



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of June 8, 2022

**Attendance**

Present: Eshana Bhangu (President), Dana Turdy (VP Academic & University Affairs), Rita Jin (VP Finance), Ben Du (VP Administration), Erin Co (VP External), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Lorris Leung (Senior 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 10:15 am in Nest Room 3511.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was approved (Eshana, Dana).

**Minutes**

- The minutes of June 1 were deferred.

**Council Statement**

- Mimi:
  - Consultation with SPHR (Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights), the Social Justice Centre, and others.
    - They were mostly happy.
  - Also consulted Hillel and IOC (Israel on Campus), but they stopped responding.
- Eshana:
  - Near final now.
  - Need to get a response from Hillel and IOC.
- Ben:
  - Should get a citation for the statement about thousands of Palestinians being arrested or killed.
- Erin:
  - Make clear this is about the Israeli state, not students.
- Dana:
  - Is the Board submission finished?

- Eshana:
  - A draft is ready.

### **Governance Review**

- Eshana:
  - Scope to be determined by the ad hoc committee, but my campaign promise was that the review would focus on Student Council and student government.
  - There's no point discussing other things already addressed in the last review, e.g., the businesses.
- Sheldon:
  - Need a timeline.
- Mitchell:
  - Should say what the hoped-for results are.

### **Executive on Governance**

- It was agreed that because of her University commitments, Dana would step down as the Executive representative on the Governance Committee.
- The Executive agreed that the new representative should be Eshana.

### **Executive Goals**

- Ben:
  - Address the gap between the AMS and the students.
    - Do things like last year's Town Hall, use digital media, attend community events like Jump Start.
  - There are three generations of students who haven't had the September welcoming experience.
    - First impressions are important.
- Eshana:
  - Orientations are a great opportunity.
  - Biggest problem for the AMS is not that people have negative views of us, but that they don't know about us.
  - Important to engage students effectively.
  - Target third and fourth years.
- Mitchell:
  - Need plan for engagement: videos, reels.
  - Services has an engagement plan.
- Sheldon:
  - The Great Trek celebrations.
  - September activities can lead to that in October.
- Eshana:
  - Looking to increase committee chair hours.

- Also can have President step in if a committee is not meeting.
- Ben:
  - Make decision-making transparent and accessible.
    - We need to show results, data.
    - It's important for students to see the whole process.
    - Different from engagement:
      - Engagement means being out in public, engaged in the community.
      - This is about decision-making: informing students about how that happens.
  - Another goal could be Council improvement.
- Dana:
  - Consultation framework.
    - A general principle about consulting with equity-deserving groups.
- Eshana:
  - Not just for them. We are going to have a separate policy for that.
  - It's good to do consultation, but in the end the Executive has to make decisions.
  - We do surveys and data-driven work; we also have a mandate as elected leaders.
  - Have to judge things case by case.
- Dana:
  - The consultation framework would also be about how to do consultation without burdening marginalized groups.
- Eshana:
  - We have a sustainability plan and an equity action plan: can include those in your individual goals.
- Dana:
  - Completing PC-1 and PC-2 (policies on sexual violence and responsible community) can be part of our goals.
- Ben:
  - I'd like to see all of us acting with integrity and honesty.
- Eshana:
  - That goes without saying.
  - This job, representing students, is a huge privilege.

## Updates

- *Keith's update:*
  - First bargaining meeting with one of our unions, but they need to name a replacement on their bargaining team, so there's a delay.
  - Wage banding policy.

- *Mitchell's update:*
  - Now a full team: hired a Tutoring Coordinator.
  - Reducing the number of times people can visit Food Bank from 16 to 12.
  
- *Rita's update:*
  - Quarterly report.
  - Subsidy rubric implementation.
  - Budget.
    - Adding actuals.
    - Fincom inviting Councillors to come and provide feedback because there was no Preliminary Budget.
  
- *Ben's update:*
  - Looking for replacement piano.
  - Sensory Room project.
  - Hatch Art Gallery working on priorities.
  
- *Dana's update:*
  - Meeting with UBC.
  - Board submission draft done.
  - Campus 2050 charrette.
  - SASC anniversary.
  
- Eshana:
  - Can we get SASC to present on how they'll be spending their money?
  - It was done for the old Executive, but the new Executive hasn't heard.
  
- *Erin's update:*
  - BC budget:
    - Narrowing down priorities.
    - Focusing more on affordability.
  - Federally working with UCRU on pre-budget consultation.
  - The Minister of Advanced Education is coming to campus.
  
- *Eshana's update:*
  - Great Trek.
  - Strategic Plan.
  - Governance Review.
  - Budget.
  - Code changes.
  - Cannabis comment.
  
- Keith:
  - Anti-racism training?

- Eshana:
  - For managers and Executives.
  - SASC workshop.
  - Decolonization training.
  - Hired an Indigenous Engagement Facilitator.
  - Indigenous Strategic Plan implementation.
  - Indigenous Finance Guidelines.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.