



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of March 14, 2023

**Attendance**

Present: Eshana Bhangu (President), Anisha Sandhu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Ben Du (VP Administration), Lawrence Liu (VP Finance), Celia Chung (Acting Managing Director), Kathleen Simpson (Senior Manager of Student Services), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Erin Co (VP External)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm in Nest Room 3529.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was approved by consensus.

**Minutes**

- Minutes were postponed.

**Food Bank**

- Celia:
  - Talking to lawyer about creating a charity to run Food Bank.
  - That way the charity could issue tax receipts for donations.
  - Complicated situation.
  - The relationship between the AMS and this charity would have to be at arm's length.
  - The AMS Executive could not control this charity.
- Eshana:
  - The goal is to find a way to issue tax receipts.
- Celia:
  - Have we explored other benefits we could offer to donors besides tax deductions?
- Eshana:
  - They could be like sponsors and get advertising.

- Kathleen:
  - We do have a media sponsorship package.
- Sheldon:
  - We did have a charitable organization in the past called the AMS Foundation.
  - We found it was very complicated for it to spend the money that had been donated.
  - We had to channel it through another charity.
  - We dissolved it in 2014.

### Executive Portfolio Cuts

- Eshana:
  - Time to clamp down.
    - For the preliminary budget – and the final budget will need to be close to the preliminary one.
  - Want to do cutting across Executive portfolios.
  - Don't need such a massive Presidential portfolio.
  - Planning to reduce the President's Office to two positions.
  - Getting rid of bloat.
  - It's not a good use of resources.
  - AUA is going to cut.
  - External will have two AVP's.
  - Finance is restructuring.
  - Admin is cutting down: removing Assistant Manager at the Hatch, cutting hours of staff in the Commons.
  - Hoping to receive money from UBC for Food Bank.
- Kathleen:
  - Options at Food Bank might include cutting the bill.
- Eshana:
  - Let's take a look.
  - We've already cut out UBC staff.
  - Food Bank is meant to serve students, since it's funded by student fees.
  - The goal is spending dollars wisely and reducing Council expenditures.

### UBC Presidential Search

- Eshana:
  - The UBC search committee is seeking feedback and wants us to speak to challenges and opportunities for the next UBC President.
- Lawrence:
  - Dealing with inflation, budgeting.
- Ben:

- Looking at UBC's plans and strategic frameworks.
  - Are they outdated?
  - There's an opportunity to continue the trajectory set by the plans.
  - Don't want to waste the work that went into them.
  - Want to ensure UBC is still a leader.
- Dealing with conflicting perspectives.
- Anisha:
  - After having a president as student-facing as President Ono, students will want someone as engaging.
- Eshana:
  - What experience and personal qualities are we looking for?
- Suggestions included:
  - Kind-hearted.
  - Fundraising ability.
  - Willingness to engage with students.
  - High regard for their reputation among students.
- Question: What sort of academic experience should they have? Should they be a Dean?
- Anisha:
  - A Dean is like a President in a Faculty.
- Eshana:
  - Want someone who values teaching and learning as well as research.
  - Someone able to handle diversity of thought.
- Question:
  - Public versus private experience.
  - American?
- Anisha:
  - Someone coming from an American school is usually shocked by the amount of student involvement here.
- Lawrence:
  - Cultural differences.
  - Here we are left-leaning, progressive.
- Consensus:
  - Want someone who appreciates the Canadian post-secondary landscape.
  - Also someone who appreciates student life and spirit.

### **Managing Director**

- Eshana:
  - Governance Review subcommittee is probably going to recommend restructuring.
  - Selection committee is working with the search firm (Boyden).
  - There are good candidates.
  - Hoping to make an offer by the end of March.

- Selection committee consists of:
  - One Advisory Board member
  - One senior manager (Eric, Marketing & Communications)
  - the President
  - One or two other Executives
  - the Acting Managing Director
  - two Councillors.

## Updates

- *Lawrence's update:*
  - Budget.
  - MNP wrapping up.
  - Hiring new AVP.
  
- *Ben's update:*
  - Club renewal in full swing.
  - Shelving units for club rooms have arrived, alleviating the storage crisis.
  - Room booking process: improvement review.
  - Low cost, high value projects: e.g., study hooks at counters, HDMI adapters.
  - Waste audit.
  
- *Anisha's update:*
  - Academic Experience Survey (AES) launched.
    - 300 responses received in first three days.
    - Slowed down since.
    - Promoting it.
    - Target of 3500 responses; if we hit that, we will hand out a special grand prize; if not, some other prizes (iPad, noise cancelling headphones, gift card).
    - Anything over 2000 responses would be fine.
    - Was advertised with the elections.
  - UBC's Campus Vision:
    - Current draft not ambitious enough.
    - The lens of commuter students is getting missed.
    - 75% of the students don't live on campus.
    - Want to focus on that and connect to getting rapid transit to campus.
  
- Eshana:
  - Re publicizing the AES:
    - Go to AMS social media.
    - Partner with Events.
      - Arrange chance to win free Block Party tickets.

- *Eshana's update:*
  - Managing Director.
  - Governance review: Code changes following from the Bylaw changes.
    - To Council March 29.
  - Lots of stuff still to do: job descriptions.
  - Happy the referendums passed.

**Ubysey Agreement**

- Eshana:
  - Agreement is up for renewal.
- Lawrence:
  - We are not charging them rent.
- Anisha:
  - They have 24-hour access to the building.
- Eshana:
  - Shouldn't have 24-hour access. They're also not a club.
  - They collect a lot of fees: they can afford to pay rent.
- Ben:
  - Can't be giving them special privileges. It would introduce ethical problems.
- Eshana:
  - Sending this to our lawyers.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.