

April 16, 2009

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Present: Blake Frederick (President), Crystal Hon (VP Admin), Timothy Chu (VP External), Tom Dvorak (VP Finance), Johannes Rebane (VP Academic), Pavani Gunadasa (ECSS), Ross Horton (General Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist-Researcher), Kelli Seepaul (Communications Manager)

Guest: Emma Ellison (AMS Connect)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

1. Shinerama presentation (Emma):

- Shinerama is a cystic fibrosis fundraiser going back 15 years.
- AMS Connect organizes it and brings on extra people to help out.
- Aimed to recruit 500 people this past year; actually got 200, mostly from the Residences.
- Raised \$15,000, which was good by our standards, but small in relation to other universities.
- Question of why we are doing this when it engages so few students, and why this charity as opposed to others?
- Shinerama is not an ongoing year-round club, just a one-day blip which conflicts with Firstweek and undermines the work of the AMS Connect Coordinator.
- Perhaps we should be downsizing it, only doing it at the Residences.
- Perhaps move it out of the Connect office.
- Expenses (salaries of coordinators, etc.) probably less than \$10,000, so did raise more than spent.

General discussion:

- Perhaps package this and hand it to Rez Life or the Residence Associations, though it might be a lot of work for them. We should liaise with them and advise on what things work and which don't.
- Pavani: It doesn't belong under Connect or the Services.
- There could still be an AMS Shinerama assistant liaising with the Residences, but the AMS Connect Coordinator would not be involved.

[Emma Ellison left]

2. Exec Blog: Blake's turn next.

3. Timesheets

- Hand them to Rory Green, who will pass them on to whoever becomes the new chair of the Executive Remuneration Committee.

4. Updates

- Tom:
 - o Hiring.
 - o Getting committees together.
 - o Paperwork.
- Pavani:
 - o Interviews.
 - o Introductory meetings.
- Blake:
 - o Hiring assistant.
 - o Hiring an Executive Projects assistant for the whole Executive to do things like get people to the AGM; this is a revival of an old position.
 - o UN complaint with Pivot; may wait till Adrienne gets back.
 - o Going to give talk about the current AMS at a Sigma Tau Chi dinner for young alumni, influential leaders.
- Sheldon:
 - o Circulated current privacy policy and procedures.
 - o Looking into storing the old Council photos if we take them down.
- Tim:
 - o Provincial election campaign; press release on registering 500 students in three days; promoting education issues.
- Crystal:
 - o SUB meeting with UBC yesterday; they responded to our proposal.
 - o Screening applicants for SAC.
 - o Getting inquiries about our policy on water/bottled water/sustainability.
- Johannes:
 - o Hiring.
 - o CUPE 278, negotiations re increasing TA training.
 - o Meeting UBC officials re LEED initiatives (about teaching innovations).
 - o ARC.
 - o Meeting on liquor policy postponed.
- Blake:
 - o Invitation to NSSE meeting/presentation May 7.
- Kelli:
 - o Website being immigrated to our own server by next week.
 - o Insider editor hired (Devenne Drege); work beginning. Like last year, won't use coil binding; better for the environment and also a better book.

- Sponsorship: Sun re-signed; hoping for Rogers.
- Blake:
 - Political parties have released their platforms:
 - Liberals: U-Pass for everyone at same price, but not clear which price. (Tim: Also increased PSE funding, but unclear how much.) Law school at Thompson Rivers opening; med school at UBCO; expansion of Sauder.
 - Green: 20% reduction in tuition; reimbursement of tuition fees if stay in BC.
 - NDP: Tuition freeze, reduction of student loan interest, rollback of transit fares, restoring funding cuts.
- Ross:
 - Budgets.
 - New SUB work.
 - HR committee.
 - Change in UBC structure affecting us, slowing down the responses re P3; also, the merger of Food Services with Housing and Conferences could affect our catering business; we may no longer get referrals from Housing and Conferences.
 - Block Party: interested in feedback; a postmortem next Tuesday.
 - Johannes: The UNA had a great time at the Farm Trek and said the Block Party was flawless.
 - Tom: Under budget.
 - Blake: In part because he cancelled the laser tag event; it was too large and would have cost \$2500.
 - Ross: Hasn't seen final budgets, but ticket sales were good.
 - Tim: Got people to register to vote in the cotton candy line.
- Kelli:
 - Got 6% response on email to first years; more Facebook fans and people clicking through to AMS positions.
 - Need to work on criteria for next year when we can email first and second years.

5. End of year spending

- Tom: We're doing well financially, under budget by \$100,000, so now, before the end of the fiscal year (April 30), would be a good time to spend.

6. Old Council photos

- Blake: Last time a heated discussion on this. The issue is whether to replace the photos of old Council members in the Executive corridor with pictures celebrating the history of the AMS in a different way, showing the Farm Trek or the construction of the SUB.
- Sheldon: Should this go to SAC?
- Blake: The question is, We may want to request something of SAC. First we should decide as an Executive.

- Crystal: We want to recognize the history of the AMS. Should this be old Council members or what they did?
- Sheldon: If we do take them down, we should decide whether to keep them in their frames or not. More bulky to store that way, but expensive to reframe later.
- Johannes: What about the visual display, our goals?
- Crystal: That can go up too.
- Johannes: Maybe more Great Trek. Maybe have a contest to say what goes on the walls.
- Tim: The photos reflect a less inclusive period; women and men are separate, and the UBC President is included. Some people have been offended.
- Tom: We can't rewrite history.
- Blake: They don't look inclusive, and do those pictures present an understanding of what the AMS is and what our history is? His thought is No.
- Tim: People comment on the cow photo more than on the others.
- Tom: Not sure we need to spend time and resources on this; it might cost thousands of dollars.
- Blake: It doesn't have to cost that much.
- Ross: The photos are perhaps out of place, but he never thought it was that big an issue, but if it's sending a non-inclusive message ...
- Sheldon: As far as women are concerned, it sends a fairly inclusive message. The first woman president, Norah Coy, is up there for 1917. There are women every year, and this at a time when women couldn't even vote in federal or provincial elections.

MOVED BLAKE, SECONDED TIM:

“That the Executive send a memo to SAC requesting that the pictures in the Executive hallway be replaced by pictures identifying the history of the AMS in a more explicit manner.”

... Defeated

The meeting went into camera at 3:35 pm, and the staff left.