

External Affiliations and CASA

Passed October 21, 2009

Whereas the AMS has been engaged in independent federal lobbying efforts, incurring costs in addition to those funds paid CASA; and

Whereas the allocation of funds towards federal lobbying represents a proportion of the overall external relations budget disproportionate with the impact that the federal government has on post-secondary education; and

Whereas there are insufficient concrete returns on investment to warrant continued CASA membership; and

Whereas significant AMS concerns with the constitution under which CASA is operating, most notably the fact that such a constitution was rejected by Industry Canada, have not been rectified in a timely manner; and

Whereas AMS efforts to reform CASA governance structures, or embark upon a process that would lead to the recommendation of such reforms, have not been treated as a priority by CASA; and

Whereas CASA's efforts to develop campus-centered campaigns to complement more conventional lobbying efforts have been either insubstantial, ineffective or non-existent; and

Whereas AMS ability to steer the organization is incongruent with the AMS contribution to the organization; and

Whereas CASA institutional rules prevent the GSS from becoming a CASA member; and

Whereas the voting structure of the organization gives a disproportionate voice to regional voting blocs; and

Whereas the Member Driven Principle continues to remain undefined on an organization wide basis, and insufficient safeguards exist to prevent situations of excessive staff control or ensure that the priorities acted upon and the policy priorities reflect the will of the membership,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver give notice of intent to withdraw from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, with such withdrawal coming into force April 1, 2010.

Be it further resolved that the AMS remain unaffiliated to any federal lobbying organization, for no less than one year; and

Be it further resolved that if the AMS considers affiliation with an external lobbying organization, it negotiate with CASA first.

[Note: On March 31, 2010, Council passed the following motion:

Vancouver overturn its decisions on October 21, 2009 and December 7, 2009 to leave the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations as of April 1, 2010.

Be it further resolved that the AMS remain an Associate Member of CASA for one more year.”

It's not clear if that motion overturned the policy part of the October 21 motion, the resolution saying that if the AMS considers affiliation with an external lobbying organization, it must negotiate with CASA first.]