



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 6, 2023

Attendance

Present: Esmé Decker (President), Kamil Kanji (VP Academic & University Affairs), Ian Caguiat (VP Administration, left at 12:35), 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 11:11 am in Nest Room 3529 and over Zoom.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Esmé, Kamil).

Minutes

- The minutes of August 28 and September 8, 15, and 22 were approved as amended (Esmé, Abhi).

[Fire alarm went off at 11:25, interrupting the meeting until 11:40.]

Third Party Consultant for PC1 and PC2

- Esmé:
 - Received proposals from four consultants:
 - MNP
 - Robin Fern & Co.
 - Bakau
 - Possibility Seeds.
 - KPMG declined to submit a proposal.
 - MNP is strikingly more expensive.
 - Others are more attuned to our needs.
 - Robin Fern was quicker in getting back to us and is less expensive.
 - They're in Toronto, but coming to Vancouver in November and January.

- Can do consultation then.
- Justin:
 - Might be helpful to set out our criteria for choosing.
 - Cost?
 - Background and expertise?
 - Their overarching strategy?
 - For that one, probably similar, and they'll all do what we ask them to do.
- Kamil:
 - Some understanding of who our decision makers are?
- Justin:
 - Can just clarify that with them.
 - They all know it goes to Council.
- Esmé:
 - That's why I focused on cost, response rate, timelines, and whether the background they bring will build trust with the stakeholders.
 - Bakau included guidelines and training, which we don't need.
 - Justin has asked them to tweak.
 - What we want from the consultant is a draft policy.
- Justin:
 - Bakau now says that would be their Phase 3; they say they can draft a policy.
- Esmé:
 - Bakau had a slower response rate and no timeline.
 - But they do have background.
 - People would be confident they have the values and experience they're looking for.
 - Possibility Seeds got back to us quickly.
 - They are specifically in the work of sexualized violence, as opposed to the other groups.
 - They're not connected to UBC, are in Ontario.
 - Would do virtual consultations.
 - They're the least costly.
 - Their timeline matches best with Council expectations: could finish by January.
 - I'm leaning towards Possibility Seeds:
 - Struck by how suited their proposal is to us and the situation.
 - Their tone is good for building trust.
- Ian:
 - I'm looking to Robin Fern, though I have a question about their resources.
 - I also like Possibility Seeds, but felt their proposal was generic.
 - And they're only virtual: not sure how good that will be.

- Abhi:
 - I like MNP or Possibility Seeds, but the Possibility Seeds timeline seems rushed.
 - We've worked with MNP before and they're respected.
- Kamil:
 - I found the Possibility Seeds proposal weak.
 - Their timeline was rushed and unrealistic.
 - MNP and Robin Fern have fuller proposals.
 - MNP is familiar with universities and student unions.
- Justin:
 - Possibility Seeds does work in the postsecondary space.
 - Their experience ties in.
 - They have someone who used to work at SFU.
- Esmé:
 - Before Possibility Seeds came in, I was leaning towards Robin Fern.
 - Possibility Seeds is the most neutral because they haven't worked with UBC before.
 - Not keen on Robin Fern's timeline (April).
- Kamil:
 - Who from MNP would work with us?
- Justin:
 - A team.
- Kamil:
 - Bakau forgot to include drafting of the policy.
- Ian:
 - Bakau was focused on the engagement piece of the work.
 - I'm also okay with MNP despite the expense.
- Kamil:
 - I think we're down to three (leaving out Bakau).
- Justin:
 - Is the MNP cost doable?
- Abhi:
 - If you want to evaluate based on value, leave the cost out of it.
- Kamil:
 - Their team is larger than the other two.
- Ian:
 - I also like their big team.
- Esmé:
 - The cost of MNP is much higher.
 - Will they present a policy draft?
- Kamil:
 - They will give us recommendations for the policy.

- Esmé:
 - I want them to provide a draft.
- Justin:
 - We can clarify that.
 - We can always direct them.
 - Need to note that to be able to use money from the Sexual Assault Initiatives Fund (SAIF), SASC needs to be involved.
 - Not guaranteed that there will be approval of money from SAIF, and if it can't happen through SAIF, there's not a good place to find the \$100,000 MNP is asking.
 - Could find \$25,000.
- Esmé supported either Robin Fern or Possibility Seeds.
- The others preferred MNP or as second choice, Robin Fern.

[Ian left.]

- Kathleen:
 - I think it is important to be conscious of cost if this funding is coming from SAIF.
- Justin:
 - The perception around cost and value will be a point of contention.
- Esmé:
 - If everyone is good with Robin Fern ...
- Kamil:
 - MNP would be devoting hours and staff.
 - They have the UBC context.
 - But I'm fine with Robin Fern.
- Justin:
 - Council may say something about cost if we recommend MNP.
 - It does take away from other initiatives.
 - Could bring top two choices to Council.
- Esmé:
 - Thinking of bringing MNP and Robin Fern to SASC.
- Abhi:
 - Bringing both options to Council is the safe route.
 - But the \$100,000 should be looked at not as a cost, but as an investment.
 - People want a thorough process.
- Esmé:
 - Maybe Justin, Kathleen, and I can talk to SASC.
 - Give them the two proposals.
 - It would be nice if there could be a joint proposal to SAIF from us and SASC.

Miscellaneous Code Changes

- About reimbursements, permanent residents on the CiTR board, removing Councillor status from Senior Manager of Student Services.

MOVED ESME, SECONDED KAMIL:

“That the Executive Committee recommend these changes to Council.”

... Carried

Google Drives

- Esmé:
 - We should switch over to Microsoft 365 One Drive.
 - Make sure Archives has access.

SASC Manager

- Kathleen:
 - Hopeful about getting acceptance of our offer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.