



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

**AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of September 22, 2023

**Attendance**

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

Regrets: Tina Tong (VP External)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 11:09 am in Nest Room 3529 and over Zoom.

**Agenda**

- The agenda was approved (Esmé, Abhi).

**Minutes**

- There was a discussion about including material in the August 28 minutes that had been kept in camera at Council.
- There was also discussion about what could be included in the September 8 minutes.
- The minutes of September 15 were approved with additions (Esmé, Abhi).

**Third Party Consultant for PC1 and PC2**

- Justin:
  - Met with three consultant firms.
  - Three different approaches to consider; they're different types of company.
  - Let's see all three proposals (we've received one so far and are waiting for the other two).
  - All were willing to customize.
  - They have various levels of experience in policy-making and in sexual violence policy-making.
  - Optimistic about choosing one.
  - Want to act as quickly as possible, with Council waiting for something in January.
  - Hard deadline of February/March.

- Esmé:
  - Important that they act as a neutral party, not attached to the AMS or UBC.
- Justin:
  - Providing them a summary of rationales for past revisions to the policy will be useful.
  - We could have consultants lead the process and give us drafts.
  - Or they could facilitate and mentor and let us make the edits.
  - Different approaches are possible.
  - The goal is to get edited drafts done, making sure voices are heard, providing rationales, ensuring transparency.
  - We flagged the tensions for the consultants. The idea is to build trust so people can work together.
- Esmé:
  - I can say, re the points of contention, here's the rationale, here's what I'm thinking now.
  - The third party can take everyone's feedback.
- Justin:
  - The important thing now is to provide rationales for the key changes being looked at.
- Esmé:
  - I can send emails to the groups asking for representatives.
- Justin:
  - Have to invite SVPRO.
  - Do they want to participate?
- Esmé:
  - They do as far as I've heard.
- Justin:
  - Can send one email to all the groups.

### **Operations Committee training (for PC1 and PC2)**

- Justin:
  - Anti-oppression training being provided by Minnie (Equity & Inclusion Specialist).
  - SVPRO and SASC also involved.
  - The University Ombudsperson can do something on procedural fairness.
  - Celia (HR Manager) is talking to Sheldon about privacy.

### **Code of Conduct**

- Esmé:
  - Incorporating most of last year's proposed Code of Conduct into the AMS Code.
  - Will send it to the Executive Committee, Governance Committee, EPA.
  - Bringing back procedures from last year's Ethics and Accountability Committee.
  - There will be a new Declaration for Directors to sign.

- Abhi:
  - Will you send it to Legal?
- Esmé:
  - Can do that.
- Justin:
  - Issue of Directors speaking with one voice.
  - Should Councillors have to?
- There was consensus about adding a duty of loyalty for Councillors.
- There was less consensus on requiring Councillors to speak with one voice.
- Kamil:
  - Maybe contact University Counsel to see what they do.
- Esmé:
  - Can speak to University Counsel and the University Ombudsperson.
  - Also to other student unions.

## **AGM**

- Esmé:
  - Been looking at past agendas and minutes from annual general meetings, e.g., from 2018.
  - Not much has changed.
  - Presenting updates from Executives.
  - We don't have any motions this year, just presentations.
  - Could have a Town Hall or Q&A structure.
  - Should we offer prizes? Tuition credits?
- Kamil:
  - That's what got people to show up last year.

## **Office Hours**

- Esmé:
  - Code says we're supposed to hold five office hours, including one hour in a public place.
  - Could set up Calendly and have people book appointments.
- Ian:
  - Five hours every week is better than booking.
- Esmé:
  - Could announce times when we're available and tell people to book within that time.
- Kamil:
  - Need lead time.
- Esmé:
  - Let's look at how Calendly works.

- Then for the public hour ...
- Sheldon:
  - Previous Executives used to gather in the Gallery on a Friday afternoon.
- Ian:
  - That could be intimidating to a first-year student.

**Child Care and Late Night Reimbursements**

- Esmé:
  - There were three reimbursements for cab fare from last Council meeting.
  - Code doesn't say who does the reimbursing for that.
  - Should be VP Finance.
  - Should also be VP Finance for any childcare claims.

**Student Aid Bursary**

- Justin:
  - Some confusion about the amount of the principal in the bursary fund.
- Abhi:
  - Will check.
- Kamil:
  - There is also confusion because we use different names for our funds in the Code and in the accounting department.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.