive campaigns (e.g., Saad's).
- Working with Lauren and UBC Orientations for collegia.
- Also events for second year students.
- Last year a lot of focus on content creation for YouTube and TikTok.
- This year green light to focus on events again, but will continue the My UBC Experience series on YouTube.
- Working with Communications to merge the TikTok and YouTube accounts with AMS accounts.
- One idea to make up for the absence of Welcome Back Barbecue: Have noticed free outdoor events at Vancouver beaches and parks.
 - Maybe we can do an event like that at Spanish Banks.
 - Would need permit from the Parks Board or the RCMP.
 - Get local talent and host a free event.
 - Maybe Friday, September 10: something like Welcome Back Barbecue but without all the features.
- Cole:
 - Better to do this in the Nest Plaza still and maybe MacInnes Field.
 - If off campus, it's more inaccessible for first years, and the Public Health Office says that for big events the important thing is control.
 - Off campus less control.
 - I like the idea of a small stage and local talent, maybe a beer garden, seated, paid – but also free things, festival.
 - Could go to the beer garden and pay or stop by for free.
- Saad:
 - Does UBC charge for using the Plaza?
- Keith:
 - No.
- Saad:
 - If off campus, inaccessible for first years.
 - Maybe we could have a clubs booth.
- Rish:
 - Totally on board.
 - May be easier to book the Plaza than MacInnes. Cleaning fees.

- Cole:
 - MacInnes shouldn't be a problem.
 - The University wants to collaborate with us.
- Lauren:
 - On campus allows collaboration with clubs.
 - Also CiTR is interested in having their artists play at AMS events.
- Keith:
 - UBC will want us to cover MacInnes Field. Expensive.
- Cole:
 - Depends on what sort of event we want there.
- Rish:
 - UBC's Homecoming event is virtual this year, so if they let us use the field, it's a win-win.
- Saad:
 - There's no possibility of a real Welcome Back Barbecue?
- Cole:
 - Under Public Health guidelines there may be no restrictions by that time, but it's probably not advisable.
- Rish:
 - And it takes two or three months to sell tickets.
 - And people will need to feel comfortable.
- Cole:
 - I think the government will say a couple of thousand people will be fine in the open air as long as there is control.
 - What is the budget?
- Rish:
 - Thinking of a low amount: \$5,000.
 - If we get sponsors, maybe a little more.
- Cole:
 - Going to need more.
 - I'd be comfortable allocating \$15,000 or \$20,000.
- Rish:
 - Maybe \$20,000 expenses with \$7,500 in sponsorship revenue.
- Cole:
 - And some revenue from a beer garden.
- Rish:
 - Near the Nest, could use our food outlets.
 - If no liquor, it may be easier to get permission.
- Cole:
 - Maybe something seated, like the UBC Harvest Festival.
 - More like an outdoor restaurant.

- Content creation:
 - Good that there still will be some.
 - I liked last year's.
 - Important to keep that going.
 - Fun.

Air Conditioning Project

- Michael Kingsmill:
 - Update on the upgrade.
 - Started in June 2020.
 - Moved forward with plan to investigate air conditioning in the Nest.
 - Heat fatigue a problem and likely to get worse, given the higher temperatures expected from climate change.
 - Complaints from staff, clients, and students in past summers.
 - We have 12 air handling units, 4 with cooling coils.
 - We can add cooling coils to the other units on the second and third floors.
 - The main Atrium doesn't need this because of air flow from frequent door opening.
 - Want to maintain our LEED Platinum status.
 - Looking at adding solar panels (but that's a challenge).
 - Or other ways to handle heat exchange.
 - Engineers exploring this.
 - Budget:
 - We spent \$16,000 on feasibility studies.
 - Another \$42,000 for additional consulting.
 - We told Council a while back that the project itself will cost \$250,000; it may now cost \$300,000,
 - We're looking to have the University carry some of the costs.
 - Inflation adds 1.2% a month, so in another three years the cost could be \$107,000 more.
 - Timeline:
 - 2019: Called in the UBC Mechanical Department to look into heat complaints.
 - 2020: RFP for consultants.
 - June 2020: First consultant's report, but the recommendation (\$2.5 million) was above our budget.
 - Second 2020 report: \$1.5 million. Still too high.
 - May 2021: Revision to second report, including options from \$300,000/\$400,000 up to \$1 million.
 - The most appealing option was \$375,000, plus \$60,000 commissioning cost that we hope UBC will cover.

- Next step: More engineering consultation/costing.
- Cole:
 - What change of scope led to the saving of 80% on the cost?
- Michael:
 - The expensive scheme would have produced localized cooling; there would have been a huge cost of piping.
 - But we're no longer treating rooms independently.
 - Going to do zones instead, leading to significant savings.
- Cole:
 - So instead of having individual temperature settings in each room, now it will be the same temperature in multiple rooms.
 - What needs to go to Council, and when?
- Michael:
 - End of July will look for Council's support.
 - September will ask Council for additional funding.
 - Implementing and commissioning would then be from January to May 2022.

Exec Goals

- Cole:
 - Postponing the collective goals discussion.
- Eshana:
 - Transparency as a goal?
- Cole:
 - Think we're already pretty transparent; it's one of our values.
- *Cole's Individual Goals:*
 - Strategic Planning, Government Operations:
 - Return to campus.
 - Strategic Plan.
 - AMS Experience Survey
 - Auditorium capital project.
 - Audit of committees, governance systems:
 - Maybe give the HR Committee more to do.
 - Some committees are always doing things; others struggle to find things to do.
 - Let any committee (not just Governance) recommend Code changes to more evenly distribute the work.
 - Fee restructure referendum in March.
 - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion:
 - Expanding equity operations in the President's office.
 - First roadmaps to achieving EDI goals.

- Create EDI subcommittee.
 - Organize professional development.
- Indigenous Presence:
 - Transforming the Indigenous Committee into a Constituency.
 - Indigenous art installation.
 - Indigenous-focused campaign month.
- Community Engagement:
 - Electoral engagement.
 - AMS presence in Imagine Day, Orientations, Canvas courses, street teams.
 - More outreach.
 - Marketing and communications.
 - Cross-campus collaborative groups.
- Keith:
 - For street teams, could use the new Safewalk vehicles.
- *Eshana's goals:*
 - Remote invigilation (campaign promise):
 - Half done: Proctorio banned.
 - But UBC is looking for alternatives: want to make sure they're not inequitable.
 - Affordability:
 - Serving on UBC Affordability Task Force.
 - Working on UBC Campus Vision 2050 review.
 - Open Education Resources:
 - Working with a UBC working group to create policy to limit the cost of learning materials.
 - Introducing an Excellence award with the Provost's office.
 - Textbook Broke.
 - Indigenous Student Support:
 - UBC talking of attracting and retaining Indigenous students, but no metrics or targets.
 - Is self-identification being misused by non-Indigenous people?
 - Return to In-Person Learning:
 - Expand rapid testing.
 - Increase resources for lecture capture and encourage use of it by lecturers.
 - Equity for students who can't come back in the fall.
 - Mental Health:
 - I'd like feedback on this one.
 - Food Insecurity:
 - Love to help.
 - Stigma about the Food Bank (seen as charity):

- Run a campaign to say it's okay.
- Sexual Violence:
 - Want AMS to be part of the SC-17 review and the implementation committee.
- Saad:
 - Working with UBC's VP Academic to create a formalized process to partner with Indigenous students.
- Keith:
 - Lucia was working on mental health support with Services.
 - Lorris is also working on Food Insecurity.
 - The Food Bank was originally intended as emergency support, but now has become something more regular.
- Mitchell:
 - Food Bank stigma: Doing videos. Would be great to have you involved.
- Cole:
 - Make sure your goals state a tangible objective.
- *Saad's goals:*
 - Transparency and Accountability:
 - Quarterly updates (a campaign promise).
 - Advocacy Town Hall (at least one).
 - Housing Affordability:
 - Leading practices being pushed by the government for student housing providers.
 - Non-profit AMS co-op project.
 - Recommendations to government about funding for student housing.
 - Financial Aid:
 - Working with UCRU: removal of interest rates on federal student loans.
 - Provincial government: more in access grants; also needs-based grants for grad students.
 - Expand graduate scholarships to non-STEM disciplines.
 - International Student Support:
 - Meeting government about strengthening the tuition limit policy.
 - With UCRU working on fast-tracking permanent residency process.
 - COVID Recovery:
 - Working with stakeholders about employment.
 - Collecting data on affordability, accessibility, EDI – province-wide with other student unions.
 - Pushing the province to review the postsecondary operating grant.
 - Safety and Wellness:
 - Funding for postsecondary sexual violence prevention initiatives.

- Improvements to government's Here2Talk programs (only 8-9% of students are using it).
- Climate Action:
 - Working on strategic plan.
 - Federal advocacy.
- Transit:
 - Meeting with TransLink.
 - U-Pass exemptions.
- Indigenous Students:
 - Working with Indigenous students to understand their concerns.
 - Including Indigenous students as part of lobby weeks.
- Equity-Based Grants:
 - Partnership with SEEDS.
 - Investigating barriers.
 - Policy on grants.
- Keith:
 - Will you want amendments to the AMS budget?
- Saad:
 - Yes, talking with Mary about an increase for campaigns and research, and another for lobbying.
- Keith:
 - Housing?
- Saad:
 - Just campaign-centred.
- Sheldon:
 - SUDS?
- Saad:
 - Still being scoped.
 - Looking into holding a safe SUDS.
 - Still very much up in the air.
- Cole:
 - October?
- Saad:
 - Yes, not August (the usual time).
- *Mary's goals:*
 - Mental Health subsidy:
 - Low barrier subsidy to allow students to get financial support for mental health services: going beyond the current \$1,000 benefit (even \$1,000 is not a lot to cover sessions).
 - Mental Health Provider Network:

- Looking into creating a network of providers who will offer a discount on services.
- Canvas Learning Hub for Treasurers:
 - To orient them.
 - Adding videos.
 - A Canvas course for treasurers.
- Improve Transparency of AMS Finances:
 - Create a summary of the AMS budget.
 - Use infographs and videos so students know where fees are going.
- Fees:
 - Can any be reduced or eliminated?
 - Are they effective or not effective?
 - Have they already satisfied their purpose?
- Increase awareness of funds, subsidies, opt-ins/opt-outs:
 - Students don't always know about these or how to access them.
 - Want to work with Communications.
 - Reach out to Constituencies.
 - Collaborate with Admin on clubs.
- Maybe add one on the AMS budget and navigating out of COVID/deficit.
- Eshana:
 - Love the Mental Health subsidy.
- Mary:
 - Hopefully have the money for that.
- *Lauren's goals:*
 - Clubs:
 - All-encompassing benefit from the Clubs Benefit Fund to get clubs on their feet.
 - Video on holding Zoom events (clubs faced challenges this past year).
 - Disposable masks.
 - Videoconferencing grants.
 - Club involvement in AMS Operations:
 - Clubs in AMS projects: a more integrated approach.
 - Feedback in Clubs Newsletter.
 - CampusBase:
 - Increasing success.
 - Increasing engagement.
 - Increasing privacy.
 - Make sure to protect privacy.
 - Collaboration with Events:
 - Promotion.
 - Finding ways to create traction, overlap.

- Communications:
 - Creating an AMS COVID-19 dashboard:
 - Pandemic-related support.
 - Nest policies.
 - Redirecting to financial resources.
 - AMS accessibility initiatives:
 - Closed captions, sign language.
 - More open communication between the VP Admin and the students.
- Hatch Art Gallery:
 - Incorporating AMS art in the academic curriculum by communicating with faculty.
 - Increase traffic.
 - Exhibitions, coffee nights.
 - Creating online catalogue: getting contracts so people can view the art virtually.
- Nest:
 - Promote inclusivity.
 - Add amenities for commuters: make the Clubs Resource Centre a space for commuters (a temporary trial run).
 - More inclusive spaces:
 - Temporary prayer spaces.
 - Space for a quiet room for students who need a place to get grounded.
 - Make sure second years get the first year experience.
- Sustainability:
 - More consultation with stakeholders.
 - Interactive Sustainability Centre as space for connections.
 - Offsetters data, revolving gardens, dashboard, and waste scale by September.
 - Coordinating with tenants about sustainable practices.
- Saad:
 - In equity-based grants research, we've looked at accessibility for students with disabilities in UBC buildings: will send report.
- Keith:
 - Sylvester got a grant that it would be good to put to use.
- Lauren:
 - That will go towards the sensory room.
- *Mitchell's goals:*
 - Development of Housing Service:
 - Volunteer team recruitment.

- Opening peer support.
- Database by 2022.
- Increase engagement of all Services:
 - Increasing awareness of the Services; growing the Instagram account.
 - Marketing and outreach plan.
 - 15% increase in usage – except for Food Bank: return it to emergency use.
- Streamline training, onboarding, hiring, transitioning:
 - The Services are large, with lots of moving parts.
 - Implement a quarterly report system.
- Implement the 2019/20 Services Review:
 - Lots of data to look at.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 16, 2021

Attendance

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

Guests: Eric Lowe (AMS Marketing & Communications Manager), Reva Nambiar (AMS Communications)

Regrets: Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Lauren).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 9 were approved (Lauren, Saad).

Website Redesign

- Reva:
 - Hoping to make the website more efficient and user friendly.
 - Remembering our aim is putting students first, we want to raise awareness of the AMS, improve connections, create more engagement, and inform students about services, events, clubs, and campaigns.
 - Specific goals:
 - Improve ease of navigation
 - Make the mobile version more accessible
 - Get rid of the corporate image
 - Increase the number of return visits
 - Increase the number of monthly users
 - Decrease the bounce rate.

- Compared to four other student society websites: McGill, Western, SFU, U of T.
- All have an About feature, which we don't have, something to answer questions about the organization: who they are, mission statement.
- McGill has a calendar feature that allows easy access to check out events.
- Western's home page focuses on students and includes a clear diagram showing the student union as separate from the University. Easy to understand.
 - All their items can be reached in two clicks.
 - Not possible for us: we have more content.
- SFU has an About Us page and a COVID-19 panel.
- U of T: Like their organization, but very content heavy (like the AMS). Can get lost. Need 4 or 5 clicks.
- All have prominent social media plugs connected to the website.
- The AMS website:
 - Has large visual features: very appealing, but corporate.
 - A good Get Involved page and Contact Us page.
- Issues:
 - Very corporate energy; want to connect to students better.
 - No About Us page.
 - We don't open with a home page that answers queries and provides relevant information.
 - Hard to find what you're looking for.
 - Too many clicks to get to content; aim should be to avoid having more than three levels of navigation.
- New Information Architecture (IA) Proposal:
 - A What We Stand For page.
 - One link to take you to Support and Services
 - A Your Voice page (including Student Leadership, Governance, and Code, Bylaws, Policies)
 - Your Building (the Nest)
 - Student Life: social aspects (Events, stories, deals)
 - Student Opportunities (jobs, volunteer opportunities, elections, committee openings)
- We want to get the IA approved, finalize content, and then hand off to the developer.
- Saad:
 - What ways are there to get rid of the corporate image?
- Eric:
 - We'll have the visual language draft next week, with suggestions.
 - We're looking to use more relevant photos, better slices of student life, better colours (bright).
 - Also less corporate copy.

- Cole:
 - Maybe we can do rethinking of our pages, condense them, remove some, like the committees page, which is blocky, or the BoG-Senate one, which is just a landing page.
 - Maybe merge Council and committees into one page.
 - Make our content more accessible by having fewer sections.
- Eric:
 - A lot could be collapsed, but we don't want to throw out the baby with the bath water.
 - We still need committee pages.

Auditorium (Norm Theatre)

- Cole:
 - We're making an application to the Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) for funding for the Auditorium project in the Life Building.
 - Just wrapping up a feasibility study with UBC, a costing report.
 - The project cost will be just under \$3.3 million.
 - We're looking for a \$1.7 million grant from the CCSF.
 - But the rest is still not a price we could pay outright without emptying our Capital Projects Fund (CPF).
 - Also seeking funding from the Faculty of Arts and from a donor.
 - Would still have to pay a few hundred thousand from CPF.
 - The fate of the project depends on the CCSF application.
 - Will give a full presentation at Council.
 - Key components:
 - Accessibility and washrooms (current ones not up to code for wheelchairs).
 - Looking to introduce gender neutral washrooms (there are some elsewhere in the Life Building, but you shouldn't have to leave the theatre to get to a washroom).
 - Expanding the lobby to increase capacity; currently there's not a good large space.
 - Adding a dressing room backstage.
 - Curtains, lighting, piping, stage extension.
 - Acoustical treatment on the ceiling.
 - Asbestos risk to be evaluated.
- Michael Kingsmill:
 - We're envisioning a new life for the Auditorium.
 - We will be able to resume live productions.
 - Currently we cannot have live productions because they require all sorts of features.

- Right now we're limited to single speakers and movies.
 - This venture will allow a multi-use venue.
- Cole:
 - The purpose is to restore the status of the Auditorium as a multipurpose venue.
 - Hasn't been that for two decades at least.
 - Recently the main user has been Filmsoc for movies.
- Michael:
 - Events used to host Laffs@Lunch at noon there.
 - And we ran things like Budget 101 courses.
- Cole:
 - Want to make it more accessible for students.
 - Building better community at UBC.
 - Could expand Conferences & Catering bookings if we have a full theatre.
 - Events could book external acts.
 - The goal is a \$3.3 million project for which we pay only 10% of the costs.
 - Lots of steps still to take. Lots of things have to go right.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED SAAD:

"That the Executive recommend to Council that it approve in principle the continuation of work on the AMS Auditorium Renovation Project."

... Carried

Exec Goals

- Cole:
 - Any changes from last time?
- There were no changes from members of the Executive for their individual goals.
- Cole:
 - Collective Goals:
 - Prioritizing Communication and Community Engagement (new brand guidelines; electoral engagement).
 - Pandemic Recovery: Restart Plan.
 - EDI: creating guidelines for consultation with marginalized communities.
 - Executive policy reviews: I-5 (communication with the Musqueam), I-13 (media policy), I-17 (sexual violence), I-18 (respectful community).
- Saad:
 - EDI may overlap with my individual goals.
- Cole:
 - That's fine.
 - The collective goals are more high level.

Restart Plan

- Cole:
 - Philosophy:
 - Student safety is the top priority.
 - Follow provincial and federal health directions.
 - Consider the diverse accessibility and other needs of our members.
- Saad:
 - How will we address such things as business problems, clubs, student services, the student experience?
- Keith:
 - Food & Beverage, Conferences & Catering, and SASC have done their plans.
 - Building Operations, HR, and Events are working on theirs.
- Cole:
 - Big question: HR approach to the return to the office.
 - As soon as next month, employees will be back in the workplace without masks – but how?
- Keith:
 - Working on that.
- Saad:
 - Another issue is Mental Health: where students can go to talk about uncertainty.
- Lauren:
 - Students will have different comfort levels.
 - Need a balance in guiding back to normal life.
 - Students will move at different paces.
- Keith:
 - What will happen to Policy I-7A, the mask policy?
- Cole:
 - For now we'll wait and see.
 - Most likely rescinded in September.
 - July and August will be a transition phase.
- Lauren:
 - Currently, the punishment for violating the policy is expulsion from the Nest, which made sense for the COVID-heavy time at the beginning of the pandemic.
 - But it's different now.
- Lorris:
 - If we're planning to reopen study rooms, will we provide hand sanitizers and wipes?
- Cole:
 - Good question.
 - Might not need as much cleaning.
 - Might not be a bad idea to get more hand sanitizer stations.

- Last week I met with deputy health officers at the Ministry of Education, and I brought up the fact that they had issued nothing about student activities, so they got me to write it.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Draft finances getting ready.
 - Auditors coming next week.
 - Meeting my direct reports about their reviews.
 - Submission to Council (with Mary): financial report.
- Saad:
 - Any movement on the Policy Advisor?
- Lorris:
 - Waiting to hear.

Executive Updates

- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget delayed: need a Code suspension.
 - Q4 done and already went to Council.
 - Courses going well.
- *Lauren's update:*
 - Sensory Room.
 - Clubs:
 - Biweekly newsletter went out yesterday.
 - They're asking about bookings.
 - Discussing welcoming them back to the building.
 - Met with SEEDS and the Climate Hub about sustainability priorities.
 - Hatch Art Galley Director still to be hired.
- *Saad's update:*
 - Meeting the federal Minister of Employment next week, along with UCRU, about student employment.
 - Meeting our MLA (and BC Attorney-General) David Eby about goals.
 - Climate Action Plan.
 - BC budget consultation submission.
 - Sheldon and I are presenting to the Special Committee to Review PIPA about the situation of our Affiliate members in relation to privacy laws that restrict us from receiving information about them.
 - Working with the Affiliates and David Eby on the postgraduate work permit issue (eligibility of Affiliate students).

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Delay in arrival of Safewalk vehicles because of delay in plexiglass dividers.
 - We can wait, get them without dividers, or get them and add dividers later.
 - May not need them, since we won't be using them till September.
 - Peer Support team leads.
- Cole:
 - I can confidently say we won't need plexiglass in September.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 23, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External, arrived 12:24), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager, arrived 12:14), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Lauren, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 16 were approved (Lauren, Eshana).

Restart Plan

- Cole:
 - Going to speak to Council about it.
 - We've been hearing from the Public Health Office, but it may be new to Councillors.
- Keith:
 - Mask wearing? Recommended but not mandatory?
- Cole:
 - By September it will simply be personal choice: UBC and the government won't even be recommending it.
 - In July it will be recommended but not mandatory.
- Lauren:
 - You're saying in the plan that there will be access to bookings in the Nest as of August, but we were planning to start as soon as June 28.
- Cole:
 - We can alter that.

[Mitchell arrives.]

Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee [and see Appendix]

- Cole:
 - The E+I Subcommittee will report to the Executive and be composed of:
 - The Equity and Inclusion Lead, who shall be the Chair;
 - One (1) Executive appointed by the Executive Committee, who shall be the Vice-Chair;
 - Three (3) non-Executive Council members;
 - Two (2) students at-large;
 - Two (2) representatives appointed by the AMS Resource Groups;
 - Two (2) representatives appointed by the Equity and Inclusion Lead from marginalized student groups;
 - The Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, who shall be non-voting;
 - The AMS Human Resources Manager, who shall be non-voting; and
 - One (1) representative from UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office, who shall be non-voting.

MOVED COLE, SECONDED LAUREN:

"That the E&I Subcommittee be created."

... Carried

- Cole:
 - Now we need to appoint someone.
 - I know Saad is interested.
- Lauren:
 - If Saad can't do it, I will volunteer.

Gallery Upgrades

- Cole:
 - Was talking to Michael Kingsmill about this.
 - New furniture etc.
- Keith:
 - Will have to check with Michael.
 - The only thing planned so far is roofing the patio.
- Cole:
 - More than happy to support a project like that.
 - It would be well received by the student community.

[Saad arrived.]

Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee Appointment

- Saad:
 - If Lauren wants it ...
- Lauren:
 - May make more sense to be Saad since he's doing large scope equity plans.
- *It was agreed to appoint Saad.*

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Policy Advisor candidate declined our offer.
 - Working on test kitchen.
 - Repairs to Great Hall. Painting.
 - Working on Atrium: varnishing, refinishing steps.
 - D&H Auditors here today.
 - Working with Mary on the budget. Lots of questions.
- Saad:
 - Will we be doing anything to show appreciation for Cathy Dryden, who's been cleaning the building since COVID?
- Keith:
 - Sent out a general email thanking her.
 - Could do a physical appreciation too.
- Lorris:
 - Maybe something at the next All-Staff Meeting.
- Lauren:
 - My AVP Ben had a thank you card circulating.

Executive Updates

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Sent emails to clubs about applying to take part in the JumpStart orientation.
 - Revolving Gardens are now fully repaired and operational.
 - Exploring how to welcome clubs back to the Nest.
 - They will be able to book space again as of June 28.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Return to Campus survey.
 - Advocating that UBC mandate vaccines in student residences.
 - Also advocated for an expansion of rapid testing on campus, and that has been confirmed.
 - Also advocating for more vaccine clinics on campus.
- Keith:
 - Will rapid testing be only for UBC students? Or for Nest workers?

- Eshana:
 - I think it should be open to all.
 - The website says it's for all who work or live at UBC.

- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget: bringing to Exec Com next week. Also to the Advisory Board.
 - Troubleshooting Constituency finance issues.
 - WUSC transition.
 - Health & Dental meeting.
 - Club financial issues.

- *Saad's update:*
 - UCRU:
 - Introductions to the federal government.
 - Discussing student employment and interest rates.
 - Indigenous advocacy.
 - Working with UBC on U-Pass backlog.
 - Meeting provincial officials on budget submission: housing.
 - Working with SASC about sexual violence prevention.

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Peer Support: Education outreach.
 - Getting UBC's CSIC to do training.
 - Purchasing new system to streamline purchases and track spending.
 - Received goals and monthly report from staff.
 - Acadia Food Health Program.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Now that the Policy Advisor has declined our offer, we are looking at three more candidates: interviews.
 - Updating budget.
 - Starting to talk about orientation events.
 - Instagram account changed.
 - SASC hired two new workers.

- Keith:
 - How much did SASC receive in donations?

- Lorris:
 - SASC raised \$4,000 in May.
 - We're keeping the donation button on the website a while so people can still donate.

Council Preview

- Cole:
 - Not as short as last time. Maybe three hours.
 - Two students at large will be speaking.
 - Three items being pulled from the Consent Agenda.
 - Several Presentations, which will take up the bulk of the meeting.
 - Motion from KUS about summer elections.
 - Budget delay motion.
 - Discussion Period topic: requiring vaccines in residences.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.

APPENDIX**EQUITY AND INCLUSION
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Terms of Reference

1. PURPOSE

The AMS is committed to the development of intersectional, diverse and inclusive practices. The Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee (hereafter referred to as the “E-I Subcommittee”) is responsible for ensuring that the AMS is held accountable and is proactive with maintaining and achieving the goals in the AMS Equity Plan. To ensure success, the E-I Subcommittee shall welcome voices from various equitable communities and key members within the UBC community.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The E-I Subcommittee shall be comprised of:

- A. The Equity and Inclusion Lead, who shall be the Chair
- B. One (1) Executive appointed by the Executive Committee, who shall be the Vice-Chair;
- C. Three (3) non-Executive Council members;
- D. Two (2) students at-large;
- E. Two (2) representatives appointed by the AMS Resource Groups;
- F. Two (2) representatives appointed by the Equity and Inclusion Lead from HPS marginalized student groups;
- G. The Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, who shall be non-voting;
- H. The AMS Human Resources Manager, who shall be non-voting; and
- I. One (1) representative from UBC’s Equity and Inclusion Office, who shall be non-voting.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The E-I Subcommittee shall:

- A. Provide guidance and oversight to the development and progress of the AMS’s Equity Plan;
- B. Provide feedback on and assist in the development of annual goals relating to the AMS Equity Plan.
- C. Provide and recommend updates and improvements on to the AMS’s Equity Plan;

- D. Determine the operational functionalities and actions necessary to reach the long-term goals, short-term goals, and action items outlined in the Equity Plan.
- E. Make recommendations to certain portfolios and departments of the AMS, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to take actions items relating to Equity + Inclusion; and
- F. Disseminate information and content from the Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee's meetings to representative bodies and other key members represented and discussed.

4. PROCEDURES

The procedures regarding the E+I Subcommittee's meetings are the following:

- A. The E+I Subcommittee shall meet at least once a month;
- B. The E+I Subcommittee shall discuss and approve annual goals for the AMS Equity Plan no later than June 30th, and submit them to the Executive Committee for approval.
- C. The E+I Subcommittee shall review the progress made on the AMS Equity Plan annual goals throughout the year, and approve a final report to AMS Council no later than April of each year.
- D. The E+I Subcommittee may submit motions to the Executive Committee for approval which may then be forwarded on to AMS Council for approval or for information.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 30, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President, left at 1:25), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 12:15), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager, arrived 12:14), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Rish Das (Events Manager), Eric Lowe (Communications Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Lauren).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 23 were approved (Saad, Lauren).

Budget

- Mary:
 - The Finance Committee has been talking about cuts in small items.
 - Questions about cutting advertising and promotion; also money for volunteer appreciation.
 - Can everyone cut their budgets?
- Saad:
 - These are cuts of \$200-\$300.
 - What is Finance Committee hoping to get out of cuts like that?
 - What's the goal?
- Mary:
 - It's just something they'd like to see.
- Saad:
 - The Advisory Board told us that little budget cuts are not the thing to focus on.

- Mary:
 - I raised that, but others on the Finance Committee differed.
- Lauren:
 - A couple of hundred dollars won't affect the overall budget, but it can make a big difference to individual portfolios; it can affect a project.
- Cole:
 - What areas does Finance Committee want to cut?
- Mary:
 - Staff appreciation, advertising and promotion, Student Council.
 - I've told them a lot of these don't amount to much.
 - They questioned the money for team building and said it would be better put into salaries.

[Eshana arrives.]

- Cole:
 - It's great to talk of paying people more, but it's not necessarily coming.
 - Appreciation is good, fun, and not a lot of money: \$200 per person per year.
 - Doesn't make sense to be nit-picking.
 - It should be items of at least \$5,000 that we look at.
- Keith:
 - I agree with Cole.
 - I'm in favour of paying people more, but it can't happen quickly; it's not imminent.
- Lorris:
 - Was anything in Services mentioned?
- Mary:
 - I don't think there were comments about Services, except to ask, Are they tracking their finances?
- Lorris:
 - Good question. Mitchell has created a tracking process for us, so we've been more diligent in tracking this year.
- Mary:
 - They don't want you to underspend.
- Saad:
 - Our student staff work very hard, so the notion of cutting appreciation is completely wrong.
- Lauren:
 - Some student staff work overtime, and there's emotional labour and stress.
 - I'm in favour of staff appreciation.
- Cole:
 - Even if you wiped out all appreciation, it wouldn't increase wages that much.

- It would be about \$10,000 divided among 50 people.
- Mary:
 - Elections and Referenda were also discussed.
 - No problem in Events because events can produce revenue and a better student experience.
 - Also no problem in Services.
- Rish:
 - Last year was a tough year in Events.
 - We were asked to cut down further and further.
 - There are definitely areas where we could spend more money.
 - Would you like me to create a new budget?
- Mary:
 - Yes, I can take a look.
- Saad:
 - Advertising and promotion: Finance Committee is looking in the wrong place.
 - We have a communication problem.
 - Cutting there would be contradictory to our aims.
 - There was some under-spending in past years, but that means making sure the spending is done.
 - These two areas are ones we're trying to fix.
- Mary:
 - There was a question about the \$20,000 for branding.
- Cole:
 - Last year we spent \$30,000 for advertising, and that included branding.
 - This year it's \$20,000 for advertising, promotion, and headshots.
- Keith:
 - Finance Committee is thinking we do all our advertising through Communications.
 - But that's not what we do: each area figures out what it needs.
 - We shouldn't reduce it to zero and put it all into Communications.
- Mary:
 - Finance Committee didn't realize all that goes on.
 - We do need spending.
 - Yes, there has been under-spending.
- Saad:
 - Maybe Exec and Fincom need to meet jointly.
- Sheldon:
 - There is provision for joint meetings in Code.
- Mary:
 - Execs can just come and talk to Fincom.
 - The budget is to go to the July 21 Council meeting, so it has to be done by July 16.

Events Renaming

- Rish:
 - This was brought up last year because we did a lot of things last year that were not events: digital media, content creation.
 - I'm not fully supportive; we have an established brand
 - But if we are doing it, we should do it soon, before Jump Start and to get new swag items.
- Lauren:
 - Is changing the name necessary?
 - Students miss familiarity, and AMS Events plays a role in that.
- Saad:
 - We could change the name, but name recognition is important.
 - Everyone knows AMS Events.
- Cole:
 - If we don't change, how are we branding things that aren't events?
 - It seems weird to have videos coming out on the Events platform.
 - But if we don't change, maybe we can put the AMS brand on things, bring Events in line with AMS fonts and colours.
- Eric:
 - I'm the one who suggested the change because Events is doing some things now that are not really events.
 - As to brand recognition, UBC has a cycle:
 - If we change the name now, first years won't know there's been a change; they won't have an emotional connection to the brand.
 - Second years are also not that connected.
 - Recognition disappears.
- Cole:
 - I agree with Eric.
 - We overvalue the name.
 - Most people don't care about the organization behind the event; they just care about the event: Pit Night etc.
- Sheldon:
 - Historically, we've tended to hold onto names or if we changed them, we changed back.
 - We tried changing Safewalk to SafeTeam, but quickly returned to Safewalk.
 - Consultants wanted us to change Pie R Squared to Boom!Pizza, but we stuck to Pie R.
- Eshana:
 - I don't think it will upset people if we change the name.
 - I like AMS Social.

- Lauren:
 - Whether we change the name or not, we could set things up so it's more like a collaboration.
- Cole:
 - There's a problem that we're trying to solve.
 - There's a sense of AMS and AMS Events being different, separate.
 - It's not a collaboration between the AMS and AMS Events.
 - AMS Events is just one platform the AMS presents information through.
 - That's why a new name could be valuable.
- Saad:
 - Maybe a name change could be a good idea.
 - AMS Social.
- Rish:
 - We could look at other student unions.
 - When AMS Events shifts away from the AMS brand, that's because I'm looking at what others on campus are doing: we have to do something better to attract students.
 - Even if we change the name, we still have to compete; there's still an issue.
 - We can't stick completely to the brand.
- Cole:
 - Another option: Instead of changing the AMS Events brand, if we're still seeing a value to promoting events, is there room to create a parent brand: AMS Social.
 - AMS Events would still do actual events.
 - Or is there a way to create a brand that incorporates AMS but allows difference.
 - AMS Events would not necessarily be the same as the AMS brand, but it would still be seen as AMS.
 - Look at UBC: UBC Life doesn't follow UBC core guidelines strictly, but you can still tell that it's UBC.
- Eric:
 - I agree we have to compete, but there are lots of ways to do that.
 - Events has lots of Instagram followers because of great content.
 - We don't want to change that, just allow them to broaden their scope.
- Sheldon:
 - Historically, Events has changed its name before.
 - It originally was called Programs, then changed to Events 20 years ago.
- Cole:
 - No unanimous direction, but people seem partial to AMS Social.
 - Let Rish and Eric work with Keith on this.
 - Brainstorm names.

Communications

- Eric:
 - “UBC for Introverts.”
 - For some students loneliness and isolation are an issue.
 - How do we help students who aren’t as socially outgoing?
 - Students ask, How do I get out more and connect instead of just going to class and watching Netflix?
 - We offer clubs; there’s intramurals. But for some that’s not what they want.
 - We have a diverse population.
 - Some are happy on their own, not looking for how to make friends, but still looking to expand their social circle.
 - One suggestion is to use Social Media for solo events (scavenger hunts, going to museums) and group activities: low-key clubs, volunteer opportunities, small sports (not big sports).
 - Another is a Pen Pal Program:
 - Old-fashioned letter writing.
 - Students would write to each other, connect with others who share their interests.
 - They could drop off their letters.
 - They’d fill out a form listing their interests.
- Saad:
 - We’d have to monitor the penpal program for safety etc. There could be risk.
- Eric:
 - We wouldn’t read the letters; can’t control what they say.
- Cole:
 - When they sign up, we could mitigate risk by saying, Here are resources to turn to if someone writes something inappropriate to you.
- Eric:
 - We can do that.

[Cole leaves. Eshana took the chair.]

Managing Director’s Update

- Keith:
 - Looking to see what to call the Test Kitchen.
 - Signage.
 - Best Buy location.
 - New lease potential.
 - Booking policy for Constituencies.

- Lauren: That was discussed at Operations Committee, but there's been no final decision.
 - In-person reviews with direct reports.
 - Collective bargaining discussions.
 - New events for the fall: Rish will update Council. A mini Welcome Back Barbecue.
 - Audit.
- Saad:
 - Policy Advisor?
- Lorris:
 - Five potential candidates. Interviews.
- Saad:
 - Will the auditors be speaking to us?
- Keith:
 - No, unless you have any concerns: you can bring those up.
 - They will speak to Mary.
- Mitchell:
 - Do they even need to be recommended for the fully vaccinated?
- Keith:
 - For privacy reasons, we're not making distinctions between those who are vaccinated and those who are not.
 - One rule for everyone.

Executive Updates

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Funding for eHub from e@UBC: MoU for \$6,000.
 - Receiving two new vehicles next Wednesday for Safewalk. With partitions.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget.
 - Repayments for clubs.
 - Club budgets.
 - Health and Dental reports.
- *Saad's update:*
 - Working with Sheldon and Lauren on an MoU with Regent College to get student lists.
 - Post-graduate permits for students at Affiliate colleges.
 - Climate Action Strategic Plan.
 - Utile housing project:
 - Requesting money from BC Housing for seed funding.

- BC budget consultation submission. Working on:
 - Funding for Indigenous language programs.
 - Mental health program improvements.
 - Sexual violence prevention recommendations.
- Keith:
 - For that signage project for the Nest, we may want a Musqueam name.
 - Need to discuss with the Indigenous Committee.
- Saad:
 - Have to work with the Musqueam on that.
- *Lauren's update:*
 - COVID-19 dashboard research done. Up on the website this afternoon.
 - Sensory Room.
 - Talking with UBC about prayer space.
 - 50 clubs have applied for Jump Start.
 - CampusBase: Transferring data to a Canadian server: all data will be in Canada.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Still pushing for mandating vaccines in student residences.
 - Cole and I met Santa Ono this morning about messaging about the return to campus.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 7, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration, left at 1 pm), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guest: Michael Kingsmill (Design Office)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 30 were sent to a later email vote.

Get Thrifty

- Cole:
 - Looking at solutions for Get Thrifty.
 - Trying to accommodate the work they want to do (expanding their space) so they don't have to wait for the Auditorium project.
- Michael Kingsmill presented details on the two projects.
- It was agreed that Cole and Michael would get in touch with Get Thrifty to discuss next steps.

[Lauren left.]

Masks

- Cole:
 - UBC wants us to change our policy to say masks are recommended instead of required.

- This would be in line with other UBC buildings and the BC Public Health Office (PHO).
 - The AMS Health & Safety Committee reports that it's hard to get people to comply with the mask requirement, given the current situation (the relaxing of restrictions by the government).
 - Policy I-7A would not be enforced.
- Saad:
 - One of four people in the Nest are not wearing masks.
 - It's increasingly hard to enforce a mask requirement.
 - It's important to be on the same page as the University.
 - We have to recognize that students have different comfort levels.
- Cole:
 - Should we have a mask requirement that's not enforced?
 - Or should we shift to masks being recommended, something we don't have to enforce?
- Eshana:
 - Last year we made the call to mandate masks before the PHO did.
 - Some students are still worried that we're moving too fast.
 - There is value to a mask mandate over the summer.
- Cole:
 - The problem is enforcement.
- Saad:
 - We can't ask for proof of vaccination, and there's low staff capacity for enforcement.
- Eshana:
 - Why can't we tell people to wear a mask?
- Cole:
 - That's our current rule.
 - We just don't have the people to enforce it.
 - It's not fair to have people go around the Nest and ask people to wear masks.
 - I'm more than happy to keep the mask mandate for the summer, but enforcement is the issue.
 - More and more people coming from other buildings will just think this is UBC: no masks.
 - Clubs are confused. Other buildings don't require a mask. The Nest does.
- Saad:
 - In the past it was the law.
 - Now we no longer have the authority to enforce.
- Mitchell:
 - Could keep the mandate, just not do more to enforce it.

- Cole:
 - What's the point of having a mask requirement if we don't enforce it?
- Eshana:
 - Still some enforcement going on.
- Mitchell:
 - It doesn't have to be active.
 - Could just be posters and community-based.
- Eshana:
 - Can we fix the staffing issue?
- Saad:
 - There's already a posting for an assistant building manager.
- Eshana:
 - Is there any volunteer interest?
- Cole:
 - It would take 2-3 weeks to arrange that.
 - And there will be less mask-wearing now that more people are vaccinated.
- Mitchell:
 - Let it be a slow change, gradual.
- Cole:
 - Passive enforcement is where we've been anyway.
- Sheldon:
 - Council could repeal the policy at the July 21 Council meeting.
- Saad:
 - Get Council feedback on it.
- Cole:
 - Already spoke about it when we laid out the Restart Plan.
- Eshana:
 - Or just keep it through the summer.
- Cole:
 - I think we'll just keep things the way they are.

Executive Updates

- *Saad's update:*
 - Sheldon, Lauren, and I met with Regent College, and I will be drafting an MoU on securing student lists on a regular basis, like the MoU with UBC.
 - Want to make sure Regent students get the information they need.
 - Once we do have a draft, we'll probably do a legal review.
- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Received the two new vehicles for Safewalk.
 - Very exciting.

- Outfitting them with AMS branding.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - Have done three initial interviews for Policy Advisor. Two more to go.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Mandating vaccines: shifting to go to extra measures in general.
 - Already more than 3,900 responses to the Return to Campus survey.
 - Will probably present something to Council.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget.
 - U-Pass subsidy.
 - Fee subsidies.
 - Opt-out/opt-in forms.
 - Troubleshooting club and Constituency financial issues.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 21, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External, arrived 12:28), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of July 7 were approved (Eshana, Lauren).

Campus Light Box

- Cole:
 - They are a student-run service platform outlining mental health options for students.
 - They've approached us; want to partner with us.
 - They're looking for a financial partner and also want their platform to have continuity after they graduate.
 - I told them the idea is intriguing; could be good for us, to supplement our mental health resources.
 - They sent a proposal with two options.
 - I'm inclined to send it to Mitchell and Lorris, who can then come back to us.
 - It would probably cost us \$15-25,000 a year; not a small sum.
 - I'd probably look for something more from them.
- Mitchell
 - I did chat with the Peer Support Team, and their thought was that it would stretch the coordinator too thin.
 - Peer Support already uses Light Box as a resource.

- Keith:
 - What do we get for the \$15-25,000?
- Cole:
 - I see it as an opportunity not to take it over but to make it part of our Services offering.
 - We get to put our logo on it; it becomes part of the AMS.
 - We would provide the service in collaboration with Campus Light Box.
 - We would not take over the operational side.
- Mitchell:
 - The majority of the concern was about the operational side.
- Cole:
 - Something to discuss with them.

Mask Policy

- Cole:
 - Talking about it at Council tonight.
 - Already discussed it with the Advisory Board, who said it makes sense to say masks are recommended (rather than required), but ramp up communications.
 - If Council wants to keep the mask requirement (under Policy I-7A), fine, but it won't be actively enforced.
- Eshana:
 - I think it's great that we're taking it to Council.

[Saad arrived.]

Rapid Testing

- Cole:
 - UBC approached us.
 - They want rapid testing in the Nest, which is great.
 - We're working with them to book space.
 - The question is how much to charge them: can we reduce the price if they think it's steep?
- Keith:
 - What they want to book is one of our most popular rooms for September through December.
 - That will mean a hefty price tag.
 - Clubs won't be able to book that room.
 - Or can they clear out in the evening and allow clubs to use the room in the evening?
- Saad:
 - Definitely think we should make an effort to reduce the price.

- This is about students getting tested.
- Lauren:
 - There were different room options.
 - This is the one UBC suggested, and it seems best to us too.
 - It has access points, but is private.
 - If we used the Atrium, that would not be good for privacy, and seeing people getting tested might have been offputting.
 - There are only four events booked in that room now, and we're looking to move those events, or perhaps tear down for the four times.
 - Probably couldn't expect them to leave every evening, and maybe they can't even do that for the four events.
 - It's important to accommodate this.

Publishing the Budget

- Keith:
 - We had a privacy concern from a staff member because the comments to the AMS budget were published last year along with the budget and revealed the staff member's salary.
 - The comments have been taken down now.
 - But there's a larger issue: other organizations don't publish their full budget, just a summary.
 - The bylaws require us to publish the budget, but I think we're still in conformity by publishing a summary.
 - We don't want to reduce transparency to members, but we don't want to publish salary lines.
- Eshana:
 - Not even Executive salaries?
- Mitchell:
 - It would be good to publish the Executives' salary: students want to know.
- Cole:
 - They are published in the audit, but we could add a note.
- Sheldon:
 - The bylaws say to publish the budget, but as the Privacy Officer I want us to protect personal information.
- Keith:
 - Publishing the summary and leaving out the salaries would still comply with the bylaw.
 - All we're not showing is the detail.
- Cole:
 - The Advisory Board said don't display personal information.
 - But Executives are different.

- Eshana:
 - I'm not opposed to keeping out the permanent staff's salaries.
 - But the Executive are elected; what they make should be transparent.
- Cole:
 - I'll send the summary template to Mary and Keith.

Committee Scheduling

- Cole:
 - We'd like to recommend a Code change to restrict committee meeting times.
 - Code should say that regularly scheduled meetings cannot occur from 5 pm Friday through 9 am Monday or on statutory holidays.
 - Some committees have scheduled meetings for 8 pm Friday.
 - That's not good, especially for staff attending.
- Sheldon:
 - What about evenings during the week?
- Cole:
 - Governance last year had to meet Thursday evenings.
 - That's not that bad.
 - It's more about respecting people's weekends.
 - If permanent staff have to work after regular hours, they can claim flextime.
- Saad:
 - There should be a cap on weekday evenings.
- Cole:
 - I've never known committees to go past 9 pm (meeting ending at 9, starting at 8).
- Lauren:
 - Might be nice to have something in writing saying a committee meeting can't start later than 8 pm.
 - Some unprecedented meeting times this year.
- Cole:
 - I don't think it's that bad to have an 8 pm meeting on a Tuesday.
 - What is inappropriate is infringing on weekends and holidays.
 - Executives and permanent staff are salaried and are always on the clock.
- Eshana:
 - It's not unreasonable to meet on weekday evenings.
 - Some Councillors might find it unethical.
- Cole:
 - Maybe loop the Governance Committee in, and they can raise concerns with us if they have any.
- *Sheldon to draft a Code change.*

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Starting to bring staff back full-time; people are getting back to a five-day week.
 - Simply Voting contract probably to next Council.
 - Testing hybrid Council meeting software.
 - Events will be part of UBC's Jump Start orientation, which is great. Also with the Affiliated colleges.
 - Rish (the Events Manager) will tell Council about First Week.
 - The information touchscreen on the main floor, which is not being used, will be moved to outside the Main Office on the third floor.
 - The "I" downstairs will become an online ordering system.
 - Thinking of filling the Best Buy location opposite the Porch with a mini-Arcade with retro video games.
 - Talking to the Operations Committee about changing the booking policy to make it mandatory for Constituencies to book here.
- Saad:
 - Would it make more sense to have an Arcade in the Gallery?
- Keith:
 - The plan is to see if students will be interested in those games, and if so, relocate to the back area of the Gallery.
- Cole:
 - I'm wondering what other things we might do.
- Sheldon:
 - We used to have a huge Arcade; it was a major revenue generator.
 - But the Internet killed it.
- Lorris:
 - Maybe use the space for lockers?
- Keith:
 - An Amazon drop-off place.

Executive Updates

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Pride cookie selling well.
 - Working on setting up Clubs Days: surveying the clubs about it. Making sure students feel comfortable.
 - Interactive Sustainability Centre moving along, and Dashboard coming soon.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget to Council tonight.
 - Opt-in, opt-out, subsidies closed.
 - U-Pass subsidy till end of July.

- Helping Constituencies with purchases.
- Looking at RBC avion card.
- Also looking at expense management program for credit cards.

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Applied for Work-Learn positions for Services staff.
 - Hiring Assistant Student Services Manager.
 - New jackets and ID cards for Safewalk, expecting more in person interactions.
 - Will make them more recognizable.
 - Discussing one-time funding grant between eHub and e@UBC.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Policy Advisor: Four interviews scheduled.
 - SASC planning for First Week welcome back event and talking to the Affiliates too.
 - May use the shuttles in First Week.

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Received 7,933 responses to the survey on the Return to Campus. Four times the number responding to the Academic Experience Survey.
 - Good data for advocacy.
 - Still working on trying to get vaccinations mandated in residences:
 - Planning to bring a letter on this to Council.
 - Also gauging if we can have UBC mandate masks in large lecture halls.

- *Saad's update:*
 - BC budget consultation soon: Talking with ABCS, UVic student society, and a couple of other stakeholders about our recommendations:
 - Sexual violence policies
 - Indigenous student support
 - Mental health
 - Working with UCRU on the federal budget.
 - Working with McMaster and Western on a Get Out the Vote campaign for a potential federal election.
 - Working with Regent College on an MoU about gathering information about their students while respecting their privacy.

- Keith:
 - Regent wants issues resolved with Simply Voting.

- Saad:
 - Yes, but not just for voting; this is to get lists of students for our newsletter.

- Also going to approach other Affiliates to make sure we have contracts in place to get lists from them all.

Council tonight

- Cole:
 - Should be about three hours, maybe more because of technical issues.
 - Agenda:
 - Delaying Lauren's report till the 4th.
 - Code changes about fees in Code and removing the student at large from Steering Committee.
 - Budget presentation: the Crown jewel of the night.
 - Mitchell to present on Services strategy.
 - Rish to present on First Week.
 - Michael Kingsmill doing a consultation on the air conditioning project.
 - From Governance, another Code change about remote attendance.
 - Discussion about Policy I-7A and mask requirements.
 - Letter from Eshana about masks and vaccines.
- Lauren:
 - How many will be attending in person?
- Cole:
 - Don't know yet.
 - Probably 10-15 in the room. We'll see.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 28, 2021

Attendance

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

Regrets: Cole Evans (President), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm and took place by videoconference, with Saad in the chair.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Mary, Eshana).

Minutes

- The minutes of July 21 were approved (Mary, Eshana).

Code change

- Change to abolish weekend meetings of committees.
- Lauren:
 - This is a really good thing for work-life balance for staff and Executives.
- Saad:
 - Next step would be to eliminate meetings on weekday evenings or maybe set an 8 pm limit (or earlier or later).

MOVED LAUREN, SECONDED ESHANA:

“That the Executive Committee recommend that Council approve the Code change entitled Code Changes 2021: Committee Meeting Times.”

... Carried

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Away next week.
 - Supply chain issues because of the wildfires have led to rising prices.

- Hiring for the fall slower than usual because not everyone is here yet.
- Lease for the old Merit Travel space.
- Touch screen on the third floor will be for FAQ's so students can access information when the office is closed.
- Audit still underway; should be done by mid to late August.

Executive Updates

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Away for two weeks.
 - Plans for September:
 - In person orientations with Affiliates.
 - Trying to arrange with Jump Start and Imagine Day.
 - If that doesn't work, we will be with Events.
 - Policy Advisor: Three interviews done; one more to go.
 - Reviewing orientation course material.
 - Working on course for Services staff (for financial issues).
- *Saad's update:*
 - Working on U-Pass communication for the fall:
 - Continuing the same U-Pass exemptions and subsidies.
 - Federal pre-budget submission:
 - Removing the interest on student loans.
 - Student grants.
 - Provincial budget submission. Recommending:
 - Funding for Indigenous language programs.
 - Financial support for mental health.
 - Working on Get Out the Vote campaign with Western and McMaster.
- *Lauren's update:*
 - Gearing up: next month will be crazy.
 - Pride cookies doing well at Blue Chip. Would love to do more campaigns like that.
 - Clubs Days will be September 28 to October 1 in the Atrium, outdoors, and virtually.
 - Surveying to gauge comfort levels.
 - Applications for booth opening soon.
 - Wrapping up club audit.
 - New club applications open.
 - Interactive Sustainability Centre opening in September.
 - Sensory Room: to Council.
 - Two rooms reserved for prayer spaces in the Nest:
 - Talking to UBC about guidelines/expectations.

- Thingery budget to Council soon.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Summary report from the survey (on return to campus).
 - Been doing media interviews about the Return to Campus letter (about mandating vaccinations in residences and masking in lecture halls).
 - We did receive a response to our letter, and now we will respond back.
 - We're not giving up yet.
- Lauren:
 - My mother heard you on the radio.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget passed.
 - Treasurer procedures.
 - Health & Dental Committee is looking at increasing subsidies.
 - U-Pass subsidies extended until August 6.
 - Helping Constituencies.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 4, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, left 1 pm), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:43 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of July 28 were approved (Saad, Lauren).

COVID-19 Advocacy

- Eshana:
 - Our letters were sent, a campaign was created.
 - We're expressing our frustration with the University over our asks (re masks and vaccinations).
 - The Faculty have also been vocal, reiterating our concerns.
 - We've started a movement.
 - The response we received from Ainsley Carry (the VP Students) was inadequate.
 - We responded to that.
 - Now Santa Ono (UBC President) has responded.
 - Still not adequate.
 - Going to keep pushing.
 - Hoping for an open Board of Governors meeting in the next two weeks that can take some action.
 - We've spoken to Governors, the Faculty Association, and the TA union.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Advocacy on return to campus.
 - Compiling reports.
 - Pushing for recorded lectures.

[Eshana leaves.]

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Chop Value furniture arrived (for the Interactive Sustainability Centre).
 - Disposing of the old red chairs.
 - Club audit done: sending over strikes to the Operations Committee.
 - Applications for Clubs Days this week.
 - Helping UBC plan their Main Event:
 - Virtual fair.
 - CampusBase.
 - Planning communications for CampusBase about the platform: messaging, video, tutorials.
 - Clubs & Societies Working Group has been approving new clubs.
 - Office and locker allocations done: clubs notified.
 - Sensory Room consultation going strong.
 - Events Committee meeting.
 - Raised \$150 with the Pride cookie.
 - Working on story board for the Dashboard.
- Cole:
 - Murals?
- Lauren:
 - Some issues with the files submitted from the artists.
 - Have to be reworked so they can be printed.
 - Going to cost a couple of hundred dollars.
 - But other costs (preparing the walls) have been lower than budgeted.
 - Resizing, then printing.
 - Later than hoped.
- Cole:
 - Should announce the murals in the newsletter or on social.
- Lauren:
 - They're quite nice.
 - Checking with the artists to make sure they're okay with the resizing.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget template for website.
 - Approving funds and grants applications.

- Health & Dental.
- Hiring staff for my portfolio.
- Finance Committee running smoothly. Looking at operational things and goals.
- *Saad's update:*
 - Federal pre-budget consultation:
 - Sending tomorrow via UCRU.
 - Seeking removal of student loan interest, increasing grants, mental health targeted investments, and Indigenous student support.
 - Provincial budget submission with UVic and ABCS on:
 - Sexual misconduct policy.
 - Funding for Indigenous language programs.
 - Financial support for mental health.
 - U-Pass going forward with the same exemptions as before.
 - SUDS:
 - Pretty much set.
 - Budget pending Finance Committee approval.
 - Hired a SUDS Coordinator.
 - 97 delegates showing interest so far.
 - Accommodations booked.
- Cole:
 - Deposits paid?
- Saad:
 - Going to expand invitation list.
 - Payment portals up this month.
 - Sponsorship getting increased because of our special circumstances.
 - In terms of money, should be fine.
- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Peer Support training.
 - Tutoring: Renewal of agreement with the Chapman Learning Commons.
 - Housing training, hiring.
 - eHub renewing MoU with e@UBC.
 - Advocacy continuing to support students.
 - Safewalk fleet insurance for vehicles. Branding.
 - Food Bank: Looking at food order system.
 - Services team get-together this week.
 - Student engagement plans for first week in September.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 11, 2021

Attendance

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

Regrets: Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager)

Guest: Dana Turdy (Strategy and Governance Lead, President's Office)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:43 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of August 4 were delayed until next time.

Strategic Plan

- Cole:
 - This will be a lot of work.
 - Discussed with Advisory Board.
 - We don't have the capacity in my office to do the plan even if I dedicated Dana to it 100%. And I don't have the time to do it myself.
 - Other options:
 1. Just work on the initial framework this year: a value statement, overarching categories ... and leave it to next year's team to fill in the rest.
 - But switching teams like that can lead to problems in continuity and enthusiasm.
 - This has been our constant cycle for 20 years.

2. Bring on more capacity; hire a master's student dedicated to just doing this job.
 3. Go outside: an RFP for an external firm, a consultant.
 - The risk in that is that though it makes it easy for us (they'll do the heavy lifting), it may not be popular: people may not want to spend money on a strategic plan, may not understand why it's important.
 - Also, sometimes outside agencies don't understand student unions; we're different from the corporate world.
- The goal is still to get something done.
 - No option to do no work.
 - Just looking for a feasible way to do it.
 - Keith:
 - I like Option 2.
 - Saad:
 - I agree with Keith.
 - And this is the best time to do it, coming out of COVID, renewal time.
 - Hiring a staff member would be a good move.
 - Can bring the Policy Advisor in on this too.
 - Keith:
 - A master's student from UBC would get it.
 - Dana:
 - Happy to support in any way.
 - Cole:
 - If people are thinking that's the best direction, Dana and I will look into getting someone, producing a job description.

Gallery and Pie R

- Cole:
 - Been discussing these.

Gallery:

- Saad:
 - Want to see renovations, refurbishing, arcade games.
 - Would be really good to get new furniture as we welcome new cohorts.
 - Give it more of a sports bar vibe, with TV's, events.
- Cole:
 - Less a sports bar, more lounge-y.
- Saad:
 - It has a really good social atmosphere already, but we could boost it.
 - Bring people back from Brown's.

- Cole:
 - The Gallery is performing well.
 - More a perception thing: make sure its image is up there with Brown's; it's a good night out.
 - Still don't want to make it pretentious.
 - It's an informal fun casual place.
 - Ready to get money from CPF.
 - Nothing too intrusive: some new furniture.
- Lauren:
 - As a regular patron of the Gal, I think it's doing quite well, but there's room to make it more exciting.
 - Brown's has neon signs and a cool set-up.
 - The Gal is quite familiar and comfortable, which is great, but we want to keep it fresh; do something with the decor.
- Keith:
 - In 2016 or 2017 when we closed down the Perch, we set up the Gallery by begging and borrowing furniture, which is now showing wear.
 - The plan was always to bring in new furniture.
 - Don't want to go too high end: that'll drive people away.
 - Can put an awning over the patio, add more TV's – but not the whole sports bar route.
 - Upgrading the furniture is easy.
 - Re-laying the floor would have to wait till next summer.
- Saad:
 - Bring in TV's and you'll bring in new people.
 - I don't think the problem is with the flooring, just need new furniture.
 - Arcade games would be good.
 - Want to see some good competition with Brown's.
 - What hours can we do on weekends?
- Keith:
 - Can definitely open Saturday.
 - Problems finding staff for Sunday.
 - Re arcade games: want to trial them in a nook on the main floor; if we get good reception, then use the back area of the Gallery.
- Cole:
 - For weekends, maybe start with brunch offerings.
 - Don't have to commit too much with that.
 - I don't remember the Gal ever being that popular on weekends.

Pie R:

- Cole:
 - Busy pizza scene at UBC.

- Lauren:
 - Pie R has a lot of competition in the area.
 - It's getting overlooked by students: there are so many other places to get pizza.
 - But there's a void for good pasta.
 - Maybe change the branding, refresh it.
- Keith:
 - Changing the name?
 - But there's so much brand equity.
- Cole:
 - I know we decided against changing the name a few years ago, but it's been Pie R Squared for 30 years.
 - Good time for a change.
 - It's a hard name to market unless you get the play on words.
 - Maybe change it to Pi, the Greek letter π .
- Sheldon:
 - When we moved to the Nest, we had a consultant who told us to change Pie R to Boom!Pizza, but Council stepped in and said no way.
 - The thinking was that there was a lot of brand recognition.
 - As to pasta, we used to have a pasta place called Tortellini's, but we closed it down. Not sure why.
- Keith:
 - Declining sales.
 - Pasta was becoming less popular then, but things are changing.
- Cole:
 - There's interest in pasta now.
 - It would be amazing if we could sell cheap penne and sauce.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Supply chain issues because of the wildfires, along with a lot of restaurants reopening, have meant there's been difficulty getting product or the product has gone up in price.
 - The union rep retired, so we've had to push back collective bargaining to October.
 - Made an offer to a new Policy Advisor, who has accepted. She will start on August 23.
 - The air conditioning project was approved. Work on it will be done over the next few months; should be minimally disruptive.
- Cole:
 - Downlow Chicken Shack is coming to campus.

- Keith:
 - We're going to try to upgrade the chicken dish in the Gal in advance of them coming in.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Mary's update:*
 - Working out repayment terms with a couple of clubs.
 - Looking at budgets from clubs and fee-receiving groups.
 - New financial administrator coming in.
- *Saad's update:*
 - Regent College MoU:
 - To legal review soon.
 - For Council the meeting after next so Eric can start getting lists (of names and email addresses for contacting our Regent members).
 - Get Out the Vote campaign:
 - We're doing UCRU's web design.
 - Working with Western and McMaster.
 - Federal pre-budget submission:
 - Asking for removal of loan interest on student loans.
 - Working on provincial budget submission:
 - Harm reduction/overdose campaign (with Mitchell and Peer Support).
 - Talking to TransLink about messaging about vaccination and comfort using public transit.
 - Want students using sustainable transit rather than cars.
- Keith:
 - U of Ottawa is going to make vaccination mandatory.
- Saad:
 - In talks with the U of O: their student union is supportive of this as a move to get students protected.
- Cole:
 - The ball is in UBC's court.
 - Back and forth with the government and the Provincial Health Office.
 - We have to wait and see what happens.
 - I'd be shocked if UBC does the same as U of O; we'll be lucky to get vaccination mandated in residences.
 - But I'd also be surprised if UBC does nothing at all.
 - Hope they do something.
 - Western is requiring vaccinations in residences; they said that's as far as they can go.

- Lauren:
 - UBCO is requiring masks.
- Cole:
 - If case numbers keep going up, I expect UBC to reintroduce a mask mandate for lecture halls.
- Saad:
 - SUDS sponsorship:
 - Amazing one from Studentcare.
 - Excited to be reaching out for more sponsors.
 - SUDS is looking really good.
 - Payment portals will open at the end of this month or early in next.
- *Lauren's update:*
 - The Sustainability team and I are preparing for the opening of the Interactive Sustainability Centre:
 - Furniture, technical aspects.
 - Also planning an event: September 28, the same day as Clubs Days.
 - Dashboard, decals.
 - Administration:
 - Clubs notified about lockers.
 - Deconstitutions mostly done.
 - Clubs & Societies Working Group is reviewing club applications.
 - Talking to the Operations Committee about partnership: their goals and the VP Admin's goals.
 - Communication around CampusBase as of September.
- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Peer Support training:
 - Volunteers getting ready.
 - Working on harm reduction with Saad.
 - Food Bank:
 - Assessing space needs.
 - New fridge and freezer.
 - General outreach/boothing to increase awareness.
 - Finalizing contracts.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 25, 2021

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)

Guests: Laurent Levesque and Megan Quigley (Utile Student Housing), James Cabangon (AVP External)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Lauren, Eshana).

Minutes

- The minutes of August 18 were approved (Eshana, Lauren).

Utile

- Saad:
 - We've been working with Utile, planning on building non-profit student housing
 - There's a horrible housing crisis in Vancouver.
 - Feasibility study with Utile on what non-profit housing would look like.
 - Bringing it to the next Council meeting for feedback.
 - It involves a lot of work with government and other lenders.
- Laurent:
 - Utile is a Montreal-based non-profit developing affordable housing since 2013.
 - The feasibility study ("Moving Towards Affordability") looks at the need for affordable housing.
 - BC is facing a housing crisis, and students are at the forefront, making up tens of thousands of renters in one of the toughest markets in the country.
 - Only a minority of students are in campus housing.

- Student renters pay more than the average rent in Vancouver, and Vancouver's average is the highest in the country.
- The federal government has come into housing again with a big splash; all parties in the election are talking about it, but not a lot are presenting solutions.
- Utile is presenting solutions (so is a group in Ontario).
- Utile has five different projects in Quebec: non-profit, no shareholders or investors. By students, for students.
- Aiming to stabilize rents.
- We start from what students need, not with what we can charge; and we're not aiming at dorm-style buildings.
- Our students are mostly in self-contained apartments.
- We were inspired by projects around the world, e.g., in Germany.
- We've started Woodnote in Montreal in collaboration with the Concordia Student Union: the first of many projects.
- The feasibility study:
 - Explored the feasibility of the Utile approach in BC.
 - We concluded that it is feasible.
 - A project will not have to be funded 100% by the AMS.
 - Even with below market rents, a lot can be funded from them.
 - Lots of funding sources are possible, e.g., the CMHC.
 - The AMS contribution would be 32% (\$21 million).
- The parameters:
 - 200 rooms.
 - Rents below market value.
 - Market-based land and construction costs.
- Looking at this as a pilot.
 - 200 units just scratches the surface, but it would take us years if we planned for 2,000.
- A non-profit distinct from the AMS would do the development, protecting the AMS from financial risk and keeping the AMS from becoming a landlord for its members.
- We recommend that you partner with development experts rather than trying to build expertise in-house.
- Could save students \$150 million over 40 years.
- Timeline: 5 years. Real estate takes time. It took Utile seven years to develop its first project.
- There's political work: mobilizing funds, involving other student unions so that you're not the only ones.
- Saad:
 - Will send the feasibility study.
 - Establishing a relationship with BC Housing.

- Already have something via David Eby, our MLA and the minister responsible for housing.
 - Scoping government funding.
 - Optimistic.
 - Recently the government invested \$2 billion into housing for low and middle income people.
 - Also scoping out the establishment of a non-profit.
 - We'd have a majority vote on their board.
 - They'd assume the financial risk.
 - Financial health of the AMS is a priority.
 - Not within our mandate to build housing.
 - Preparing a model for Council.
- Keith:
 - Want to follow the same model as Concordia: a sizable contribution as a seed fund from their student union.
 - Laurent:
 - There is a financial mechanism in Quebec called a rotating non-profit investment fund.
 - There are many ways to do the financial piece.
 - Saad:
 - To cut costs we're looking at working with the province.
 - Laurent:
 - Our approach involved setting up two non-profits.
 - Saad:
 - Students are not in a good place coming out of COVID.
 - Forcing a fee on them this year (through a referendum) is not the route we want to go.
 - We want to do a positional referendum first: find out if students are interested without asking for a fee.
 - Then we would determine if we would have a fee referendum next year.
 - Laurent:
 - Our report is agnostic about how the AMS raises and allocates its funds.
 - In Quebec not all five student societies went to referendum, but most did.
 - We've spoken to people in BC: everyone is excited about this.
 - Cole:
 - The red flag is the \$21 million contribution from us.
 - That's \$20 per student for 20 years.
 - To be honest, the rental rates you're forecasting in this new project are not much different from what UBC is trying to do:
 - A studio apartment at \$1150 a month.
 - Saad:
 - That's considerably below market value, especially on campus.

- Cole:
 - For a studio apartment, it's not a huge difference, maybe \$2,000 a year, a marginal saving for each student.
 - Does that justify a \$21 million commitment?
 - We could partner instead with UBC.
 - To my mind, a studio at \$1150 a month is not affordable housing.
 - You can get a nano suite at UBC for \$900.
 - I don't know if there's enough here to justify charging a fee.
 - I do like the coalition approach: if we could create three projects, maybe this would be more tenable.
 - The project is too ambitious for the limited cost-benefit for students.
- Megan:
 - The path forward is up to you, but remember the long-term view.
 - We project that 40 years from now students will be paying 60% less in this project because of its stabilized rent model.
 - And the more external funding you can secure, the lower the AMS contribution.
- Laurent:
 - We're not asking you for \$20 million.
 - It's possible to work back from the contribution you want to make.
 - We can adjust target rents, project size.
 - We took \$2 million from the Concordia Student Union and found the other \$2 million, but we could hope for 2:1 funding, dividing AMS funding by three.
 - It's important to think of long-term affordability.
 - UBC is committing to rent increases of inflation plus 2%, but that's still 2% above inflation.
 - There's a benefit to having something student-run, student-led.
- Cole:
 - Forty years in AMS time is like a millennium.
 - There's a risk factor there.
 - Contributing more to general student housing in a coalition might be better.
- Keith:
 - Looking at ways to avoid a fee levy.
 - We need \$20 million to pay for the land.
- Cole:
 - At UBC on-campus housing is more appealing than off-campus.
 - Might make more sense to work with UBC to find land for free on campus, if \$21 million is the land cost.
- Saad:
 - We're going to try scoping out what that looks like.
 - Not looking to compete with UBC Housing.
 - Our audience is long-range commuters.
 - If we get the land donated, that makes the project easier.

- Megan:
 - Over half of students rent on the private market.
 - Market research would be a great idea to find out what students want.
- Cole:
 - Best to present options to Council.
 - And \$21 million would go to zero if we partner with UBC.

Building Hours

- Lauren:
 - UBC is looking for a conversation with the AMS and the GSS about building hours.
 - How late should they be open?
 - What about weekends?
 - The issue seems to be controlling building access during after hours events.
 - Building access will be programmed onto students' cards, but if someone has to leave during class, then they have to call security to get back in the building.
- Eshana:
 - That's an issue for the David Lam building.
 - Is it an issue for others?
- Lauren:
 - They listed all building hours and asked for feedback.
- Cole:
 - Just keep all the buildings open till 8 pm.
- Keith:
 - Are they trying to mandate our building hours?
- Cole:
 - No, we're separate.
- Lauren:
 - The card system is confusing, and if students want to attend a class before deciding to register for it ...
 - UBC said they'd have all hands on deck to troubleshoot.
- Cole:
 - They can just have no hands on deck and leave it.
 - Something for Eshana to speak to them about.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Mandatory mask signs are back up.
 - Received draft financials from the auditors.
 - The vaccine evidence issue is proceeding.
 - New signs over the doors make it clear that we're the Student Nest.

- We may want to look at Musqueam signage on the building as well.
- Cole:
 - That's something we're looking at as part of the Indigenization of the Nest.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Saad's update:*
 - Get Out the Vote:
 - Finalized schedule:
 - September 8 Quadra debate.
 - September 9: Leaders debate in lower Atrium.
 - Boothing inside and outside the Nest September 10-20, with free swag.
 - Budget to Council tonight.
 - SUDS registration sent out; payment link is up.
 - 97 or more delegates have tentatively signed up, a great turnout.
 - Almost all venues booked.
 - Confirming speakers.
 - U-Pass: same exemptions as before.
- Sheldon:
 - Polling station in the Nest?
- Saad:
 - Waiting on that. Hoping for the Great Hall.
 - If we don't get one, we'll have to invest in getting students to the polls.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Repayment terms with clubs.
 - Q1.
 - Health & Dental is looking at products and funding criteria.
 - Looking at fees and funds to potentially eliminate ones not serving a purpose anymore.
- Keith:
 - Should look at expanding eligibility on Health and Dental.
- Mary:
 - I'd like to increase benefits.
- Cole:
 - COVID-19 test kits would be great.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - After three months of advocacy, we have a vaccine requirement in student residences and masks in all indoor spaces.
 - Working on rapid testing.
 - Looking at drug testing.

- Advocating for greater usage of lecture recording.
 - Working on accommodating international students who can't be here.
- Lorris:
 - Will vaccine cards be required for lecture halls and classrooms?
- Eshana:
 - Conversations are still ongoing.

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Interactive Sustainability Centre:
 - Furniture, decals, storyboard.
 - Gearing up for September opening.
 - Rethinking the mural layout.
 - Communication plans.
 - CampusBase promo: video.
 - Clubs Days:
 - Strategizing re COVID: want to be as safe as possible.
 - Working with the Operations Committee on a clubs recovery benefit.
 - Clubs are cleaning out their lockers; all on track.
 - Clubs & Societies Working Group is looking at a last few club applications.
 - Planning for the Clubs Resource Centre: opening mid-September.

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Safewalk vehicles all insured and ready.
 - Peer Support all trained. Will be in person in October.
 - Chapman Learning Commons MoU and Tutoring in Residence MoU.
 - Bothing and outreach scheduled for 18 locations.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Recruiting.
 - Mimi Neufeld is the new Policy Advisor.

Council

- Cole:
 - Probably three hours
 - Relatively full agenda.
 - Two presentations.
 - Policy I-7A revisions, but they've been made sort of redundant because there's a new Provincial Health Order.
 - The only change we may try to hold onto is to add language about removing people from the Nest for being abusive.
 - Bylaw changes: Discussion to see if we want them.

- Not as sweeping this year.
 - Some minor changes, e.g., updating Executive job descriptions.
- Fermentation Lab discussion.
- Keith:
 - Simply Voting agreement?
- Cole:
 - It's under Consent Items.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 22, 2021

Attendance

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

Regrets: Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

Guest: Kavie Toor (UBC Athletics & Recreation)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:13 am and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of September 15 were approved (Saad, Mary).

Vaccination

- Cole:
 - Council wanted some movement on this.
 - The Executive has talked about it, and we think it would be good to work towards requiring AMS employees to be vaccinated.
- Keith:
 - An article in today's Ubyyssey says the University is not going to do a vaccine mandate beyond the residences or beyond their current policy on evidence for their staff.
- Cole:
 - Their policy is not for visitors.
 - I think they're still working on it.
- Saad:
 - For AMS employees, we will have to follow the self-declaration process first.
 - The tough part: how do we do audits of proof? We can't store the information.

- Cole:
 - We can commit to it, work on it.
 - Difficulty now because of the big changeover in HR (with our HR Manager leaving).
 - I do think students and Council will be looking for a commitment.
- Keith:
 - Before we issue a statement, we need to figure out how we're going to do it.
- Cole:
 - We can announce we're going to work towards it.
 - Council is waiting for an answer from us.
- Eshana:
 - We should at least have some sort of broad plan.
- Mary:
 - How will this affect the clubs?
 - There are complaints that they are not getting enough information.
- Cole:
 - It's one thing for employees; another thing to apply something to our 400 subsidiary organizations.
 - First, our employees.
 - For clubs we will do whatever the Provincial Health Office is saying to do.
- Lorris:
 - Will this cover casual staff as well?
 - Will it include everyone? What sort of employees?
- Saad:
 - Casual staff are already covered under UBC's vaccination policy.
 - Same with student government staff.
 - Assuming they're all students: how many are not?
 - We need a plan. We can't just say we're doing it.
- Eshana:
 - Why would this not apply to AMS student staff?
 - They should be covered by the AMS policy.
- Saad:
 - They're already covered by the UBC policy.
- Eshana:
 - UBC's policy is just a self-declaration.
 - If we're going to require vaccination of our permanent staff, that should be the policy for all staff instead of saying that for student staff we'll just follow what UBC does.
- Lorris:
 - UBC is just asking for a declaration and not proof?

- Eshana:
 - UBC will require proof, but not for a month.
 - We should have one plan for all employees.
- Saad:
 - UBC is waiting for legal reasons.
- Eshana:
 - More for logistical reasons.
- Saad:
 - For us it's a legal issue.
 - We could check for proof of vaccination when people arrive at work.
- Cole:
 - Better left to the HR Department to figure out the best way to do this.
 - Make sure we're implementing in a gradual way.
 - It's okay to say we're going to work towards a plan; there are reasons we can't do it in a week.
- Eshana:
 - We need a timeline.
- Cole:
 - We can have a goal: end of October, probably.
- Saad:
 - By then we'll have more clarification on how this can happen.
 - Our lawyers are saying it's a grey area.
- Keith:
 - Our insurance doesn't cover us for this.
 - If we get sued, it will add to our deficit.
 - No other student society has done it.
 - We're not federally regulated, so we're not covered by the federal government's announced requirement for federal employees.
- Cole:
 - We can tell Council the risks, and if Council says let's do it, then we will.
 - There's going to be time to get a legal opinion to bring to Council.
- Eshana:
 - This needs to be a top priority for us.
 - It's important to emphasize that we're doing this to prevent an outbreak, for the safety of students.
- Saad:
 - Student safety should be our top priority, I agree, but we haven't done our due diligence on the legal issues.
- Eshana:
 - We've already got a legal opinion: we could get sued.
 - Council has made it clear that that's fine.

- Just because there's a risk doesn't mean every employee will sue.
- Saad:
 - This should go to Council.
 - I don't want to be the one putting the AMS in legal jeopardy.
- Eshana:
 - Happy to go to Council.
 - The Executive should support it at Council.
- Saad:
 - We're a private organization. It's hard for us.
 - I'm 100% in support of a vaccination mandate, but it's iffy on the liability side.
- Eshana:
 - Many organizations have done this.
 - We're too scared; we have competent people who can set this up.
- Cole:
 - I think the consensus is that we will announce that we plan to evaluate and work on a vaccination mandate for employees over the next few weeks.
 - We will tell Council next week.
 - We should get a proposal prepared and send that to our lawyers.
 - There is a level of urgency, but we're not going to get it done in three days.
 - We need balance: neither panic nor the backburner.
- Saad:
 - What's the expected timeline for hiring a new HR Manager?
- Keith:
 - Can't say. The position's posted. We're getting applications. Could take a month, or two months.
- Cole:
 - We may phase the new plan in.
 - First step may be a self-declaration.
- Saad:
 - If someone self-declares that they're not vaccinated, do they have access to rapid testing?
- Eshana:
 - Rapid testing for that purpose has not been launched yet.
 - There is rapid testing at IKB, but that's not for those who self-declare they're not vaccinated.
 - They could still go to IKB, but it's only open three days a week.
- Cole:
 - All good on the vaccination plan?

There was a consensus in support.

Athletics & Recreation Budget Update

- Kavie:
 - This presentation will be similar to the one we made to you in February.
 - We established our values 18 months ago (excellence, health and sport, building our community).
 - We have five strategic priorities:
 - Student experience
 - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
 - Brand and Profile:
 - The brand is “Take Flight,” and the idea is to represent all students, not just Varsity teams.
 - We also want to remove barriers to Varsity participation.
 - Financial stability
 - Facilities
 - We’re seeing demand exceed supply for Intramurals, Day of the Longboat, the Fitness Centre, Aquatic programs.
 - We’re discussing how to meet demand.
 - We’re doing a one-year pilot project of giving out free tickets for Varsity games (through sponsors).
 - We’ve added programs and are restricting them to students: we are bursting at the seams with student demand, and can’t accommodate the general public.
 - Looking to crank up recreation opportunities in light of students coming back.
 - IBPOC programming, e.g., a program for Asian females. Want to do more for marginalized students.
 - Expanding Intramurals.
 - Maybe removing entry fees for Storm the Wall.
 - Partnering with the Parks Board and others to serve students off campus (e.g., medical students).
 - MacInnes Field is being used. Could explore an equipment signout system there.
 - Facilities upgrades.
 - Student Rec Centre upgrades.
 - Projected deficit of \$2.415 million.
 - Expenses highest for Facilities, then for Varsity athletics. Lower for Recreation.
 - Team funding by gender:
 - There is now more for women’s than men’s, except for football, which is male only.
 - Used to be skewed, but we’ve switched our approach.
- Saad:
 - Marketing?
- Kavie:
 - For Term 1 our programs are already popular.

- Demand is through the roof: e.g., 90 teams in volleyball.
 - Happy to do more advertising.
- Eshana:
 - Re gender equity: Appreciate the greater portion going to women's sports.
 - Are there other components that would help produce a more gender-inclusive environment?
- Kavie:
 - Coach development opportunities.
 - Female coaches can get mentorship, internships.
 - There's still a gap in coaching: work to do.
 - Also, education sessions with our staff and making sure our images and communications are open and inclusive to all.
 - This is not just to do with gender, but in general want students to see people who look like them.
 - Partnering with Indigenous students, the Musqueam: a priority for us.
- Eshana:
 - There's also the issue of the balance between Recreation and Varsity Athletics.
- Kavie:
 - We've heard before about the disparity issues.
 - Varsity does require more: travel expenses, etc.
 - Facilities does include Recreation.
 - We could have added in the \$2 million for the Aquatic Centre, which serves tons of students. That could be part of the Recreation budget, just we didn't show it on the chart.
 - We are hoping to get extra funding for Recreation.
- Lorris:
 - Is there funding for professional development for Athletics & Recreation staff on sexual violence.
- Kavie:
 - One of the key pillars in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is educating our staff, both full-time and part-time.
 - We've been making increasing efforts on this, working team by team.
 - Partnering with SVPRO (UBC's Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office).
- Saad:
 - Support for female athletes?
- Kavie:
 - Might be a good start to include funding per athlete in our charts.
 - A lot of external funding comes from male donors for male teams.
 - That's why we want more opportunities for female athletes.

- Saad:
 - Have you done any work with the VP Alumni engaging female donors, encouraging them to donate to female teams?
- Kavier:
 - Very much so. Looking for scholarships. Would like to offer matching funding.
 - Also if there is shifting to one funding pool, as there is for rowing, that can be to all rowing (male and female), and then we can allocate equitably.
 - Other cases may take a while.
- Eshana:
 - Are you going to develop a strategic plan?
- Kavier:
 - We did present on this; I can send it over.
- Cole:
 - Send it with this presentation, and I can send them both to Council.
- Kavier:
 - Team by team funding is not public.
- Cole:
 - We'll send a modified version to Council.
- Eshana:
 - Gender inclusivity and IBPOC will be of interest to Council.
 - Intramurals too.
 - There's also the issue of sexual violence: a lot of students were not pleased with what they learned about Varsity teams.
- Kavier:
 - We were also upset by the 2018 incidents. It's fair for students to have been upset over them.
- Cole:
 - If you can prepare something on the \$21 AMS fee (for athletics and intramurals), Council will be interested in that.
- Kavier:
 - Will do.

AGM

- Cole:
 - Looking for advocacy-related topics: tuition, housing, fees.
 - Going to have to finalize the AGM agenda at next week's Council.
 - We could potentially change auditors.
- Keith:
 - I think we're looking to stick with D&H.
 - We're getting rotation from them all the time, and a new partner was assigned to our audit this year.

- No lack of independence for the auditors.
- Cole:
 - Maybe set up a fee referendum question at the AGM for March.
- Keith:
 - Maybe a housing question.
- Saad:
 - The timeline might not be right for housing: we haven't presented to Council yet.
- Cole:
 - Could vote to name something.
 - And some fun things.

Committee Appointments

- Cole:
 - Executive appointments to committees: any changes?
- *There were none.*
- Mary:
 - Is appointing the Student Services Manager to the Finance Committee a conflict of interest?
 - He would be able to vote on the Services budget.
- Cole:
 - This is going to be discussed at Council.
- Eshana:
 - I can be on Finance and vote on my budget.
- Saad:
 - As long as Mitchell follows the conflict of interest policy, I don't see an issue.
 - We will have to be stringent.
- Keith:
 - He's an employee.
 - That's different from an Executive being on the committee.
- Eshana:
 - The SSM is like the sixth Executive.
 - Services is a large portion of the budget.
 - Will this set a precedent?
- Cole:
 - Already have the precedent.
 - The SSM has served on other committees, and Code allows it.
 - Council will talk about it.
 - If a problem, will have to change Code.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Hiring for HR Manager. Position posted. Some applications. Will start shortlisting. Could be a month of two.
 - Thanks to Saad, we'll be selling Compass Cards out of Blue Chip Express.
 - Eastside Furniture going ahead: long overdue, to be done soon.
 - Gallery changes: new furniture. Also in Lev Bukhman Lounge.
 - Successful First Week events.
 - Thanks to Lorris for bothing.
 - Disappointing to learn that people didn't know of some of the things we're doing.
 - Welcome Back Barbecue is now October 1 in conjunction with the First Game
- Saad:
 - We've been certified as a vendor for Compass Cards.
 - Can we add this to the Council agenda?
 - Where are we going to get the \$3,000?
- Keith:
 - For this first time we could potentially make it a cost to Blue Chip.
 - Going forward, if we're having a booth, there will be a more sizable expenditure.
 - It will have to come from somewhere.
 - I'd let Council know now as an update, but there's nothing for Council to do yet.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Saad's update:*
 - Wrapping up Get Out the Vote campaign: happy with the engagement.
 - Now working on post-election strategic plan with UCRU.
 - Successful provincial budget presentation with ABCS on Indigenous support, sexual violence, and mental health.
 - TransLink card.
 - Harm reduction campaign.
- *Eshana's update:*
 - Sexual misconduct policy review.
 - OER/Textbook Broke campaign: opened call for nominations for profs.
 - Implementation of UBC's soft vaccine mandate.
 - Tuition survey improvements.
 - UBC budget submission.
- Saad:
 - The VP External for the SUO (Student Union Okanagan) is also interested in OER.
- Eshana:
 - Send me their email.

- *Mary's update:*
 - Opt-outs just ended.
 - Subsidies.
 - Speaking to Enrolment Services about two EUS fees that are ending.
 - Reviewing funds and fees.
 - Interviewing for two positions.
 - Credit card.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Three people leaving SASC. Recruiting for four positions.
 - All Services back in operation.
 - Food Bank looking for more volunteers.
 - Looking at improvements.
 - Mimi has begun as Policy Advisor: working with Eshana and Saad.

- Eshana and Saad:
 - Mimi is amazing.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 29, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, left 12:15), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Lorris Leung (Senior 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 11:53 am and took place in person (in Room 3511) for the first time since the pandemic began.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of September 22 were deferred.

AGM

- Cole:
 - Draft agenda went out.
 - There's the four standard motions, then others on:
 - Electoral reform
 - Constitutional amendments
 - Housing (from Saad)
 - Sexual violence
- Eshana:
 - Want something on an affordability plan and tuition increases.
- Saad:
 - Is electoral reform feasible?
- Cole:
 - Just adopting it as our position, to advocate for it, in the form of proportional representation.
 - Could revise that, because ranked choice is not the same as proportional representation.

- Could get rid of the specific mention of proportional representation.
- Saad:
 - Maybe call for something to make it easier for young people to vote, like online voting.
- Cole:
 - Don't want to be too specific.
 - Proportional representation is pretty broad, as opposed to first past the post, but we could change it to just say electoral reform.
- Sheldon:
 - Not sure the Societies Act will allow us to add the proposed preamble/territorial acknowledgement (in the constitutional amendments).
 - The Act says our name and our objects are the only provisions allowed in a constitution.
- Cole:
 - I doubt the government would object.
 - Or we could consider it one of our purposes.
- Sheldon:
 - Or a preamble might not be considered a provision, so it would be okay.
- Cole:
 - Want to make the AGM a notable annual event, a tradition.
 - Like Welcome Back Barbecue and Block Party as events, we would have two opportunities for large-scale voice:
 - The AGM in the first semester
 - Elections in the second semester.
 - Will be interesting to see how many people show up this year.
 - Last year was the first time virtual and we got lots of people who were at home signing up: 3,000 people registered.
 - Still a good chance we'll hit quorum this year.
- Lauren:
 - Need to make it approachable to younger students.
 - They're just discovering the COVID university.
- Eshana:
 - Must it be virtual?
- Cole:
 - Yes, we can't get 600 people in person.
 - Virtual is great: we received feedback saying that.
 - It's easy to attend.
 - Going forward, we want to keep it virtual.
- Saad:
 - Are we offering cash prizes again as incentives to bring students in?

- Cole:
 - Still planning to do some.
 - Haven't seen an AGM at another student union at a large school that made quorum without offering incentives.
 - The focus this year will be: Come learn about the AMS, voice concerns. It will be a Town Hall really.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Fentanyl strips finalized.
 - UBC budget submission.
 - Textbook Broke a resounding success.
 - Preparing for OER Champions Night.
 - Some profs are stopping recording lectures on September 30.
 - Working with UBC Provost's office to let people know there's no expiry date on the guidelines to record lectures.
 - Some professors say there are academic freedom and intellectual property issues involved in recording lectures.
 - Also there is concern about students not being comfortable if they're recorded commenting on controversial issues.
 - Also technological issues.
 - And engagement: some professors feel students will stop showing up for lectures if they're recorded, though our survey shows that's not true.

[Eshana leaves.]

- *Saad's update:*
 - Reviewing our post-election lobbying plans.
 - Sending letters to the Prime Minister's Office to influence the mandate letters going to the ministries involved with diversity and youth, transportation, and infrastructure.
 - Want to make sure we get our wins in the letters.
 - Met MLA David Eby about the feasibility study for the Utile housing project.
 - Provincial budget submission.
 - Letter to TransLink about the suspension of the 258 and 480 bus routes: students have been expressing concern.
 - Talking with the ABCS about provincial lobbying for the rest of the year: an online lobby week in November and another in January.
 - An in person federal lobby week at the end of November or December
 - SUDS is set, just finalizing two last speaker spots.

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Clubs Days a huge success online and in person.
 - The outdoor/indoor/online combination went smoothly.
 - Vaccination checks went well; there was no negative feedback.
 - Going to send a survey to the clubs to get their feedback.
 - ISC open and available for bookings.
 - Thinking of hosting social nights.
 - Videos coming out to promote ISC (the Interactive Sustainability Centre).
 - Carbon Offsetters report complete on how sustainable the Nest is. Coming to Council tonight.
 - Thingery going to the next Council.
 - Clubs Recovery Benefit to support clubs.
 - Hiring for the Clubs Resource Centre and the Hatch Art Gallery.

Hatch Art Gallery

- Cole:
 - Should we consider relinquishing control and working collaboratively with the Faculty of Arts?
 - We're getting pretty late now for hiring a Hatch manager.
 - There would probably be no programming till January.
 - UBC's Visual Arts Department has emailed to ask what's happening.
 - Our community uses the Hatch a lot.
 - It might be a good idea to give the space to a group that can do more with it.
 - There's a chance that the Visual Arts Department (VAD) could do something better with it.
 - And maybe they could help with curating our permanent art collection too.
 - Maybe it's time to move the Hatch out of the VP Admin's office.
- Lauren:
 - Originally I was opposed because it's in the Nest.
 - But having gone through Clubs Days etc., I want to make sure it's used, and if there's another group, that could help.
- Cole:
 - The VP Admin would still be involved.
 - It's a room in the Nest.
 - But just liaising with the VAD on programming.
 - We could come up with an agreement requiring them to submit an annual plan to be approved.
 - This would give us more flexibility. Taking away two staff (a manager and assistant manager of the Hatch) would mean we can add staff elsewhere.
 - Have to engage with the VAD to see what their interest is.
- Lauren:

- Would have to be contingent on not selling any items in the permanent collection.
 - It's cool that the student union has art; don't want to give that up.
- Cole:
 - The permanent collection would still be our collection.
 - The VAD would just be operating the gallery.
 - Want to make sure the permanent collection is displayed in the gallery.
 - It won't be their collection, but I hope they might assist with the art.
 - We also need to do restoration work.
- Sheldon:
 - There was a plan to display the art online, but we needed to get the artists to sign agreements to allow that.
 - Who would sign off on the agreements now?
- Cole:
 - The art is not being preserved properly.
 - It will take \$150,000 to restore it.
 - Could the Archives take over?
- Sheldon:
 - Art and Archives are different.
 - There has been talk over the years of hiring a full-time manager to run the gallery and take care of the art.
- Cole:
 - Would need money to support that.
- Sheldon:
 - Or do you want the VAD to run it?
- Lauren:
 - First step is to talk to the VAD.

Road Safety

- Saad:
 - In light of recent events (the accident on Northwest Marine), had a discussion with David Eby about long-term solutions.
 - It's a provincially administered road.
 - Also, impaired driving was a factor.
- Lauren:
 - That area is very dark.
- Saad:
 - There's been talk of putting in road barriers or guard rails.
- Cole:
 - It's important to let the investigation conclude.
 - Right now we have no idea why this happened.

- I was surprised the University so quickly came out saying they'd advocate for better road safety.
 - Not that that's bad, but we want to wait for the RCMP investigation.
 - If there was excessive speed, maybe we want speed bumps.
- Saad:
 - Depending on what the investigation shows, we can also put out messaging about impaired driving.
- Lauren:
 - I do like the idea of pushing for better lighting there.
- Saad:
 - The ministry will review it.
- Sheldon:
 - We used to do safety audits to report on lighting etc. on campus.

Executive and Services Updates (continued)

- *Mary's update:*
 - Health and Dental:
 - Meeting to discuss subsidy criteria, to make sure they reflect current expenses.
 - The Health & Dental Committee doubled the money available for subsidies this year: from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
 - There's the issue of the flu shots at Shoppers and their connection to the health plan.
 - Financial issues: Showpass.
 - Opt-outs.
 - Financial aid, budgeting workshops.
 - Credit card apps for clubs and Constituencies.
- *Mitch's update:*
 - Hiring more Safewalkers.
 - Safewalk is using its vehicle.
 - Food Bank is recruiting more volunteers to meet the increased demand.
 - In general increasing engagement with students.
 - Peer Support holding a workshop and a Naloxone event. Also dialogue nights.
 - Tutoring has finalized its contract with Student Housing.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - Finalized orientation course on Canvas for Services.
 - May also do it for individual Services.
 - SASC recruiting.

- Met with UBC's VP Students about food insecurity and a possible community hub.
 - We're saying UBC should put more resources into that.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - New signs in Blue Chip for Blue Chip Express.
 - Fixing a Blue Chip sign.
 - Proposal for a new espresso machine for Blue Chip Express.
 - Using some Gallery furniture for the Lev Bukhman Lounge.
 - Preparing report for the AGM.
 - Presentation on the audit to the Executive next week.
- Saad:
 - Compass card sales data received.
- Keith:
 - The order is in.

Council

- Cole:
 - Three presentations.
 - Finance Committee appointments.
 - Impact Grant appointments.
 - Students at Large to be confirmed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 13, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance, arrived 11:55), Saad Shoaib (VP External, left 12:05), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office), Vishwa Mohan (Food & Beverage Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:12 am and took place in person (in Nest Room 3511).

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Saad).

Minutes

- The minutes of October 7 were approved (Lauren, Eshana).

Executive Goals

- Cole:
 - We're supposed to chat about the progress on our goals before presenting to Council in November.
 - Executive Committee Goals as a Whole:
 - Communications and Engagement:
 - So far doing well. Follower counts climbing on social media.
 - Good engagement over the statement we issued about the deaths of the two students on Marine Drive.
 - The AGM will be a good tool.
 - Branding guidelines are being implemented; look lovely. Maybe I'll have Communications distribute them.
 - Electoral Engagement Committee has yet to meet. I will most likely assume the chair and get things moving.

- Pandemic Recovery:
 - Restart Plan, recovery campaigns: going well.
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion:
 - Consultation ongoing.
 - Not just for this year.
- Policy Reviews:
 - I-17 and I-18 (on sexual violence and respectful community) need more of an overhaul than we first thought; hope to have it done by the end of this term.
 - I-5 (communication with the Musqueam): Still have not established a consistent connection with them. Going to check with UBC. Maybe the new Policy Advisor can be designated the point of contact.
 - Media Policy on backburner.
- President's Goals:
 - Strategic Plan:
 - Coming to Council this evening.
 - Hope to get it done by end of fiscal year.
 - Return to Campus on track.
 - EDI on track.
 - Need to look at training on such things as QPR (suicide training), procedural fairness.
 - Looking to create a more consistent process for I-17 and I-18, a centralized ladder system to be more efficient.
 - Indigenous Presence and Engagement:
 - Ongoing.
 - Indigenous Culture Month.
 - Installation: have to touch base with the Musqueam and the Indigenous Committee.
 - Community Engagement:
 - First year programming: Communications team. Getting better and better.
 - Cross-campus collaboration.
- Eshana:
 - VPAUA goals:
 - Remote invigilation (Proctorio) goal completed:
 - Restricting the use of it.
 - Looking for an equitable replacement.
 - Affordability:
 - On Affordability Task Force.

- Pressing for there to be no tuition increases without an affordability plan.
- Allocation of funding should connect to real student priorities.
- Pushing for needs-based grants.
- Budget submission.
- Open Education Resources:
 - Successful campaign.
 - Open Champions Night.
 - At Senate, policy to put a cap on textbook costs.
- Indigenous Student Support:
 - Survey leading to focused advocacy.
- Audit of honorary degrees.
- Return to In Person:
 - Advocating for more lecture capture.
 - Rapid testing/soft vaccine mandate.
 - Solid advocacy for mask mandate.
 - Working with the Administration for international students who are not yet back.
- Mental Health:
 - Campaign next month.
- Food insecurity:
 - \$1 million for Meal Share Program.
 - Hoping for more.
 - Campaign to reduce social stigma.
- Sexual violence and safety:
 - Working on getting committee going.
- Graduate advocacy:
 - Working with the GSS on tuition waiver for PhD students.

[Eshana leaves.]

- Saad:
 - VP External Goals:
 - Transparency and Accountability:
 - Partnering with Eshana on advocacy updates.
 - Housing affordability and Tenancy Rights:
 - Meeting with Leading Practices Subcommittee.
 - AMS co-op housing:
 - Talking to BC Housing.
 - Recommendations for BC budget accepted: \$2 million in housing initiatives.

- Student financial aid:
 - Advocating for removal of interest on student loans.
 - Adopted by UCRU.
 - Making recommendations with the GSS to the province about grad student grants.
 - International student support:
 - Meeting with Ministry of Advanced Education.
 - Working with BCFS on tuition.
 - COVID Recovery.
 - Recommendation to province to increase funding for sexual violence policies at postsecondary institutions.
 - Climate Action Strategic Plan.
 - Lobbying for SkyTrain to UBC.
 - Promoting student candidates in the UNA elections.
 - Indigenous student support.
 - Equity-based grants.
- Lauren:
 - VP Admin Goals:
 - Supporting clubs beyond the pandemic:
 - Video tutorials on how to navigate CampusBase.
 - Clubs newsletter.
 - Videoconferencing, but perhaps changing focus on that because things are less virtual now.
 - COVID-19 safety materials.
 - CampusBase:
 - Moved onto a Canadian server.
 - Meeting their reps.
 - Driving awareness.
 - Reconfiguring the layout.
 - Communication:
 - COVID-19 dashboard on website for Nest policies.
 - Accessibility initiative second term.
 - Sustainability:
 - More inclusive – attended Indigenous Committee meeting.
 - Installed dashboard at the ISC.
 - Carbon Offsetters compiled data for us:
 - AMS has completed most of the steps.
 - Mostly we just need to encourage AMS staff to walk to work.
 - Inclusive space in the Nest:
 - Sensory Room (presentation to Council tonight).

- Prayer spaces (maybe January).
 - First Year and in person: variety of comfort levels.
 - Convenient spaces for commuter students:
 - Clubs Resource Centre: hiring staff.
 - Hatch Art Galley:
 - Perhaps passing some responsibility to the Visual Arts Student Association.
- Mitchell:
 - SSM Goals:
 - AMS Housing Service: database for April.
 - Increase engagement for all Services:
 - Outreach plan.
 - Social media assistant.
 - Increasing students' use of Services.
 - Social Media presence growing.
 - Streamline training, provide courses for Services.
 - Gearing up for Services Review.
 - Cross-campus collaboration on food services.

Gallery Furniture

- Michael Kingsmill:
 - Reimagining the Gallery Lounge.
 - Want to improve the decor.
 - Currently a mixture of furniture suffering wear and tear.
 - Looking for a more cohesive, updated look:
 - Furniture, flooring (mosaic), glass tile for the bar.
 - Aim is to be a casual dining room and lounge like Milestone's or Brown's; not high end like our old Perch.
 - Very high ceiling now, which decreases intimacy.
 - Proposals in evolution.
 - Normally do decor first, furniture second, but because of timing, want to go forward with the furniture.
 - Some existing furniture can be reused/restored:
 - The tall tables and three low tables can be brought back to life.
 - Would like to reuse the 22 grey tweed chairs and the tall barstools.

[Mary arrives.]

- Michael Kingsmill (continued):
 - Looking to reuse but refinish seats, make things cohesive.

- Plan to introduce new lightweight sofas: each with two or three seats, costing \$2300 each, plus \$1000 each for fabric.
- Dark tone on the floor, lighter tone on chair fabrics, dark ceiling.
- Would purchase ten 24 x 24 tables.
- Reupholster booths.
- Add plants.
- Overall furniture budget originally \$70,000, but by reusing some existing furniture, the actual cost will be \$42,000 for the furniture.
- Total cost of the Gallery upgrade: \$150,000.
- Michael showed pictures.
- Cole:
 - Looks great.
 - Love the walnut style dark finish.
 - Really like the foliage, the drop ceiling, and the lighting.
 - But the sofas:
 - Not really efficient seating.
 - You'll get two people on a three-person sofa.
 - Personally more in favour of more tables and benches.
 - Then could have multiple groups for when it's busy.
- Saad:
 - Colour will get torn up by drink spillage.
 - Dark colour would be better.
- Vishwa:
 - Flooring will be even.
 - Couches will most likely have vinyl or fake leather material.
- Lauren:
 - Looks great.
 - Couches: I do like something to break up the seating: accent seats.
 - Maybe two instead of four.

[Saad leaves.]

- Mary:
 - Wood flooring could be scratchable (people pushing chairs).
- Lauren:
 - Like look of drop-down ceiling, but will it affect the light?
 - If we do couches, it would be fun to have accent rugs as well, to lighten the look.
- Michael:
 - I like the gesture of something domestic like rugs, but they're tripping hazards.
 - Re light: there's an abundance of windows: the drop ceiling would not significantly diminish the natural light.
 - Thinking of TV's (flat screens) for sports events.

- Not quite a sports bar: more casual dining with a youthful feel.
- Floors do delaminate: veneer can wear off. But hardwood floors properly finished should last.
- Upper deck of seating is carpeted now: need to look at that.
- The mini-arcade could go there.
- Re sofas:
 - Well-taken point.
 - Not everyone is comfortable on a three-person sofa.
 - That's why we are also thinking of two-person sofas.
 - But perhaps we could do more tables and chairs.
 - Don't want to lose all the sofas: they do get patronized.
 - But maybe three-seat ones are ill-advised.
 - Better to have two-seat ones that could be joined to make fours.
- Lauren:
 - What kind of material would be in the drop-down ceiling?
- Michael:
 - Wooden slats on edge.
- Lauren:
 - What kind of furniture would be in the back area?
- Michael:
 - That's the arcade: you mostly stand up.
- Sheldon:
 - Billiard table?
- Michael:
 - Too big.
- Cole:
 - Ping pong.
- Michael:
 - Too big.
- Cole:
 - Insulating the patio?
 - Retractable cover?
- Michael:
 - Contemplating that.
 - The area is very much exposed to wind.
 - Retractable awnings are flimsy.
 - Challenging and costly, but would add seating capacity.
- Schedule (from Michael):
 - November 5: tender documents.
 - November 9: Finance Committee about funding.
 - November 10: Council.

- November 12: Award project.
- December 7: Delivery.
- Ready for January and return to classes.
- Maybe another presentation to the Executive.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Finance Committee considering a payroll system replacement.
 - Finance Committee also considering a proposal to add market reviews of salaries and a new compensation structure to Dayforce.
 - Espresso machine for Blue Chip Express.
 - Financial system replacement.
- Lorris:
 - Replacing the Food Bank freezer is also going to the Finance Committee.
- Keith:
 - Interviewing for new HR Manager.

Executive Goals (part 2)

- Mary:
 - VP Finance goals:
 - Canvas course done.
 - Health & Dental:
 - Mental health subsidy.
 - Mental health network.
 - Utilizing the fund.
 - Survey.
 - Funds and fees review.
 - Communications:
 - Not done yet. On backburner.

Council

- Cole:
 - Three presentations: Audit, Strategic Plan, Sensory Room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 7, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Lauren Benson (VP Administration, left 10:45), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:25 am and took place in person (in Nest Room 3529).

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Lauren).

Minutes

- The minutes of September 22 and September 29 were approved (Lauren, Saad).

Financial Report

- Keith:
 - We did quite well financially despite it being a horrible year last year.
 - We have assets of \$125 million (mostly from the Nest lease) and liabilities of \$88 million (mostly from the Nest building loan), for a net of \$37 million.
 - Our liabilities also include money we have to pay to our Clubs and Constituencies; also the capital contribution from UBC to the building of the Nest.
 - We had a surplus last year of \$5.58 million, the highest in our history.
 - This was mostly because Health and Dental fees were under-utilized:
 - Our Health & Dental Plan follows the refund accounting model.
 - If premiums are not used, we get money back.
 - We also made money (\$2 million) from the government wage subsidy.
 - And the equity market went gangbusters: we made good investment income, but it was unrealized (because we didn't sell our investments) and it's mostly gone now.

- The businesses under-performed; many were closed or just open as a service, not to make money: we lost money on those.
- Our funds were under-utilized:
 - Clubs were not active.
 - The Capital Projects Fund was not as much used.
- Bad news is that there's still a deficit.
- It dates back to before 2016 and jumped to \$5 million when we renovated the Life Building, which we had to finance ourselves (the fee for building the Nest did not apply to it).
- We also lost money operationally in 2020 because of COVID.
- In 2021 we made a surplus because of investments and under-spending.
- The overall deficit now is \$3.9 million; it is going down, but the surplus did not eliminate it, because it stays in the relevant funds: e.g., the Health & Dental fund keeps its part of the surplus.
- Cole:
 - That \$5 million surplus looks super huge.
 - We will need to explain the nuances.
 - The investments performed well: that's the main reason, along with the Health & Dental surplus.
 - People will say we were projecting a loss and they'll wonder what happened.
- Keith:
 - There's the mental health subsidy we're looking into; we also need to look at the Health & Dental benefits.
- Cole:
 - We're still giving the \$1,000 psychology benefit?
- Keith:
 - Yes, and we've doubled the amount available for Health & Dental subsidies from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- Mary:
 - Studentcare is talking about additional services:
 - Legal
 - Digital teleconsultation for health care:
 - Could look into piloting this to see if it works.
 - You would be able to speak to a doctor online.
- Keith:
 - The legal service came up before.
- Mary:
 - Both would be opt-outable.
 - But if we're able to do the pilot by just charging the reserve fund, then we could add an opt-outable fee later.
 - I think lots of students might appreciate a service like this for \$30 a year.

- That's the way to use up the surplus in the fund.
- Keith:
 - The deficit decreased by \$264,789 last year because of the unrealized gain on investments, decreased spending, and the wage subsidy.
 - The deficit repayment plan (for the remaining \$3.982 million):
 - To be repaid from excess business contributions starting in 2023.
 - We're still experiencing COVID effects, for instance on conferences: there have been cancellations because of international travel problems.
 - The plan is to reduce the deficit to zero over four years.
 - Meanwhile we have a debt of \$55.762 million.
 - Originally we were paying interest of 5.75%, but we refinanced and started paying 3.2% on \$70 million (which was up from the original \$68 million because the building went over budget).
 - As of 2018, we've been paying more back per year: paying more of the capital and less interest.
 - We're now paying \$3 million a year, and it will take us another 14 years to repay the loan.
- Saad:
 - Is our deficit something to be concerned about? Is it bad?
- Keith:
 - We can't just keep increasing our deficit.
 - The bank and UBC could say we were not financially healthy.
 - The University could cease to recognize us and withhold our fees.
 - The bank could call in their loan, close our accounts, not give us credit cards, etc.
- Cole:
 - We should be proactive about developing a spending plan.
 - We have lots of money in our funds.
 - We're going to work on ways to spend it.
 - With some funds there's difficulty getting money out.
 - Part of the issue is how to manage funds.
 - The other issue is a fund restructure. Some funds may not need such a large fee.
 - We should develop a proposal to send to Council.
 - Maybe we should ask Council to pass a motion referring the issue to the Executive and the Finance Committee: how to spend the money in the funds.
- Mary:
 - Club recovery benefits.
- Lauren:
 - Yes, looking at that.
 - Changing focus: not so much videoconferencing as PPE and debt, getting clubs back on their feet.
- Keith:
 - From the Clubs Benefit Fund.

I-7A (mask policy)

- Lauren:
 - A couple of fitness clubs are asking about requiring masks during workouts.
 - The Provincial Health Order doesn't require them, but our policy does.
 - It's up to us; we could continue to require masks, but the fitness clubs would prefer not to.
- Saad:
 - We should support them, but they should ensure other measures like social distancing are in place.
- Lauren:
 - Council could amend the policy to say we're going to follow whatever the PHO says.
- Cole:
 - That would be the same as getting rid of I-7A.
 - But we had a mask requirement even when the PHO said no.
 - We could just make an addition to create an exception for high-intensity and low-intensity workouts in the building:
 - Participants would not be required to wear masks as long as social distancing and other safety measures are in place.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Vaccine communication to clubs.
 - Carbon Offsetters meeting.
 - Clubs & Societies working group starting up to approve new club applications.

[Lauren leaves.]

Mission Statement

- Saad:
 - The AMS Mission Statement doesn't mention our affiliates.
 - It says we're to improve the lives of the students of UBC, but doesn't include the students at Regent, VST, etc.
 - We could make a small addition.
 - I spoke to the VST rep, who really liked the idea.
- Cole:
 - Do we want to wait till the constitutional change?
- Saad:
 - We can do it anyway.
 - It's just a Council motion.

- Keith:
 - What about saying something about the Musqueam?
- Cole:
 - If we're going to open up the Mission Statement, we should look at other aspects of it.
 - We could tell Council we're looking at the Mission Statement.
 - Maybe that could be part of the Strategic Plan process.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Interviewing for the HR Manager position, but not going that well yet. More interviews tomorrow. May need to use a recruitment agency.
 - Going to Finance Committee about getting an espresso machine for Blue Chip Express.
 - Going to do a review of compensation through Dayforce.
 - Conferences and Catering Senior Manager (Christine) is back from maternity leave and her return is going well.
 - There's a new union rep and we don't have an HR Manager, so collective bargaining is being delayed.
 - Gallery furniture.
 - Financial system replacement.

Executive and Services Updates (continued)

- *Mary's update*
 - Fee opt-outs done.
 - Montreal visit to Studentcare: ideas for Health & Dental.
 - Hiring.
 - Finance Committee starting soon.
- *Saad's update:*
 - SUDS:
 - Sending out email, need volunteers.
 - Waiting on confirmation for one speaker.
 - David Suzuki to do a livestream presentation.
 - 104 delegates.
 - Will be transporting them from their hotel to campus by bus shuttles.
 - Using the Pit and the Gallery, extending Nest hours.
 - UCRU lobby week on financial aid, removal of interest on student loans, grants, mental health, international student support.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Safewalk moving away from its current software; looking at a new process.
 - Food Bank hiring an assistant coordinator.
 - Peer Support:
 - Workshops, training on overdoses and Naloxone.
 - Dialogue nights.
 - Advocacy moving away from current software.
 - Tutoring is seeing success in its group sessions.
 - Housing has been running in-person support sessions out of the Safewalk office, and will be receiving physical marketing materials soon to increase visibility.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 20, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President, on phone), 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)

Regrets: Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am and took place in person in Nest Room 3529, with Saad in the chair.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Lauren, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of October 13 were approved (Lauren, Saad).

Blue Chip

- Lauren:
 - There have been complaints about slow service at Blue Chip.
 - Slower for food than for drinks.
 - Talk about reaching out to the employees for solutions.
- Saad:
 - Meeting with the staff would be a good idea.
 - Look at procedures, get staff recommendations.
- Keith:
 - We do have staff meetings about concerns.
- Cole:
 - This is a problem many on-campus cafes are facing.
 - People are complaining, staff are under pressure.
 - An easy first step would be to set expectations (for customers): tell them how long they will probably have to wait.

- Maybe also market Blue Chip Express as the place to go for those who just want drinks.
- Keith:
 - We're getting a new espresso machine next week.
 - We need to advertise more for Blue Chip Express.

Health and Dental Trip

- Mary:
 - Lorris, Cole, and I went to Montreal to have meetings with Studentcare.
 - Studentcare is suggesting new services, including:
 - A healthcare app that would allow students to contact a doctor or other health professional who could prescribe medicine or do an assessment.
 - We're looking to send out a survey on this.
- Cole:
 - Looking to enhance the services we provide.
 - Maybe split health from dental to be more flexible.
 - Possible legal service:
 - Legal costs are pricey and may discourage students from going to lawyers even when it would be helpful to get legal advice about such things as tenancy agreements.
 - This would be an insurance service for legal costs.
 - There are lots of areas for expansion to provide value to students.
 - Will probably do a survey about the new services to consult the students, asking if they're interested in the services and interested in paying for them.
 - Our health and dental service is the one providing the highest value for students; it's important we tweak it to make sure it has the best possible effect.
- Lorris:
 - Perhaps we can ask about a sexual assault legal fund.
 - This would be separate from the other legal service.
 - It was another suggestion from Studentcare.
- Cole:
 - The AMS Engagement Survey will be in November.
 - We don't want the two surveys to conflict.

Sensory Room

- Lauren:
 - Hard to find a good spot.
- Keith:
 - Think we may have one in the Life Building.
 - A laundry room that was never used.
 - Can speak to Michael Kingsmill about converting it.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Lauren's update:*
 - Sensory Room to Council.
 - Thingery to the Finance Committee.
 - Job posting for manager of the Clubs Resource Centre:
 - Name changing to Clubs and Commuters Engagement Coordinator.
 - Soapstand to be installed in January.
 - Resource guide for clubs post-COVID.
 - January Clubs Days will be January 18-21:
 - Atrium and first floor.
 - Probably not outside.

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Food Bank:
 - As of October 14 had surpassed the number of visits for all of last year.
 - Freezer approved by Fincom.
 - Peer Support:
 - Opioid overdose workshop.
 - Dialogue Nights a success.

- *Saad's update:*
 - SUDS done:
 - Very very successful. Every delegate I talked to loved it.
 - Speakers, events, networking, relationship building.
 - Good surplus. Want to transfer it to other projects.
 - One recommendation:
 - That SUDS not be solely done by the VP External,
 - Not healthy or right that it be under just one portfolio.
 - Should be an Executive Committee item.
 - Sending out feedback forms to delegates.
 - Going over priorities with UCRU for lobby week.
 - Northwest Marine Drive safety:
 - Working with Campus & Community Planning.
 - The RCMP made a presentation to the UNA.
 - Meeting with BC Housing about our non-profit housing project.

- *Mary's update:*
 - Shoppers Drugs flu shot issue.
 - Showpass.
 - Troubleshooting for clubs and Constituencies.

- Hiring new student staff.
- *Cole's update:*
 - AMS Engagement Survey with Insights West.
 - AGM next week:
 - 500 registrations so far.
 - Looking for more.
 - Going to send another email.
 - Hoping for quorum.
 - Agenda Code change going to Council.
 - Continuing to work on I-17 and I-18.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - SASC recruitment: interviewing.
 - Outreach with Studentcare:
 - Information sessions.
 - Boothing.
 - Want to increase awareness of the plan.
 - Streamlining processes:
 - Orientation courses.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Fincom approved the espresso machine for Blue Chip Express.
 - Upgrade to our payroll system.
 - Market review of salaries.
 - Massage therapist starting soon.
 - Hiring for HR Manager ongoing, have done seven interviews.
 - Equity Plan workshop in November.
 - All-Staff meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.



Minutes of the AMS Executive Committee

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic and University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaid (VP External), Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Manager, Student Services)

Regrets: Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist)

Recording Secretary: Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Saad Secoded: Mary

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.”

Approval of Previous Minutes

~~Moved: Secoded:~~

~~“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the (date) _____ Committee meeting be approved and sent to AMS Council”~~

1. AMS Student Engagement Survey (SES) (20 minutes)

Cole: Will have a draft to talk about soon. For today, if anyone has any additional feedback, I want to touch base on the approval ratings questions and the plan for the survey. We are going to run the survey in November for two or three weeks. It will probably launch in the second week of November and go to the end of the month. This will be the new double barrel survey approach we have with the Academic Experience Survey and this survey. The purpose is to keep the questions as consistent as we

can and track year over year. Some questions are more high level for the purpose of tracking. We're hoping for it to be around 15 minutes in length. Something that you might not have seen previously are some questions to poll people about how we did regarding COVID-19 and our advocacy work. We're also looking at health and dental in the survey. Depending on the length, we might add some prospective referendum questions onto the survey to get a sense of how people are feeling. There is a question I've been mulling about for a while with approval ratings. We usually ask "on a scale of 1-10 how would you rate the AMS," and we usually get a 7. It could be valuable for approval ratings of the executives. Additionally, it could be helpful to add questions about council.

Laruen: Could we also ask questions about sustainability?

Cole: What we could do on the AMS leadership section, is we could ask a question asking students how good they think the AMS is doing on a list of issues including equity, sustainability, policy, etc. We'll be able to see year over year how perspectives have changed.

Laruen: That would be good, especially being able to see how it has changed over time.

2. Referendum (30 minutes)

Cole: Some ideas that have come up are a fee restructure, the brewery referenda overturn, bylaw changes. Digital fee opt-out which will allow people to opt out digitally where some groups require in-person opt outs. Health and dental plans changes.

Saad: We also want to add another thing to change the scope of the Capital Projects Fund to allow off-campus projects.

Cole: I don't think you'll need to even take money from that fund for the project. You'll definitely need to introduce a fee.

Saad: It would be good to remove that on-campus housing component just to have the opportunity.

Cole: Even if you need to use money from that fund, money existing before the change will still be accessible only under the terms of the original language. Any other items? We have a lot already.

Cole: Of these questions, are there any that we should get rid of? The fee restructure and the digital fee opt-out can be moved together. There are really five questions here, which is a good number.

Mary: How should I propose a fee restructure? Is there a process we need to go through?

Cole: Best way to motivate is for us internally to look at the fees and come up with what makes sense with the AMS controlled fees. We'll then bring this to finance committee. The more challenging ones are

the ones controlled by student groups like the campus culture and performance fund. The challenge with the fee restructure is that you cannot add these into an omnibus motion. A good idea is to sit down with groups that receive these groups and talk about the fee with them. Same thing for resource groups.

Lauren: With the resource groups, some of their statuses are a little unstable. Some are no longer operating.

Cole: Who is steering the ship over there?

Lauren: No one.

Cole: This is actually probably something that should be discussed at council. We have these special groups that are not operating and hold a lot of money.

Lauren: I have contacts from them and some are responsive.

Cole: Can you contact them and ask them if they are active?

Lauren: I've tried to contact Pride Collective but no one has responded.

Saad: Are they contacting you for reimbursements?

Mary: The only one that I've heard from is the Social Justice Centre.

Cole: Try to meet with the SJC, they could be the ones that run everything.

Mary: Do you mean having the SJC be an umbrella that receives a fee?

Cole: Yes. I think that COVID really hurt their succession. So reach out to the SJC to talk about this.

Lauren: Looks like the Pride Collective has come back early October.

Cole: Mary, we'll need to get going on this.

Lauren: How much would this really save students?

Mary: About \$90k.

Cole: It's not necessarily about saving students money, it's about having a more effective fee structure and effective use of student money.

Mary: Why is there such a large accumulation in the funds?

Saad: To my knowledge, all the money they don't use gets moved to another fund. But only the Treasurer of these groups can do this and there hasn't been one since 2019.

Keith: Yes they get moved back to the fund.

Cole: Something we can do is pause fee collection until a certain point until their operating balance reaches a select number. It would also be interesting to see how much money is spent on these funds.

Cole: I am looking to hire referendum coordinators soon to look at these questions and plan.

3. Future of the Thingery (Lauren, 20 minutes)

Lauren: I went to the finance committee to get funding for the Thingery. We're looking for money from the capital projects fund for the shell. We were talking about the feasibility of the Thingery at finance committee. We've gone to Operations committee, Sustainability committee, council, and more recently the Finance committee. Now we are here to get feedback.

Lorris: What have been the responses?

Lauren: From the survey, people are interested in the space and volunteering. This Thingery will be the first one focused on students. Outreach would be worked on both the Thingery and my team. Overall, the results have been positive. There have been comparisons to the Clubs Resource Centre, but the CRC is more focused on AV, equipment, and the types of materials that can be found in the Thingery are games, appliances, kitchen equipment, etc. The whole idea is to be low-barrier and low-cost.

Lorris: What are the liability policies?

Lauren: 5 million insurance policy and 3rd party liability with The Thingery. Would like the project to go ahead as it is a valuable investment to the AMS and the UBC community.

Saad: Direct student benefits.

Mary: I worry that items will be collected and not used.

Saad: Maintenance of the items by The Thingery.

Lauren: The Thingery has a committee of people who will come in and review the items and see the conditions of the items.

Cole: The Thingery comes in as the tenant and AMS will take care of the operations. Worried about the legal liability i.e. being sued. Grey area and would like to get clarification - what is the operating

agreement and who is responsible for what. Not sure about the structure of The Thingery on campus - not sure if a student working group will work well. Need a coordinator under the VP Admin to be responsible to look after the space or another Sustainable person to look. It also goes back to the Thingery's role in doing it. I am not necessarily opposed to doing it, I think that if it's done well, it could be a good place to get things. We would need an actual plan in place to ensure it's operational and will receive the love and care it needs.

Saad: Does the Thingery know these things?

Lauren: Yes, and they know that we'll need to create agreements etc. The Thingery could reasonably be housed under my Sustainability Projects Coordinator. It's likely that this project won't be complete in my term, and will fall onto future VP Administrations to complete.

Mary: What happens if a future VP Administration doesn't want to do it?

Lauren: It will be a requirement for continuity.

Cole: You need to do the agreement first, especially since it's with an external organization.

Lauren: I'll work on the MOU.

Cole: You'll need more than an MOU, you'll need an operational agreement.

Lauren: Once completed, should I go back here or Finance committee?

Cole: Finance Committee.

4. Managing Director Updates (Keith, 5 minutes)

Keith: Still hiring for the HR manager, looking for a good candidate. Also finance system replacement and Halloween Events.

Eshana: What are you dressing up for as Halloween?

Keith: I am doing a wonderful impression of myself.

5. Executive + Services Updates (10 minutes)

Mary: Finance committee has been super busy. Working on flu coverage dialogue. Elaine sent over the U-Pass subsidy list, so working on this. Looking at additions for the legal protections. Reviewing the Dialogue app at the health and dental committee. Booking a space in the Nest for Rexall to come for a flu clinic. Reviewing the global fund.

Saad: Working with SEEDS to fund further equity-based projects. Working on the U-Pass audit to send to translink. Preparing UCRU's lobby documents, will be sending these to UCRU's board for approval.

Working on promoting student candidates for UNA elections. It is very important that students vote for student candidates as they will promote student interests.

Lauren: Working on club applications. Working on sustainability projects. We currently have a survey about soap stand. Working on getting funding for the Thingery. Changed the CRC position title and are working to get that out. Working on purchasing items for the sensory room.

Keith: Where will the vending machine be going?

Lauren: By Honour Roll.

Eshana: Our budget submission is done. My team has been working on the campus safety audit. Open Educational Resources champions night planning is going well, looking at venues. Working on Student Experience of Instruction.

Services: Hired a new Assistant Coordinator for the Food Bank. Recruited more volunteers for the Food Bank. RBC Get Seeded event planning underway, happening on November 17th.

6. Council and AGM Preview (5 minutes)

Cole: Council will go until 10pm, we will have an in-camera discussion that will last about an hour. We also have three presentations. AGM is tomorrow night. Think of five things you want to update, talk for 90 seconds. We have over 1000 registration.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 11:00 AM PST.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM PST.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 19, 2021

Attendance

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

Guests: Maia Wallace (AMS Equity and Inclusion Lead)

Regrets: Lauren Benson (VP Administration)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda

- Lorris asked to add motions on using funds from the International Projects Fund.
- The agenda was adopted (Mary, Saad).

Minutes

- The minutes of November 3 and November 9 were approved (Eshana, Saad).

International Projects Fund

MOVED COLE, SECONDED MARY:

“BIRT the Executive Committee recommend that Council allocate \$2500 from the International Projects Fund for a proposed SASC event with an international focus.

BIFRT the Executive Committee recommend that Council allocate \$2500 from the International Projects Fund to purchase culturally diverse food items for the Food Bank.”

Note: There is \$37,611 in the fund (as of July). Annual intake of the fund is \$16,000.

... Carried

Equity Plan Goals

- Maia:
 - The Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee of Executive Committee has been reviewing these.
 - Trying to be realistic about what can be accomplished.
 - Aiming to take them to the December 1 Council meeting.
- Cole:
 - December 1 is a limited meeting.
 - January's too late.
 - We told Council we'd be presenting in October.
- Saad:
 - The subcommittee wants more time.
 - We can't rush these goals.
- Eshana:
 - Council will understand.
 - I don't think January is a problem.
- Maia:
 - This is supposed to live beyond this year.
 - We've been missing a foundation.
 - We don't have any documents surviving more than a year. Trying to be mindful of that.
 - Mainly following the Sustainability Action Plan structure, with an initial document and feedback.
- Cole:
 - Maybe we can look at the final document at the next Exec meeting.
- Maia:
 - We've been looking at:
 - Training, goal development.
 - Distributing the goals between staff and Executives.
 - Business operations, finance.
 - Would like to encourage each portfolio to have its own channels of equity instead of relying on a single two-person office for the whole AMS.
 - Indigenous healing:
 - A priority.
 - Changing based on feedback.
 - Want to ensure consistent action.
 - Encouraging use of materials in the Student Services.
 - Central Identity Network.
 - Currently we have a reactive approach.
 - Clubs are outside but under us.
 - Creating an informal network can lead to a better flow of information.

- Can help propel more initiatives.
- Shouldn't rely on Executives to do everything.
- Campus Community Coordination, e.g., with UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office and the UBC President's Office.
 - If we can connect to them, it will lessen the burden on the AMS.
 - Last year we hoped to create an anti-racism course, but the VP Students Office already had one.
 - Our conversation should focus on gaps, what we can fill without duplication.
- Biggest section: Indigenous Community Communication.
 - Want to understand how our relationship with the Indigenous community will work.
 - The AMS as an ally.
- Structural reforms.
- Need to figure out how equity will live past this moment.
- Hoping to send goals next week.

Records Request

- Cole:
 - A student has made a request for investment information.
 - The issue with investments is that they change every day.
 - Our investment funds are managed by an outside company, and our holdings change all the time.
 - Keith has drafted a response which we can send.
- Keith:
 - We invest mostly in provincial bonds, also company bonds.
 - The fossil fuel free market is limited.
- Cole:
 - I think we should do our best to honour the request from the student.
 - We will send him links to our funds.
 - This is as much as we can really do.
- Keith:
 - Should we have him come in or send them?
- Cole:
 - It's not an actual physical record; it's just links to the equity funds.
 - We can send those, and if the student likes, they can follow up with RBC (our portfolio manager).
 - We invest in government bonds, provincial bonds, Canadian banks, fossil fuel free companies.

Pit Incidents

- Cole:
 - Some events in the Pit last week seem not to have been in compliance with Provincial Health guidance.
 - One by the Plug, one by AMS Events.
 - There was dancing.
 - What are we doing to ensure we're compliant?
- Keith:
 - For all events in the Pit, following the Provincial Health Order, we cover up the dance floor by placing furniture there.
 - We consulted the RCMP and got their blessing.
 - The tickets said no dancing, wear a mask.
 - On Facebook we said people had to be double vaccinated and wear masks, and we said there was no dancing.
 - We had 10 security guards asking people who got up to dance to sit down.
- Saad:
 - People were dancing at their tables.
 - That's still not allowed.
 - We could hire more security.
 - We should have an AMS representative present.
- Keith:
 - The Plug is not going to be allowed to book anymore.
 - For AMS events, we will have an AMS manager present.
 - But if people are told to stop dancing and they ignore us, what can we do?
 - Kick them out?
 - We did turn off the music.
- Saad:
 - Stopping the music is a good strategy.
 - As long as the Society is doing the most it can ...
- Cole:
 - It's our responsibility even if it's an outside event.
- Keith:
 - At the Plug event, attendees cleared furniture off the dance floor so they could dance.
- Cole:
 - It's important to follow PHO guidelines.
 - Maybe we need to double the number of security people, ensuring zero tolerance for dancing.
 - The Executive Committee has concerns about these incidents and wants to make sure PHO guidelines are followed.

Vaccination Updates

- Cole:
 - We sent a draft of a survey to the lawyers, and they suggested some additional questions.
 - They said they like surveys.
 - There will be 7 or 8 questions.
- Keith:
 - Before sending it out, we have to meet with the union and the Health and Safety Committee.
- Cole:
 - The questions are asking people to voluntarily self-declare about their vaccination status.
 - They can do so anonymously.
 - We will also be asking people how they feel about mandatory vaccination policies.
 - There will be a question about rapid testing.
- Keith:
 - The question will then be what is the AMS doing now.
- Cole:
 - The answer is that we will be evaluating the options.
 - We will see if we can implement a mandatory vaccination policy, with exemptions.
 - Also rapid testing.
 - Our main aim is to make sure everyone is safe, and the first step is collecting data.
- Keith:
 - The union will ask, Once we get the data, are we doing to do a mandatory vaccination policy?
- Cole:
 - The answer is that we will be evaluating the options.
- Saad:
 - The reason for the survey is to see whether a policy is necessary or not.
- Cole:
 - Keith will talk to the unions, then we'll send the survey.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Business plan for a brewery.
 - Vaccination survey.
 - Compensation reviews.
 - Financial systems project to serve the clubs better.
 - Hiring despite labour shortage.
 - Signed up with an agency for recruiting the HR Manager.

- Flooding in Abbotsford has led to supply shortages for us.
- Cole:
 - What's the timeline on reopening the Porch?
- Keith:
 - Not till January.
- Cole:
 - About the brewery:
 - Instead of putting it in the old Pie R location, why not put the test kitchen there and put the brewery in the basement?
- Keith:
 - The basement space is smaller.
 - The Pie R space would give us room to do it properly.
- Cole:
 - We could break down some walls to connect the basement location to the Pit and leave the prime Pie R location for a test kitchen.
- Keith:
 - In fact, that was the original plan when the Nest was being built: to have the brewery next to the Pit.
- Cole:
 - If the brewery is just for manufacturing, I have a concern about devoting a prime area in the Nest to it.

Executive and Services Updates

- *Cole's update:*
 - Rolling out the Student Experience Survey.
 - 13,000 opens
 - 1,000 click-throughs
 - Happy if get 2,000 responses
 - Putting it on social media
 - The Nest Experience Survey in 2019 got 2400
 - Open till December 3.
 - Working with Governance Committee on governance review:
 - Sending out a survey to Council to get feedback.
 - My assistant Dana is working on Council orientations and transitions:
 - Building up a Canvas module.
 - Thinking about a possible overlap week of new and old Executives, new and old staff.
 - Possibly compensation for both incoming and outgoing.
 - Starting planning for the All-Presidents Dinner.
 - Strategic Plan.

- Setting up planning for the 100th anniversary of the Great Trek, though really it's something for the next President.
- Drafting referendum questions; going to hire referendum coordinators for the start of January.

- *Mary's update:*
 - Q2 financial report.
 - Fee restructure: talking to fee receiving groups.
 - Working out distribution of funds for the Sustainable Food Access Fund.

- *Saad's update:*
 - All our recommendations were accepted by the provincial budget committee.
 - Organizing federal lobby week with UCRU.
 - Working with the student candidates in the UNA elections.
 - Working with SEEDS on equity-based research.
 - Drafting questions with Utile to bring to Council about housing.
 - TransLink event about SkyTrain extension: who's going to fund the other 20% of the business case.

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Safewalk:
 - Vehicle maintenance.
 - Naming of the vehicles.
 - Food Bank:
 - New freezer.
 - Food coupons.
 - eHub:
 - RBC Get Seeded very successful.
 - Peer Support:
 - Volunteers trained on using fentanyl strips.
 - Tutoring:
 - Exam Jam.

- Saad:
 - Can contribute money from the SUDS surplus to the fentanyl strips.

- Cole:
 - Money for that should come from the Health & Dental reserve.
 - Need to go to the Health & Dental Committee.
 - We should always spend from a fund first.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Working with Studentcare on information sessions.

- Cole:
 - Can we provide support to deal with SASC burnout?
 - Do we want to increase the SASC fee?
 - If we're doing a fee restructure anyway, we could do that.
 - This could help pay for additional things at SASC, like education campaigns.
- Lorris:
 - It could go to increase wages.
- Saad:
 - Can SASC provide a report on what it would do with additional funding?
- Lorris:
 - With more money, we could do more staff appreciation.
- Cole:
 - Could help stop turnover.
 - Let me know how much money is needed.

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Cole and I went to the Alumni Achievement Awards.
 - OER Champions.
 - Our campus Safety Audit is happening.
 - Senate passed a motion to deregister students who fail to comply with UBC's vaccination policy.
 - Will only affect students attending in person classes, not online classes.
 - The hope is the Board of Governors will do something similar for faculty and staff.
 - Student Affordability Task Force:
 - Pushing for final report.
 - Beyond COVID: a Teaching and Learning report from UBC.

Council

- Cole:
 - We will ask Council to suspend Policy I-9 to let us make our Executive Goals submission December 1 instead of in November.
 - But we will make a presentation at next week's meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 1, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, left 11:45), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Lauren Benson (VP Administration), Saad Shoaib (VP External)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:23 am in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Eshana, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of November 19 were postponed.

Elections and Ombudsperson

- Cole:
 - A job posting for the Chief Electoral Officer has been posted.
 - There will be a motion tonight at Council giving authority to the HR Committee to hire a new CEO and an Ombudsperson.
 - We need to look at procedures in case a CEO or an Ombudsperson leaves in the future.
 - Also asking the HR Committee to look into raising CEO compensation:
 - The departing CEO is saying the position needs better pay.
 - It's a pretty hard position.
 - A very specialized job.
 - You need a passion for elections.

Winter Break

- Cole:
 - We're sticking with the status quo: staff will have to use vacation time for days they don't work over the break.
 - Staff holiday party: why no food or drink?
- Keith:
 - There's no buffet, for Covid reasons.
 - Also we can't have more than 50 in the room, or we'd have to check vaccination status.
- Cole:
 - If it's in the Pit, don't we have to check vaccination status anyway?
 - We have buffets at Council meetings.
- Keith:
 - We probably shouldn't.
 - We don't do that for clients.

Referenda

- Cole:
 - Fee restructure referendum.
- Mary:
 - Meeting with the Campus Culture and Performance clubs about their fee.
 - Not sure what to do about the Resource Group fee, since the Resource Group Allocation Committee (RGAC) hasn't met.
 - All other fees can be decided within the Finance Committee or my office.
- Cole:
 - Reach out to the Social Justice Centre.
- Eshana:
 - The Social Justice Centre wants to access their reserve.
- Cole:
 - Is the RGAC the best body to work with on this?
 - Half of the Resource Groups are not around.
 - Maybe we should have each individual Resource Group submit their budget to the Finance Committee.
- Mary:
 - We should reduce the Resource Group fee since they are not active and the money is just accumulating in their reserve.
- Eshana:
 - Some Resource Groups do great work.
- Cole:
 - We could freeze fee collection for them.
 - They have \$400,000.

- By referendum we could say, pause on collection until the reserve is down to \$100,000.
- Eshana:
 - I am very much against freezing their fee collection.
- Mary:
 - For Campus Culture & Performance, we could freeze the fee until their reserve is down to zero, then start collecting again.
- Cole:
 - We're going to need to go to the Finance Committee and Council on this.
 - In January. Can't wait till February.

Executive Updates

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Student Experience of Instruction (formerly known as student evaluations):
 - Campaign launched.
 - Students who fill out the survey will be eligible for tuition reimbursement.
 - Campus Safety Audit.
 - Successful OER Champions reception.
 - Attended by Deans, Associate Deans, UBC Executives, members of the Board of Governors.
- *Cole's update:*
 - Student Experience Survey going well.
 - Might extend it to next week.
 - Potential to pursue ambitious governance changes this year.
 - Working with Max on some interesting ideas.
 - Might be prudent to revisit our Board structure.
 - Might move away from the Constituency representation model to electing all Directors at large.
 - Reducing the size of Council.
 - Maybe loop this into Bylaw changes in a March referendum, but it's a tight timeline.
 - Might take till next year's AGM or a Special General Meeting.
 - Governance Committee is working on a committee review.

[Eshana leaves.]

- *Cole's update (in VP Admin role):*
 - Operations Committee is meeting to look over club applications.
 - Want to break up the Operations Committee Manual into separate policies.

- The manual keeps getting revamped, but not followed.
 - Hiring the Art Gallery Manager and the Clubs Resource Manager.
- *Mary's update:*
 - Q2 financial report.
 - Flu clinic successful.
 - Meeting with fee-receiving groups about the fee restructure.
 - Finance Committee has been meeting.
 - Thinking about the 2022-23 budget.
 - Health & Dental coverage improvements:
 - Could increase mental health benefits.
 - Could also increase physio and chiropractor benefits.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - While redoing the financial system, changing the inventory system too.
 - Increasing vision care and mental health benefits for permanent part-timers.
 - Also including coverage for life and accidental death and dismemberment.
 - Vaccine survey out: 75 responses received.
 - New manager for Gallery starting January 4.
 - Sous chef has already started there.
 - Hope to return to full hours and menu for January.
 - The province has announced a new 5-day sick leave program, which will be an additional cost for us.
 - Goddess of Democracy:
 - No update on moving it.
- Cole:
 - Maybe move it to the Nitobe Gardens.
- Mary:
 - The Nitobe Gardens are Japanese.
 - The statue is Chinese.

Services Updates

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Safewalk:
 - Vehicle maintenance.
 - Naming competition for the vehicles.
 - Spending plan for the year.
 - Food Bank:
 - Received funds for more diverse food options.

- Hiring more volunteers.
- Advocacy:
 - Hiring volunteers.
- Housing:
 - Accepting applications for volunteers.
- Peer Support:
 - Received fentanyl strips last month.
 - Boothing in January.
- *Lorris's update:*
 - SASC: Trans Day of Remembrance.
 - Council approved funding for event.
 - Program for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
 - Orientation and data collection for the Services.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 8, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs, left 11:55), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Saad Shoaib (VP External, by phone), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guest: Mimi Neufeld (Policy Advisor)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:14 am in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of November 19 and December 1 were approved (Eshana, Mary).

I-17 and I-18

- Mimi:
 - Policies I-17 and I-18 (on sexual violence and respectful community) are being updated.
 - They are the responsibility of the Executive.
 - The review has begun.
 - Cole's assistant Dana sought feedback: some significant changes are needed.
 - From late October through November there were meetings with stakeholders: HR, the Managing Director, SASC, SVPRO, the UBC Ombudsperson, UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office.
 - Will also meet with UBC's Investigations Office.
 - Neither policy is very accessible, and they need to be made consistent with the Policy on Policies (I-1).
 - Want to expand on the values.

- Currently the policies are extensive on principles, which is not appropriate in a policy.
 - The plan is to develop a separate position statement.
 - There are procedural concerns: that the reports, investigations, and adjudication are not trauma-informed or survivor-centric.
 - They are very report/procedure heavy, with not a lot of support.
 - The policies are not clear on what to do about ongoing harm in the interim before a final determination.
 - Not a lot of training: want to identify who has training and capacity to do all these jobs.
 - The policies are lacking retaliation details:
 - They do have some, but they need to be more explicit.
 - Need to make sure there are clear appeal policies.
 - There's a lack of clear guidelines for decisions and outcomes.
 - Need to make sure there's support (educational and emotional).
 - Looking at alternative resolution processes.
 - Need to make sure people know about the policies.
 - Next steps:
 - Capacity review: resources needed, funding.
 - Gathering information to see what we have and what we need.
 - Work process map: determining who can help us, flow chart.
 - Requesting funding from the Finance Committee for community consultation, honorariums for focus groups, and work with consultant: Bakau Consulting.
 - Updating definitions and position statements.
 - Timeline:
 - December: Prepare and begin capacity review, prepare for consultations.
 - January: Doing consultations.
 - February: Finish consultation, work on policy pieces. Draft by late February or early March.
- Eshana:
 - What is the plan for consultation? With whom?
- Mimi:
 - Planning that now.
 - Want to consult the AMS community:
 - UBC students
 - AMS staff.
 - It's mostly club members and staff who access these policies.
 - We've identified definitions we want feedback on: want to know the terms people prefer (e.g., survivor or complainant).
 - Seeking qualitative feedback.
 - Focus groups: one for students, one for staff.

- Will walk through the policies with them.
- Eshana:
 - Permanent or student staff?
- Mimi:
 - Ideally both.
- Eshana:
 - Feedback from the permanent staff would be useful: they've been here longer, have insight.
- Mitchell:
 - Who is the consultant?
- Mimi:
 - Will Shelling at Bakau.
 - He has experience with the AMS, which is important because of the unique nature of the AMS.
 - It's a natural fit.
 - He has a lot of expertise with UBC.
 - Won't have to spend a lot of time explaining.
- Cole:
 - Bakau is the top of the top in the city.
- Saad:
 - Cost?
- Mimi:
 - Budget proposal to the Finance Committee of around \$2600:
 - \$1500 for consulting.
 - Honorariums and thank you gifts.

Vaccination Survey

- Eshana:
 - 95 out of 105 answered.
- Cole:
 - Key findings:
 - 93% declared they were fully vaccinated.
 - A small percentage were partially vaccinated.
 - A few did not want to say.
 - A couple did not plan on getting fully vaccinated.
 - Since a substantial number have been fully vaccinated, a policy would only affect a small number of employees.
- Eshana:
 - A majority were in favour of implementing a policy.
- Cole:
 - We would never say get vaccinated or you're out of here.

- We would require rapid testing if they choose not to be vaccinated.
 - If the AMS pays, there would be no excuse not to get rapid testing.
- Keith:
 - Vancouver Coastal Health is recommending against rapid testing.
 - UBC is not enforcing mandatory testing.
- Eshana:
 - Enforcement mechanisms are coming.
- Saad:
 - Can we use UBC's rapid testing facilities?
- Keith:
 - I've asked; they haven't got back.
- Eshana:
 - I'll follow up.
- Cole:
 - Health authorities are not pushing rapid testing because they want to encourage vaccination.
- Eshana:
 - But rapid testing is a good alternative.
 - UBC is adopting it. So are businesses.
- Keith:
 - We'll need another survey.
 - We don't know who is not vaccinated.
- Cole:
 - Not for January 1.
 - Have to figure out the logistics.
 - How are we collecting information?
 - What will the union say?
 - We don't have an HR Manager.
 - It's going to take a little longer.
 - Sometime next semester.
 - The good thing is that the survey made evident that a significant majority are already vaccinated.
 - A policy would only affect a couple of employees.
 - Another question: How does this affect the rest of the building?
 - Currently to go to Blue Chip you don't need to show proof of vaccination, but if we change that, if everyone has to be vaccinated ...
 - No decisions yet.
 - UBC has taken a while too.
 - It's not unreasonable that it's taken us a while, especially in the absence of an HR Manager.
- Keith:

- 30 or 40 people in the survey were against a vaccination policy.
- Cole:
 - 65-70% were in favour.
 - 30% or so were not, and some were indifferent.
 - This suggests that some who are fully vaccinated themselves don't support a policy to require vaccination.
- Keith:
 - Introducing a policy would mean we'd be taking on liability because it's not mandated by the government.
 - Better to wait.
- Eshana:
 - The government is allowing private businesses to introduce vaccine policies.
- Keith:
 - But it's not mandatory.
- Cole:
 - That's a question for down the road.
 - We still need to look at capacity for rapid testing.
- Eshana:
 - Council has asked us to implement this.
 - We do want to do it?
- Cole:
 - If feasible.
- Eshana:
 - It's our job to make it feasible.
- Cole:
 - There are lots of boxes to be ticked.
- Eshana:
 - I'd like an update to Council.
 - Council asked us.
 - I worry that this looks like we're not doing anything.
- Cole:
 - Yes, I plan to report on the survey on January 12.
 - We've done the survey.
 - We're looking into rapid testing.

[Eshana left.]

Referenda

- Cole:
 - On fees, make sure to consult and over-consult with the affected groups.
 - Make clear to the groups what's being planned.
 - Talk to all the members of groups like Campus Culture.

- The changes being proposed won't affect fees; it will be just a pause in collection.
- Once people understand, they won't be too concerned.
- Bylaw changes:
 - May need total rewrite of the bylaws.
 - Changing Council and the Executive.
 - Ombudsperson:
 - Could report to a committee of Council.
 - Needs stronger HR support.
 - Clarify the relationship between our Ombudsperson and UBC's.
 - Maybe merge Ombuds and the Advocacy service.
 - They support each other.
 - There's lots of back and forth.
- Mitchell:
 - The scope of work for Ombuds and Advocacy is very different.
- Cole:
 - Maybe shift the form of the Advocacy office:
 - Two wings, one for UBC stuff, one for AMS stuff.
 - Lots of students don't know about these services.

Managing Director's Update

- Keith:
 - Staff benefits increasing 9.3% this year: more expensive for us.
 - Events did a Stress Less Week.
 - Proposing a new wage structure for hospitality staff:
 - Two tiers:
 - Part-time availability
 - Full-time availability.
- Saad:
 - Do we get mostly part-time applicants?
- Keith:
 - Yes, it's more difficult to attract full-time.

Executive Updates

- *Saad's update:*
 - Finalizing briefs for provincial lobbying with the GSS.
 - Student financial aid:
 - BC Access Grant increase.
 - Removing parental loan contributions.

- Tying geography and standards of living.
 - Working with the City of Vancouver on introducing tolls on access routes to reduce cars:
 - Part of a climate emergency plan.
 - Also working with UBC.
 - UCRU federal briefs:
 - Lobbying in January.
 - Preparing U-Pass for next term.
- Keith:
 - Tolls?
- Saad:
 - The plan is to begin tolling routes into and through Vancouver.
 - Won't take effect till 2026.
- Keith:
 - Will make staff retention even more of a problem.
- Saad:
 - Something we'll bring up.
 - But it's good for sustainability.
- Keith:
 - Need to address the public transit issue.

- *Mary's update:*
 - Figuring out Food Access Plan: fund not allocated well.
 - Credit card and accounts.
 - Health & Dental meeting today.
 - Transitioning treasurers.
 - Meeting the Social Justice Centre to discuss the Resource Groups Fund.
 - Subsidies.

Services Updates

- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Safewalk:
 - Named the shuttles:
 - Vroom Est.
 - Safety McSafeFace.
 - Fixed batteries.
 - Food Bank:
 - \$2000 received for food purchases.
 - Tutoring:
 - Exam Jam.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Talking to the Affiliates about January orientation.
 - Meeting with vendors about a data collection system for the Services.
 - Orientation, marketing.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.