



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Executive Performance and Accountability Committee
Minutes of September 6th, 2023

Attendance

Present: Max Holmes (Committee Chair – Speaker of Council), Karisma Jutla (Committee Vice-Chair - Chair Student Life Committee), Ayesha Irfan (Chair Governance Committee) [Joined at 2:05 PM], Clayton Cullaton (Councillor), Rowan Bapty (Councillor), Thomas Dunsmore (Councillor) [Left at 3:10PM], Koda Tootosis (Councillor) [Joined at 2:05 PM]

Regrets: Lawrence Liu (Chair HR Committee & Chair Finance Committee),

Invited Guests: Esmé Decker (3:15 to 3:30 PM)

Recording Secretary: Max Holmes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2PM.

Approval of the Agenda

The amended agenda was adopted with unanimous consent.

Chair Update

There have been requests to talk to the Committee by members of the Executive. They were unable to attend today or retracted their requests. Any member of Council can request us to meet within a week and this includes members of the Executive. The hope is we will have the survey approved at our next meeting, but to have your endorsement would be helpful too.

Koda joined the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee unanimously approved the incamera minutes of July 17 and August 28.

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of July 17 and August 28.

Executive Performance Evaluation Surveys

Chair – The complete Qualtrics survey has not yet been completed but I will show you the first part today. All of the written materials including the questions are completed. I will be checking with HR what we are able to say about confidentiality for the survey.

The Chair guided Committee members through the draft Survey.

Ayesha joined the meeting.

Clayton – Can we bold “why” and “any other relevant information” for the comment boxes to really emphasize the need for people to fill out the comment boxes?

Chair – Yes.

Clayton – Can we exclude “prefer not to answer” and only say “unable to answer” so we don’t have people use it as an out to not answer the questions.

Chair – Yes.

Chair – One thing I will do is to create this into a survey and not in word format. We can have a final page that very clearly encourages people to add more comments and feedback.

Chair – Is there any feedback on the general performance and strategic plan sections of the survey? For strategic plan, this is taken straight from the plan so we cannot change the content too much.

Committee members indicated they approved of the current version and didn’t have any more edits for these sections.

Chair – Is there any feedback for the goals questions of the survey?

Committee members indicated they approved of the current version and didn't have any more edits for this section.

Chair – For the five unique questions for each executive, I took this mostly from what our bylaws and code say are their primary duties. Do let me know if there are any issues and we can go through each of these one by one.

Chair – For President the five unique questions are: Strategic coordination and leadership, effective spokesperson, stakeholder engagement and representation, strategic vision and leadership, and effective business management. How do people feel about these questions?

Clayton – Less about vision and more about the coordination of everything.

Karisma – If we could also talk about adaptability in the leadership question that would be great.

Chair – Seeing no other comments I have noted those suggestions and I will make those changes.

Chair – For VP Admin the five unique questions are: Effective Facility Management, Collaborative Campus Engagement, Sustainability and Climate Action, Effective Club Oversight, and Nurturing Nest Community. How do people feel about these questions?

Chair – Seeing no comments from members we will keep this section the same then.

Chair – For VP Finance the five unique questions are: Effective Financial Management, Financial Planning and Analysis, Clubs and Constituencies Financial Oversight, Timely Reimbursements, and Exemplary Fiscal Discipline. How do people feel about these questions?

Karisma – How much of the VP Finance time is spent on oversight of finances for clubs and constituencies?

Thomas – There can actually be a lot of support clubs and constituencies need specifically from the AMS Finance team. CUS we've needed this too. So, I actually like having this separate even if it doesn't happen for all groups.

Chair – There can also be situations where there is financial trouble with a club (or constituency) and the Finance team needs to create a plan to address the matter. That's why it was a separate question from reimbursements.

Clayton – The role seems to be providing some accounting support or is it actual oversight?

Chair – The VP finance is a signing officer and these are all AMS subsidiaries. So, AMS is the ultimate financial oversight for all clubs and constituencies. It isn't just accounting support. We can change financial planning and analysis is about advice to organizations too.

Karisma – The context from you and Thomas is helpful. If we can expand on the oversight and be clear about what that means.

Chair – Seeing no other comments I have noted those suggestions and I will make those changes.

Chair – For VP Academic the five unique questions are: Effective University Advocacy, Uniting Student Advocacy Efforts, Board of Governors and Senate Liaison, Supporting Constituency Advocacy, and Proven Advocacy Success. How do people feel about these questions?

Ayesha – The current VP Academic serves on the Senate and so I am curious if that creates a conflict of interest in advocating to the Senate and how that is addressed?

Chair – Not sure if this is directly relevant to the Survey, but Senate tends to be made up of people with overlapping roles. For example, deans and provost are on the Senate when technically the senate oversees all academic governance. There is no fiduciary duty and no code of conduct for senate. It is common for VP AUA to serve on Senate and has not historically been viewed as a conflict of interest. If there ever were more binding legal obligations for senators (like a code of conduct) it could create potential conflicts of interest, but that is the current situation.

Rowan – Mentions a lot speaking on behalf of students but doesn't really talk about hearing student interests.

Chair – We could get rid of Proven Advocacy Success since we already ask about goals and accomplishments there and replace it with something about listening and engaging with student stakeholders.

Karisma – I agree with that suggestion.

Chair – We can make this change for VP External too.

Chair – Seeing no other comments I have noted those suggestions and I will make those changes.

Chair – For VP External the five unique questions are: Effective Government Advocacy, Strategic External Representation, Effective Political Engagement, Well-Researched Advocacy, Proven Advocacy Success. Note: we will get rid of success like we talked about earlier. How do people feel about these questions?

Karisma – Nothing related to SUDS here, should we add it somewhere?

Chair – We can add it to Strategic External Representation, so people know that is tied to SUDS.

Chair – Seeing no other comments I have noted those suggestions and I will make those changes.

Chair – We will not be approving this today, but I will note for the new Committee members that we basically finished this work and you all were supportive.

The Committee unanimously agreed to go incamera at 2:40PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40PM.