



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

AMS Ad-Hoc Governance Review Committee

Minutes of September 1, 2022

AMS Nest Room 3529

Attendance

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – AMS Councillor, Voting Member), Eshana Bhangu (Vice-Chair – AMS President, Voting Member), Audrey Chow (AMS Councillor, Voting Member), Cynara Onyemordi (AMS Councillor, Voting Member), Mathew Ho (AMS Councillor, Voting Member), Christian Kyle (AMS Councillor, Voting Member), Rachel Kim (AMS Councillor, Voting Member), Kamil Kanji (Strategy and Governance Lead, Regularly Invited Guest)

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Joshua Kim (Projects and Communications Lead)

Call to Order

The meeting is called to order at 6:15 PM

Approval of the Agenda

Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion: Cynara Onyemordi Second: Audrey Chow

Approval of the Minutes

Be it resolved that the minutes of the August 18th meetings be approved as presented.

Motion: Audrey Chow Second: Cynara Onyemordi

Internal Consultation Survey Questions Discussion

Max: We are looking at the questions on the survey, great job everyone at reviewing it. Apologies for being on vacation, but I think we want to have the discussion done today so that

we can send the survey out at the start of next week. We will give people three weeks to answer the survey. We are going to go through the questions today. Questions are basically the same as it was. Going through it quickly. Issue of definition was brought up in the previous meeting. You only define words if it is important to the data we are collecting. Generally, we want to shy away from providing too many definitions. One thing we want to address from the start is "What roles have you held within the AMS?" I don't think that we should be asking people to fill out multiple datasets if they are current and former AMS councillor since I don't think it changes what we are looking for in the data. We are not going to ask the same datasets from the people since the data won't change.

CK: Question 1, for example, if you are a current councillor, are we giving them the same tense? Does it matter?

Max: I wouldn't say it matters per se. If we want to look at just current or just former councillors or even both councillors. We are going to go through all of the questions now. Regularly attending AMS council meetings question, I just want to ask how many meetings people miss.

CK: How many people remember how many council sessions there were last year?

Max: Just trying to see how many councillors were regularly engaged. You can't miss a lot of council meetings.

Eshana: Councillors can only miss 5 meetings.

Cynara: Quantitative responses will be more appreciated than the qualitative and subjective question format that is right now.

Max: Yeah, and also I don't think this question will drastically change our dataset like we just want to hear that people were attending regularly. Do people want to do an alternative? Do all of these questions have comment boxes?

Kamil: No, I've removed some of the comment boxes from the questions.

Max: Alright, next question on how comfortable councillors were with speaking up. Just for context, most of the yes or no questions will be changed to the strongly disagree-strongly agree format. This question has no problems. Following questions fine. Executive performance quality question seems fine overall. Executive goal presentation helpfulness question, I've basically

removed everytime it brought up accountability and try to explain in words what we meant... accomplishments-focused. Get rid of the question on execs achieving majority of their goals?

CK: Question first, do we not do exit surveys after council?

Max: We do not have one.

Audrey: If we are combining current and former councillors' questions... how do current councillors answer this question?

Max: What I would say is, then, on these kinds of questions, you are going to need to put a "does not apply" and in parentheses (current).

CK: So we are keeping this question?

Max: Yes. Moving on, executives were hearing and addressing the students (accountable to students) question. Do not know what this means.

CK: I was wondering, how do executives hear from students?

Max: I think it's like here one can bring up during COVID, was the AMS advocating to university on these issues or hearing issues from students and the community.

CK: I feel like hearing and addressing are different.

Max: This was replacing the question on I feel like the council is keeping the executives accountable to students which generally I just wanted to remove the word accountable from the survey.

Cynara: I agree with CK that hearing and addressing is different.

Max: Do pay attention to the "and"s and "or"s. Did you attend your council orientation... yes or no question. Adequate time to fulfill the responsibilities of a councillor question.

CK: This feels like – for AMS councillors, responsibilities are simply reading the docket and attending council. I can live with it, but specifying that we are asking for – (inaudible).

Audrey: I am confused as to in what context will councillors not have the time?

Kamil: Well, 80% of the councillors did not read the docket.

Audrey: Oh.

Max: Also a question of that many councillors will say “yes”. Is this data even important?

CK: I think the wording as is is not super useful. We can change this question to ask about reading the materials. People don't read the materials for a reason, right? Change this question to a reading materials question.

Max: Length of council vis-a-vis efficient usage of time question.

Audrey: I think it's that we discuss for too long, council is just simply too long.

Max: We can make a lot of governance changes based on this question, like giving more responsibilities to committees and lessening the number of responsibilities for council. Delete the question on executives providing information on their projects to council. More focus on responsibilities or like council making decisions? Council kept the executives in the AMS transparent question. Is this the original format?

Kamil: Yes.

Max: I think it's a dumb question and we should get rid of it. There are two questions here: 1) did you feel that the executives provided enough information to you on the work that they did so that you can provide useful feedback? 2) Adequate information provided when making decisions? Let's get rid of the adequate information on oversight question. “I feel like council was accessible to students” question... even this question, do we feel like this is necessary?

CK: Do we want to make this students or students-at-large?

Max: Like students. And I believe council is as accessible as it can be to students. Axe accessibility?

Audrey and CK: I think so.

Max: Critical feedback question. This is getting adversarial in the sense that they weren't snarky at you.

Audrey: Is this very different from the question on hearing and addressing?

Max: That one was on relationship between students and execs. This one's more on adversarial role.

Cynara: I think it's fine. This is a feedback question.

Max: I definitely get that. I ultimately don't know what to do with the information if the councillors and executives do have an adversarial relationship. Then there was a question on the adversarial relationship between councillors. Do we want this? Let's just delete it. Work in the constituency and work in the AMS question.

Audrey: Can we make this into a one slider question?

Max: No. Moving on, committee chair questions. Did you feel like your committee had too much or too little work? Do people like this? Please elaborate section is good too. We will be re-including "presidents" in the former executive section as well since we need the dataset. Included "criticisms" as feedback in questions. Delete "council helped me ..." question. Change the HR practice question... add hiring and remove "following best HR practice". Remove the question on consulting previous predecessors as I cannot see anyone saying "no" to this question. Change the question on "was council a good use of time" to "productive time". Moving on to permanent staff questions. Moving on to former student staff questions. Added text box to see if people were underpaid or overpaid for the question on proportionate payment question. 5+ hours extremely disproportionate, <5 hours disproportionate. Moving on to President's Council section. Combine first two questions. "When I and my executives asked the AMS for assistance, it was granted in a timely manner."

CK: Sure.

Rachel: Why are we combining the first two questions? The response and delivery from the AMS might be different.

Max: I still think the two questions can be merged. Rachel, what do you think about the support services one.

Rachel: Is this a drop-down question?

Kamil: No, just a fill-in-the-box question.

Max: Let's leave it. Put word limit on the reimbursement process question. Q289 looks good.

CK: Leave the textbox for this.

Max: Get rid of Q304 on what powers the President's Council should have over the operations of the AMS.

CK: Improvement question doesn't get to the point of what the President's Council should oversee.

Max: But, Q304 is biased as to we assume President's Council will have more power. (Rephrased Q304: "Would you want President's Council to have additional influence over the AMS?") Next steps, Kamil and I will revise the survey. It might not go out the start of next week, but will go out the end of next week. Meeting will not occur next week and a new When2Meet will go out soon from Kamil. It is going down to an hour per week but may find additional time if needed. Interviews will be set up.

Audrey: How often do you think that we will be having additional meetings?

Max: I think not often. The When2Meet is going to be for the new meeting time. Want to talk a little bit more on the next steps with the agenda. Consultations with student body might be pushed back. In our next meeting, we will start talking about issues and solutions... not our final discussion on this but rather a preliminary one and start narrowing issues and looking for easy changes such as one on orientation and training. We are not going to start with execs but more so with council-related issues.

Other Business

Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 7:30 PM