



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of May 10, 2022

**Attendance**

Present: Eshana Bhangu (President), Dana Turdy (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 10:45), Rita Jin (VP Finance), Ben Du (VP Administration), Erin Co (VP External), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:38 am in Nest Room 3511.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was approved (Rita, Ben).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of May 4 were postponed.

**Financial Discipline**

- Eshana:
  - Hoping to improve financial discipline on the student government side.
  - Senior management and permanent staff already do month by month financials.
  - Execs could do this too and produce monthly variance analyses to make sure spending is on target.
  - We have an under-spending problem.
  - If things change, of course there can be adjustments to the budget; there's a reforecast in January.

[Dana arrives.]

- We can devise a system of reports to the Executive Committee.
- We need a commitment to financial discipline.
- Dana suggested a monthly finance session; Rita suggested spreadsheets.
- This is quite standard elsewhere.

- Budget comments are also the norm.
- Ben:
  - Good.
  - Like the standards of the Senate budget.
  - Any challenges?
- Keith:
  - Yes, the Executive doesn't do it.
  - We introduced the system years ago.
- Rita:
  - Execs can ask the Finance team to pull up monthly figures.
- Eshana:
  - The trial balance.
  - The main thing is projects, campaigns.
- Keith:
  - Monthly figures can be produced by the 9<sup>th</sup> of the following month (June 9 for the May figures)
- Eshana:
  - Comments for the final budget.
  - Then month by month.
- Keith:
  - This will help Rita with her quarterly reports.
- Eshana:
  - We could look to do more holistic reports, not just finances.

### Equity Subcommittee

- Eshana:
  - The subcommittee has done the majority of its work: created the Equity Plan.
  - It met only thrice; it's no longer meeting the original intention (to help the Equity & Inclusion leads).
  - I recommend we dissolve the committee.
  - Enough siloing in subcommittees.
  - Now that we have the plan done, we should ensure implementation by including it in Executive goals, and we should have it as a standing agenda item every month at Executive.
  - We should hold each other accountable.
  - It's more valuable if Execs take responsibility.
  - The plan itself recommends a standing committee.
  - If we need a short-term working group, we could do that, made up of Councillors, something smaller, not outside people, less unwieldy.
  - Or we may decide to hire permanent staff.
  - Could do an equity circle for equity-denied groups on campus.

- Mitchell:
  - Compensation for their time if outside groups attend the equity circle?
- Eshana:
  - Yes, that was a campaign promise of mine.
  - We do want to create a policy on compensating members of marginalized groups.
  - Need a top-down approach if creating a new group: Executives taking the lead.
- Dana:
  - Could be a sounding board.
- Sheldon:
  - Terms of reference?
- Eshana:
  - Needs some thought.

MOVED ESHANA, SECONDED DANA:

“That the Equity Subcommittee be dissolved.”

... Carried

## Departmental Update Questions

### *Livestreaming*

- Ben:
  - Can you elaborate on livestreaming?
- Keith:
  - Could be used in the Michael Kingsmill Forum and the Great Hall.
- Ben:
  - Can we start livestreaming Council?
- Sheldon:
  - Code doesn't allow videorecording unless Council votes to allow it, and even then you have to make sure those who don't want to appear on camera don't appear.
  - But it has happened in the past, at certain controversial Council meetings.
- Keith:
  - We were thinking of doing it for other sorts of events.
- Eshana:
  - Not sure we want to introduce recording of Council meetings.
  - People are already careful about what they say.
- Ben:
  - There would be full transparency if it was all digital.
  - City councils do it.
  - There's a barrier to joining a Zoom meeting: it means you yourself are seen.

- But if you stream over YouTube, Twitch, or Facebook Livestream, you avoid that problem and avoid over-capacity.
- Dana:
  - A privacy concern for Councillors.
  - Videos circulate.
  - Some things you don't want to follow you.
  - Accessibility is important, but ...
- Ben:
  - We already produce minutes.
  - How do we know what something will be like till we try it?
- Eshana:
  - I don't have a problem trying something like that.

#### *IT Committee*

- Ben:
  - Will the IT Committee be restarting?
- Keith:
  - Hong (the IT Manager) would like it.
- Eshana:
  - Fincom and the Executive look at IT proposals.
- Keith:
  - But there's no IT expertise involved. That's how we end up with expensive software that doesn't work.

#### *HR Training*

- Dana:
  - Training for employees?
- Keith:
  - Yes, looking to extend it to all employees.
- Dana:
  - On anti-racism and sexual violence?
- Keith:
  - There are resources.
  - Also asking HR to look into specific classes.
- Dana:
  - SASC and SVPRO can come in and do training for Executives.
- Keith:
  - HR will coordinate.

#### *Contribution before overhead*

- Ben:

- Can you elaborate?
- Keith:
  - There's direct and indirect overhead.
  - Indirect includes costs for administration, IT, and HR.
  - Then there's sales minus costs and expenses.

#### *Expanding Communications*

- Erin:
  - Is it possible to expand the Communications Department?
- Keith:
  - Talked about this with Eric (the manager).
  - Could have a dedicated person for the Executive, similar to what Services has.
  - While keeping within the existing budget.
- Erin:
  - Work Learn positions could continue after the summer?
- Keith:
  - Yes, one would be the point person.
- Erin:
  - There are so many people.
  - It's sometimes confusing who to go to.
  - Is there an org chart?

#### *More money from the businesses*

- Rita:
  - How do we get more money?
  - We have more expenditures.
  - We have good ideas for spending.
  - Thoughts on how to cut down?
- Dana:
  - Are there any funds not being used?
- Rita:
  - The VPAUA budget shows under-spending.
- Dana:
  - Executive portfolios under-spend.
- Eshana:
  - Keith can cut.
- Keith:
  - Did.
- Mitchell:
  - We also did cutting (in Services).

- Eshana:
  - Just have to take the hit.
  - COVID recovery.
  - Haven't been in deficit since before Keith.
  - It's an anomaly.
  - There's a clear cause: the pandemic.
  - It will take a couple of years to recover.
  - We got rid of the external governance review: we'll do it internally.
  - The Great Trek anniversary will be a cost.
  - Things can turn out better than expected.

### *Great Trek Celebration*

- Eshana:
  - Students protested to the government in 1922 to get the campus built.
  - It was both a student protest and a celebration.
  - It symbolizes the power of student organization, student unions.
  - Important to be creative over this:
    - An opportunity to connect with students.
  - We have lots of resources.
- Sheldon:
  - There's a time capsule at the Great Trek cairn that's due to be dug up.
  - Put there on the fiftieth anniversary, in 1972.
  - Talk of replacing it with a new time capsule.
  - There's a separate committee looking into the whole Great Trek celebration.
- Eshana:
  - Think of creative ways to involve students.
  - Like the Trojan Horse they built for the Welcome Back Barbecue in 1987.
  - We could get sponsorship from Trojan condoms.
- Dana:
  - We could do a parade.
- Eshana:
  - It's a great opportunity for advocacy.
- Sheldon:
  - We have to involve the Musqueam.
- Eshana:
  - They're on the committee.

### **Updates**

- *Keith's update:*
  - Looking at talent for the Welcome Back Barbecue.
  - Room 3511 and other rooms are being repainted.

- Sheldon:
  - When will the jackhammering in the Gallery end?
- Keith:
  - Thursday.
- *Dana's update:*
  - Promotion for the Academic Experience Survey:
    - Hit 1,000 responses.
    - Will close it in a week or two.
  - Last year's campus orientation Canvas courses can be updated.
  - SASC 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary: liaising between SVPRO and SASC.
    - Potential for collaboration.
    - Maybe an event in July.
- *Ben's update:*
  - Onboarding.
  - Club executives orientation.
  - CampusBase log-in issue.
  - Preliminary reviews on Operations Committee Policy Manual:
    - Changing name to CCR.
    - Making it easier to understand.
- Sheldon:
  - Want to compliment Ben on the sign on his door saying when he's in a meeting.
  - We've had two years of Zoom meetings because of COVID, and you always wonder is so-and-so in a meeting or just checking their computer?
  - And now here's a solution.
- Eshana:
  - Signs in general are good.
  - Time indications.
- Keith:
  - Health and Safety is also reminding us about blinds.
- Eshana:
  - They're all open now.
- *Mitchell's update:*
  - Training for Services team/onboarding.
  - Data collection project underway.
  - Food Bank reopening this Thursday.
  - Received promotional videos for Services that don't already have them.

- *Rita's update:*
  - Transition.
  - Orientation training.
  - Final project reports on funds.
  - Setting up credit cards.
  - Working with Amy on the financial system.
  - RBC credit card.
  - Budget.
  - Financial discipline.
  
- *Erin's update:*
  - Onboarding.
  - Working with UCRU, UNA.
  - SUDS.
  - Meeting GSS, ABCS.
  - SkyTrain to UBC campaign.
  
- *Eshana's update:*
  - Financial discipline.
  - Transitioning.
  - Strategic Plan.
  - Council Orientation.
  - Media Training.
  - Training my staff.
  
- *Keith's update Part 2:*
  - All-Staff Meeting May 24.
  - New Executives can introduce themselves.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.