



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 25, 2022

Attendance

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

Guest: Kamil Kanji (Strategy & Governance Lead)

Regrets: Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am in Nest Room 3511.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Ben, Erin).

Minutes

- The minutes of May 4 and May 10 were approved (Eshana, Ben).

Executive Commitments and Accountability

- Rita asked about the new Code rules on Executive commitments:
 - The new Executives weren't involved in drafting these rules.
 - There's an accessibility barrier for students who are trying to be involved in the AMS and doing full time school
 - We should see it from an equity perspective
 - I'm wondering why there's no place in the monthly in camera sessions at Council for the whole Executive to talk to Council.
- Eshana:
 - Last year's Exec was not involved either due to conflicts of interest.
 - This was done by the Governance Committee and Council.
 - The in camera one-on-one is for the personal performance of each Executive.
 - The whole Executive is present in open session.
 - In general, we're public and transparent.
- Rita:

- Why was the President made supervisor of the other Executives?
- Sheldon:
 - Last year the President wanted power to ensure the Vice-Presidents are doing their job.
- Kamil:
 - It's supervisory on behalf of council- delegated authority
 - The Governance Committee reviewed the reporting structures and did consultation, and Council decided to give the President more authority, the power to manage and take responsibility for decisions being taken by the executive team
 - When an Executive is under-performing or doing things that are not appropriate, the President can and must take action.
 - It's been a recurrent problem.
 - There was a very elaborate discussion on this.
- Rita:
 - It creates a strange dynamic: do Executives report to the President and then the President to Council?
- Eshana:
 - This hits at a real problem at the AMS over governance- there's no clear reporting structure
 - Hopefully something that can be addressed with Governance review- good accountability measures for all executives and clear reporting structures
- Rita:
 - I'd like more transparency about the change.
 - It's a whole structural/employment change since all execs are elected and there's an additional dynamic now
 - We should consider that all students should be able to be involved in AMS exec positions even with academic or financial commitments
- Kamil:
 - If a VP is not coming in, the President can comment and could make Council aware in the in camera session.
 - If Council feels this is a problem, they can take further, larger action, it's all delegated by council
- Eshana:
 - Councillors are not in the office every day.
 - Council would eventually see and ask what the President was doing about it.
 - So this is to avoid that.
 - It's not two layers: the in camera sessions and the delegated authority to the President go together.

- This also means the President won't be able to avoid responsibility for a bad decision by a VP.
- Rita:
 - Something to reflect on actions with like peer reviews?
- Eshana:
 - Good for governance review, we should explore that
 - But Code change is main responsibility of the Governance Committee.

Executive Committee Goals

- Eshana:
 - Have to present to Council on June 22.
 - Complaints in the past were that the goals were too long.
 - Focus on quality, not quantity.
 - Initial thoughts (for collective goals)?
- Erin:
 - Something about Communications: procedures.
 - Helpful to see pictures and contact information for Executives.
- Eshana:
 - We did do that for the office of the VPAUA, so students would know who to go to.
 - Tell students what each Executive does.
- Ben:
 - Successful social media accounts do weekly or bi-weekly updates.
 - We could post summaries of what we're doing.
 - Maybe even the Executive Committee minutes.
 - Instagram posts.
- Eshana:
 - I really like that.
- Ben:
 - Could be one page for each portfolio in one united post.
- Erin:
 - This could help with telling students who to go to.
 - Details could go in the newsletter, but there would be something briefer in an Instagram post.
- Eshana:
 - We tried videos a few years ago, but that was a flop.
 - Maybe this would be better, more fun.
 - Once a month.
- Dana:
 - I have my team working on a communication plan for campaigns.
 - Maybe we could all come up with a year overview of when to post what.
- Ben:

- Maybe we should have more consistent office hours.
- Also quick email responses to student inquiries.
 - Being responsive to students.
 - Some have been frustrated by the slow response time.
- Erin:
 - I have years of old voicemail on my office phone.
- Eshana:
 - Is that our standard? Striving to respond in a timely manner?
- Ben:
 - That should already be in place.
 - Let's make this a subset of engagement control.
- Eshana:
 - Students need to know who we are:
 - Faces.
 - We're fellow students, people, not just an institution.
 - That's a good start: engagement and communications as collective goals.
 - Now individual goals:
 - A lot will come from your campaign goals.
 - But if one of your goals is not realistic, then don't include it.
 - Be ambitious, but realistic.
 - If something is not easy, don't leave it out.
 - Worst case, you don't fulfill a goal, but what students care about is that you did everything you could.
 - We can talk about these individually.

Council Orientation

- Eshana:
 - It will be fun.
 - Show your face.
 - There will be a make-up session for those who can't go.
 - For committees, please use OnBoard.
 - Helps with record-keeping and transparency.
 - The system cost us a lot of money, so let's use it.

Working from Home

- Keith:
 - Introducing a 3 + 2 policy, three days in the office, two at home.
 - Used to be a 4 + 1 policy.
 - Fuel costs are going up; this will allow employees to spend less.
 - Helps with recruitment too: there's a growing trend of people looking for a hybrid work environment.

- This will continue till the end of August.
- Sheldon:
 - It's not compulsory, is it?
- Eshana:
 - Of course not.
 - You can come to work every day if you want.
- Lorris:
 - It's providing flexibility.
- Eshana:
 - This is for staff, not Executives: I expect to see Executives every day.
- Ben:
 - Staff working from home will need to be reachable?
- Keith:
 - Yes, the memo on this indicates that.
 - If not, they can be asked to come in.
- Dana:
 - Sounds a little intrusive.
- Keith:
 - We're not demanding personal phone numbers.
- Lorris:
 - We can call people on Teams.
- Eshana:
 - The downside is losing personal contact.
 - If people are in the office, you can just walk over to them

Updates

- *Keith's update:*
 - Land & Food is setting up a culinary program in conjunction with us.
 - Useful for us, giving us access to workers.
 - But it's reopened the conversation about the Brewery; they say we promised them \$800,000, but we never finalized anything.
- Eshana:
 - We decided it was not in our interests to proceed with that.
- Keith:
 - They want to revive it.
- Erin:
 - What is happening with the daycare in the Nest?
- Keith:
 - It's UBC's, not ours.
 - It hasn't reopened.
 - We have to contact them.

- Erin:
 - When is the Gallery reopening?
- Keith:
 - Next Tuesday.
- *Services update (Lorris):*
 - Food Bank changed its layout to ensure there's enough supplies.
 - Peer Support is hiring and having a harm reduction meeting.
 - Have a potential candidate for Tutoring Coordinator.
 - SASC has three new workers, but the Assistant Manager (Ashni) is leaving.
 - It's their 20th anniversary.
 - There will be celebrations.
- Erin:
 - I hear people are lining up at 7 am for Food Bank.
- Lorris:
 - Unfortunately, due to high demand, people are lining up before we open.
 - Meeting with UBC to see what more can be done about food insecurity.
 - There's increased awareness, leading to more people coming.
- Erin:
 - If you're at the back of the line, will you be too late to get food?
- Lorris:
 - We have volunteers to remind people of the limits on how much they can take.
- *Dana's update:*
 - Working with SASC on the 20th anniversary celebrations:
 - Using the Hatch Art Gallery and the Great Hall.
 - In mid-August.
- Erin:
 - SUDS is also in August: need to work around.
- Dana:
 - Don't think the Academic Experience Survey will hit 2,000 responses; it's where it usually is: somewhere over 1,000.
 - Probably will close it on Friday.
- Eshana:
 - University people (Associate Deans) would like to see the data.
 - For Council produce a high level report.
- Dana:
 - Food security.
 - Harm reduction:
 - Making the AMS a member of the Harm Reduction Coalition.

- On search committee for UBC AVP Equity and Inclusion.
- Meeting on Campus Vision 2050.

- *Rita's update:*
 - Budget.
 - Treasurers reports.
 - First Finance Committee meeting yesterday:
 - Club business, loans, ToR for Get Thrifty.
 - Code amendment.
 - First Health & Dental meeting.
 - U-Pass subsidies opened.

- Eshana:
 - We need Code to change Fincom:
 - The VP Finance shouldn't be wasting time with fund applications.
 - Operations Committee would be a better place for that.

- *Ben's update:*
 - Club renewal form closed after an extension to avoid accidental deconstitution:
 - 311 submissions.
 - Canvas course for club exec orientation.
 - Constituted the Ukrainian Student Union.
 - Assessing the permanent art collection.
 - Talked to SASC about an exhibition in the Hatch Art Gallery.
 - Developing a CampusBase help centre to improve user experience.
 - Soapstand orientation.

- Keith:
 - Besides appraisal, the pieces in the permanent art collection need to be evaluated.

- Ben:
 - That will be done at a later date.

- *Erin's update:*
 - UNA – Campus vision – Basketball court.
 - Harm reduction:
 - Special trash cans for syringes.
 - UCRU:
 - Fee structure.
 - Bylaws.
 - Lobby work.
 - U-Pass:
 - Streamlining exemptions.
 - Research on BC budget brief priorities.

- SUDS.
- Municipal elections.
- Provincial lobby week.

- *Keith's update Part 2:*
 - Flavour Lab opened.
- Eshana:
 - Everyone likes the Korean Fried Chicken.
- Erin:
 - How often will you change the dishes?
- Keith:
 - Every three months.

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Strategic Plan on track.
 - Financial Discipline.
 - Great Trek hundredth anniversary:
 - Carnival.
 - Trojan Horse.
 - Council Orientation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.