



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 28, 2023

**Attendance**

Present: Esmé Decker (President), Kamil Kanji (VP Academic & University Affairs), Ian Caguiat (VP Administration), Abhi Mishra (VP Finance), Tina Tong (VP External), Justin Lieu (Managing Director), Kathleen Simpson (Senior Manager of Student Services), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Max Holmes (Council Speaker)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm in Nest Room 3511 and over Zoom.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was approved (Esmé, Abhi).

**Check-In**

- Esmé:
  - Thinking about what happened at Council last Wednesday.
  - Trying to figure out the best that can come out of it.
- Kathleen:
  - Thinking about next steps in relation to staff.
- Justin:
  - Optimistic about finding ways forward.
- Abhi:
  - Was frustrated with what happened.
  - Now next steps: make sure this never happens again.
- Kamil:
  - Things should have been addressed long ago.
- Ian:
  - Very first time I saw a meeting like that.
- Tina:
  - Need to recognize mental health triggers.
  - It's for us to consider how to react.

- Esmé:
  - Balancing safety, security, and rights for Councillors with transparency, accountability, and accessibility for Students at Large.
  - We've called a special meeting for tomorrow night to bring Council together to go over what happened at the last meeting.
  - Want to go over options.
  - Will be in camera to begin with, but we will post the agenda and the Zoom link.
    - Don't want students not to access the meeting.
  - The special meeting will be on Zoom in safe, controlled spaces.
  - If there are any disruptions, the Speaker can eject people from the Zoom
  - For the regular meeting on September 13 we can have someone from All in One Security by the door of the Council chambers or on call.

[Discussion on possible solutions and ways forward to be discussed with Council in camera]

- Esmé:
  - Multiple people in the room had panic attacks or felt unsafe.
  - Only some were yelling, causing a disturbance, making people feel unsafe.
    - Councillor safety is what we're talking about – being able to feel comfortable still fulfilling their roles, coming to meetings, and representing the constituents they were elected to represent
  - We can have a written plan saying we intend to keep working on PC1 and PC2 to improve them:
    - Can send that to the Resource Groups.
    - Planning to meet the Resource Groups regularly in the school year anyway.
  - As to logistics, we can go over the options at special Council meeting in camera.

[More discussion on logistics to be discussed with Council in camera]

- Justin:
  - Is it possible to introduce procedure just for the September meetings and maybe get feedback then?
- Kamil:
  - A short time could work.
- Esmé:
  - Maybe check back in at each of the next several meetings and re-evaluate at second meeting in October.
- Tina:

- Long term we need to look at improving communication.
- Kamil:
  - Yes, that's a long-term thing.
- Esmé:
  - It's important to continue with the draft changes to PC1 and PC2.
  - We are in need of changing the policies from the 2019 version.
  - But we want to continue to improve them right away.
- Justin:
  - The compromise would be to start work more immediately than next April.
  - We need a process for that.
  - How can we get better resources for consultation?
  - That's a source of frustration, how consultation is being done.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.