Hello Students of UBC!

The last two and a half months have been unbelievably hectic, and overall enjoyable. I feel we have made solid progress on a multitude initiatives over this period of time. It is very challenging for me to write solely about my progress and achievements, without overlapping with my fellow executives, as much of my time is working with the vice-presidents on their initiatives. I truly enjoy working with the VPs everyday on their work, however, I will be focusing on my own work in this report.

Goals

As outlined in the Executive Goal Setting document that was presented to Council in May, my goals are organized into three categories (which contain goals within each of them):

- Campaign Promises,
- Carry Over Goals, and

My campaign promises include working on the AMS Strategic Plan, working within the governance review, improving student life, mental health, and wellbeing on campus, and final working around the UBC sexual assault policy.

Carry over goals, which were handed over to me from Ava, include working with the Graduates Student Society to improve the AMS’ support of graduate students, assisting the International Students Association on becoming an effective representative body, finishing off loose ends surrounding Grad Class Council and the AMS NEST Sign, and successfully burying the time capsule and launching the Sheldon Goldfarb’s book on the history of students at UBC.

My own goals for 2017-2018 were to improve support for AMS Councilors and Committee Chairs, providing support to my fellow AMS Executives on projects that require additional attention, improving support for our constituencies (along with the VP Admin and VP Finance), continuing work being done to improve student life on campus, and final providing an strong, effective, and accurate voice for students to the University on a multitude of issues.

Hiring

For 2017-2018, the President’s Office has the following staff (also included is a short description of the role):

- Assistant to the President, who assists with scheduling and other office related tasks that the President cannot tend to;
- Policy and Community Engagement, who is tasked with provided support for Councillors (including planning Retreat) and other Council related tasks;
- Community Engagement Coordinator, who will be taking on the coordination of Grad Class Council, planning Faculty Cup, and All President’s Dinner; and,
- Student Life Initiatives, who is coordinating the Blue and Gold Society, First Year Committee, and university related student life tasks (Homecoming, Winter Classic, etc).
As of June of this year, all of the roles were hired. There delays in hiring the Student Life Initiatives roles, however, it was successfully hired in June. In addition, I am currently going through the process of hiring a new Assistant, as my current Assistant has given me her two weeks’ notice.

In addition, another role, the Executive Assistant for Special Initiatives, is in its infancy. I intend to bring an initial job description to the Human Resources Committee at our next meeting, to discuss if this role is beneficial to the Society, and if so, I hope it will be sent to Council in August.

Progress
The President’s Office has been moving forward on a number of issues that were identified in my goals, as well as a multitude of other items. This section will provide a high level overview of the progress the Office has made so far this year.

To touch quickly on my campaign promises, the Strategic Plan has come back to Council with a new, bottom up approach. This process will continue throughout the summer, and conclude with student consultation in September. In addition, I have been a sitting and active member of the Search Committee for the Director of the new Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office.

With regards to my carry over goals, I have attend GSS Council meetings this summer (and will be doing so tomorrow), and have been engaging with the GSS in conversation as often as possible. My Community Engagement Coordinator has been working to tie up loose ends from past projects started by previous Grad Class Councils, and beginning set up work for this year’s GCC. As well, Sheldon, Asad, and I have been working on the book launch with Alumni UBC.

When considering my goals, my Policy and Community Engagement coordinator has been coordinating new councilor support initiatives, and we have had preliminary discussions around how to provide additional support to committee chairs, specifically surrounding transition. The Student Life Initiatives person is working to implement student focused initiatives at Homecoming 2017, and has been coordinating Blue and Gold Society to date (our second meeting is coming shortly).

Finally, I have been taking the lead on the discussions surrounding Farmade, the adjusted role of the Ombudsperson (going to Human Resources at their next meeting), the SHAPE Committee (coming to this AMS Council meeting), conversations around the operation of our numerous AMS working groups, starting work on the MOU with Athletics and Recreation surrounding the $21 AMS Fee, and the UBC Strategic Plan. In addition, we have started “Last Week at Council” videos, I attended ten (10) UBC Graduation Ceremonies, attended the StudentCare stakeholder meetings, have been working with the University Counsel on Policy 93 revisions, and went through the process of hiring a new Communications Manager.

Sincerely,

Alan Ehrenholz
108th President
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