



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

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 13, 2023

Attendance

Present: Esmé Decker (President), Kamil Kanji (VP Academic & University Affairs, arrived 12:26), Ian Caguiat (VP Administration, left at 12:03), Abhi Mishra (VP Finance, arrived 11:45), Joshua Kim (Interim VP External), Justin Lieu (Managing Director), Kathleen Simpson (Senior Manager of Student Services, left 12:37), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guests: Michael Kingsmill (AMS Design Office)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am in Nest Room 3529 and over Zoom.

Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Esmé, Josh).

Minutes

- Minutes were postponed.

Air Cooling

- Michael:
 - The Nest air cooling project has been going on for about four years.
 - In a time of increasing temperatures (global warming), we decided we needed to remediate the hot spots in the building.
 - It would be a large undertaking if we did the whole building.
 - There is already air conditioning in some areas (Pit, Art Gallery vault, Great Hall, the IT server room).
 - The plan has been to tackle hot spots on the second and third floors by installing cooling coils.
 - We could restrict it to just the second floor.
 - Due to budgetary issues, have been looking at rolling back the scope.
 - Previous estimates were \$1.8 million, which we got reduced to \$1.2 million, then \$1 million.
 - Last week we received two prices: for both floors, \$1.077 million; for just the second floor, \$924,000.

- Council already passed motions to allocate funds, and we have spent \$116,000, which is a considerable investment.
- The budget we have is \$800,000, or really \$750,000 because some is already spent.
- So there is a shortfall.
- If we go ahead now, we would be tendering in December and delivering by the end of summer, August 2024.
- Justin:
 - If we continue, we need to go to Council for additional funds.
 - If we pause, the costs will escalate.
 - If we continue, which option do we pursue?
 - Given our current budget of \$750,000, we will need an additional \$322,000 or \$169,000 depending on the option.
 - The cost difference is so small between the options, we might as well do the full one, for both floors.

[Abhi arrives.]

- Esmé:
 - Will this cover the Council chambers?
- Michael:
 - They're not included, but we could add them.
- Ian:
 - We have to continue; it's a necessity.
- Esmé:
 - To pause or not? I'm leaning towards not. Then which option?
- Justin:
 - The work will be done next year, with the benefit the following year (2025).
- Sheldon:
 - Why is it over budget?
- Justin:
 - The scope and nature of the work changed a number of times, and was sent back.
 - Shifting of the strategic approach.
- Michael:
 - Yes, the plan was originally decentralized, but UBC pushed for a centralized approach.
 - This meant re-engineering.
 - It drove up the consulting fees and added time, which also added costs.
- Justin:
 - If wondering why UBC could do that, it's because they're heavily involved.
 - They'll take over the maintenance cost.

- Michael:
 - It's important to work in partnership with UBC.

Blue Chip

- Michael:
 - It's two months behind.
 - Originally hoped for September. Now November.
 - There's been a challenge getting steel.
 - We also had some site situations.
 - Drilling punctured radiant heating tubes.
 - We had taken precautions, but a pipe was nicked, causing leakage.
 - The repair involved cutting the floor.
 - Today after five weeks the repair is complete.
 - Otherwise we are tracking well and now can come in and finish.

[Ian leaves.]

Israel-Palestine in the Nest

- Esmé:
 - Tensions on campus related to world events.
 - Many students are feeling scared or are grieving.
 - We've sent out various communications trying to support students.
 - Our role is to take a holistic view, and be concerned with the safety of all students.
 - We're having conversations now with the Art Galley about their activist art display which opened September 26 (and closes October 19).
 - In conversation with the artists.
 - It's a collective piece from SPHR (Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights).
 - Want to mitigate any re-traumatization. Make sure things do not escalate.
 - Yesterday there was also an issue about a booth downstairs that's booked weekly by the Muslim Students Association.
 - They had messaging yesterday about the significance of Palestine in relation to Islam.
 - They were handing out pamphlets of historical background that didn't include current events.
 - A Jewish student felt that this was not the time for this booth.
 - That student and a faculty member were both distraught.
 - The Admin team helped them, heard their concerns.
- Justin:
 - There were larger concerns, allegations of misinformation.

- Esmé:
 - Yes, Justin, Ian, and I were mediating and de-escalating yesterday.
 - Campus Security was called by students on both sides.
 - As of now we are in conversation with the club and talking about safety.
 - Both sides thanked us for stepping in and felt it was handled well.
 - We will continue to do what we can to ensure safety.

AGM

- Esmé:
 - Agenda sent out.
 - Regular business.
 - Presentation on what is the AMS.
- Josh:
 - President and Managing Director's report.
 - Executive presentations.
 - Q & A.
- Esmé:
 - UBC Campus & Community Planning will also be present to share their upcoming opportunities for student engagement.
 - Target audience is the engaged first year group: seems that this year's first years want to get involved.
 - Good time to highlight volunteer opportunities.

Capital Project Plans

- Abhi:
 - It seems that we have no set business plan template for capital projects, just presentations to Council.
- Justin:
 - There's a project outline.
 - The Food Bank outlined the scope of its project; in that way, it was a plan.
- Abhi:
 - I'm thinking of a business plan meant for anything we spend money on.
 - We do something informal, but then the overall intention can get lost.
 - It might be good to have a business plan template.
 - With Get Thrifty, for instance, things are not clear.
 - I'm going to work on something.
- Justin:
 - You're asking about documentation for clarity about past decisions on Get Thrifty?
 - There are Council and committee minutes.
- Abhi:

- We did go through the minutes.
- They're very brief and it's hard to understand the rationale.
- Need to understand the rationale for carrying forward.
- Justin:
 - A project plan should do.
 - Costs, rationale.
 - That should exist.
- Abhi:
 - I'll create a template to show what I mean.

[Kamil arrives.]

Updates

- Esmé:
 - Abhi sent out the monthly variance sheets.
 - Lunch with Equity & Inclusion on Monday.
 - Receptions for Dr. Bacon, the incoming UBC President.
- Kamil:
 - OER reception in March.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.