



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of January 25, 2023

**Attendance**

Present: Eshana Bhangu (President), Anisha Sandhu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Ben Du (VP Administration, left 1:50), Erin Co (VP External), Celia Chung (Acting Managing Director), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Kathleen Simpson (Senior Manager of Student Services)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm in Nest Room 3511.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was approved by consensus.

**Minutes**

- The minutes will be done next week.

**Flavour Lab**

- Eshana:
  - Prices are up. Doubled.
  - Would prefer if we could reduce portions and then reduce the price.
  - It's supposed to be an affordable outlet.
- Lawrence:
  - The portions are not even that big.
- Ben:
  - The charm of it is that students can vote on which dishes they prefer.
- Celia:
  - It's not making money.
- Erin:
  - Students voted for Korean chicken: where'd it go?
- Eshana:
  - They do have to rotate the offerings; I'm not too concerned about that.
- Celia:
  - What price would you like?

- Eshana:
  - \$10 and under.
- Celia:
  - And there's still one \$5 item.

### **Budget Reforecast**

- Lawrence:
  - Have heard from Communications and the VP Admin.
  - Going to talk to Celia about the businesses.
- Eshana:
  - Departments should come to Fincom.
  - SASC, the Services, the ones with big budgets.
  - They should come just to give an update even if they're not making changes.

### **Managing Director Hiring**

- Eshana:
  - Expecting Exec feedback.
  - Will get Advisory Board feedback too.
  - Posting will go up soon.

### **Athletics**

- Eshana:
  - The MoU is coming to an end.
  - Renegotiating.
  - The fee is a hot topic.
  - Trying to get a bigger bang for our 1.2 million bucks.
  - Should be and is going mostly to Intramurals, but also to other things.
  - We need to be treated like a sports sponsor, with the right of first refusal about branding.
  - We should be getting more than just a copy of the budget.

### **Food Bank**

- Eshana:
  - Meeting with UBC's Andrew Parr.
  - Asking if they will continue to provide funding next year.
  - It's costing us \$550,000 to run it.
  - Can't afford that.
  - Could reduce costs to \$350,000 if we cut out visits by UBC staff.
- Celia:
  - It used to be only \$175,000.

- Eshana:
  - Student fees, student Food Bank.
  - Sometimes we need to refocus on our mandate.
  - It's tough; some of the visits are from UBC custodial staff, but they can go off campus to other food banks; our students are less likely to go off campus.
  - We should be more available to students.
- Ben:
  - We're a student union collecting student fees.
  - Serving UBC staff is a great extra, but if it jeopardizes access for students, we should be comfortable cutting.
- Eshana:
  - UBC says they understand the student food bank is for students.
  - We've already cut the number of visits by staff members to 8.
  - We're proposing cutting to zero.
  - Students still get 16 visits. Only cutting staff.
- Erin:
  - It would be good not to just turn people away; we should give them other locations to go to.
- Eshana:
  - Yes, we should inform them of alternatives.
  - Also, we're not stopping immediately; we're phasing them out, from May.
- The consensus was to cut staff visits.

## ERP (Reimbursements)

- Eshana:
  - Our consultant, MNP, says it will take 300 hours to clear the backlog.
  - It's expensive. About \$100,000.
  - Can take the money from the Capital Projects Fund, which has a provision for spending on software.
  - The problems identified by MNP include bad training, fragmented information, and limited staff numbers.
- Celia:
  - We're only 10 days behind now.
- Lawrence:
  - Part of the problem was incorrectly submitted requests.
- Eshana:
  - MNP recommends:
    - User guides, workshops.
    - Centralized control.
    - Prioritizing clearance of the backlog.
  - There were design flaws and implementation flaws.

- Need design modification, assessment of the proposed design against what we need.
- Addressing login issues.
- Timeline: complete stabilization by the end of February.
- We have failed our student leaders; there are trust issues now.
- Ben:
  - This can be an investment in the future, creating a well-oiled machine.
- Eshana:
  - We have to support our subsidiaries.
  - We do room bookings and reimbursements for them.
  - We've failed them on reimbursements.
  - They're justified in being unhappy with us.
  - Councillors are not caring because we're not succeeding at one of our basic responsibilities.
- Celia:
  - When we introduced DayForce, we hired extra help.
- Eshana:
  - By the end of March we will have design changes.

MOVED LAWRENCE, SECONDED ESHANA:

"That the Executive recommend that Council allocate up to \$120,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for the ERP system transition and stabilization."

... Carried

[Ben leaves]

## Referendum

- Eshana:
  - Health & Dental fee increase of \$22.50.
  - Plus language on the ballot saying if this doesn't pass, mental health coverage may be decreased.
- Erin:
  - A referendum on ESG principles, asking students if it's their opinion that UBC should include human rights in those principles.
- Eshana:
  - Bylaw changes.
  - Thrilled to be involved in creating an Indigenous Constituency.
  - From Governance Review: reduction of Council size to produce more representation with fewer members.

- Lawrence:
  - A fee restructuring?
- Eshana:
  - I'll think about it.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.