



Executive Committee  
Vice President, Academic and  
University Affairs  
Ternary Report July 2017

Daniel Lam

# 1. GOALS UPDATES

## A. AFFORDABILITY FOR STUDENTS

### i. Better Consultations on behalf of students

1. Work with Governance Committee to develop an internal AMS Consultation Policy to solidify the AMS's response and direction to tuition consultations and other consultations that are given to the AMS.

**UPDATES:** I have drafted this policy out with the help of Max and Kelsi. The goal that was set out was that the policy would guide the AMS's direction in future consultations within the VP Academic Office. The next step is going to be consulting with the Advocacy Committee as well as the Governance Committee. We will also consult with various other stakeholder groups such as constituencies and groups that do consultations with us (e.g. International Students Association).

2. Working with the VP Students, develop sound tuition and policy consultation procedures between UBC and the AMS.

**UPDATES:** I have had a meeting with Ben Pollard where we had discussed the cases by which the AMS should be using an expedited consultation process. I have requested that if a tuition proposal or increase is simple (say, a tuition proposal at HEPI or a tuition increase at 2% or less) then the University may opt for an expedited consultation process with permission from the AMS. Ben will email me the processes and I will consult with Kelsi, Sally, Max, and Advocom.

3. With these changes, push for a revision of Policy 71.

**Next steps:** Once me and Ben Pollard finalize consultation processes, we will be in the works of revising the procedures set out in Policy 71.

### ii. Greater Advocacy for Affordable Textbooks

1. Working with the VP External Office to expand the annual #textbookbrokeBC campaign with the Campaigns and Outreach Commissioner to make it more flexible and engaging to students.

**UPDATE JULY 2017:** Right now we have sorted out our first term campaign. The first week of school will consist of a big social media push as students are settling in to UBC. This push will include asking students to ask certain questions to their professors that can often persuade them to use OERs over paper textbooks. The next week will involve a lot of in-person booting and ways that students can get involved in the OER process. One of the ideas brought up was the idea of a bulletin board where students can put their textbook costs on instead of the white board we had every year for the sake of the contest. At the end of the term, there will be a big push for students to send in course evaluations encouraging professors to adopt Open Educational Resources. We will be bringing these up to the UBC Bookstore in our meeting on July 20th.

That being said, while there was a lot of talk about using existing materials from last year during my transition, me and the Campaigns and Outreach Commissioner have decided that it would be in the best interests of the campaign to revamp our campaign material, given the old material has already been used for two campaigns, and we want to have

effective campaign material when we enhance this campaign. We will consult with the new Communications Manager when she comes back from the Canada C3.

2. Working with the VP External to reach out to other student unions across BC and Canada to advocate for increased funding towards Open Education and Textbooks.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: In May 2017, I attended the Open Textbook Summit with the VP External and met with several different student leaders, faculty, and university staff from across BC who were also pushing for Open Textbooks. I have proposed to the VP External and her External Campaigns Commissioner the idea of bringing back a workshop on Open Textbooks to SUDS, similar to what was done last year, and will be meeting with other student unions there as well.**

3. Having the Associate VP continue last year's Open Educational Resources listening tour. To learn more about the different perspectives regarding Open Education Resources within each faculty at UBC.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: My Associate has had an initial meeting with Will Angel. The VP Academic Caucus will be informed of this, and will be involved in the process of being involved in this listening tour.**

### **iii. Push for Financial Assistance and Support for Students**

1. Working with the AMS Policy Advisor, determine best practices for the allocation of the Excellence and Diversity Funds at UBC to best benefit students.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: The VP Students gave us an overview of how the AMS and GSS can get involved with the consultation process of the Excellence and Diversity Funds at UBC. The process of allocation will take place in October. I will take the time to learn more about the Excellence and Diversity Funds and then talk with Kelsi about any questions I have, and also come up with a plan as to how we want to advocate the allocation of funds this year.**

2. Ensuring existing and new programs at UBC have adequate financial assistance programs for students.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: Hubert Lai has informed me that Policy 72 on Student Financial Aid will likely be revised soon (within this year). I have talked to Cristina about the possibility of creating a campaign surrounding this, for Policy 72 was a policy that took many revisions to get right, and the revision process for Policy 72 might be an arduous ordeal as well.**

### **iv. Affordable housing for students**

1. Continue to look at alternative financing for new housing projects at UBC, with the goal of reducing the cost of housing for students in the long term.

2. Create a greater relationship with the RHA to advocate for affordable housing.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: Sally and Alan have set up monthly meetings between the AMS and the RHA where we can exchange and discuss issues that are common to both of us. I have been invited to these meetings.**

## **B. GREATER EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

### **i. Work toward supporting students with different needs on campus**

1. With collaboration with the Disabled Students Association and Access and Diversity,

push for a revision of Policy 73

**UPDATE JULY 2017: I met with Hubert Lai and expressed the AMS's interest in revising Policy 73. It is nearing high priority for revisions and so he will be reaching out to me when they want to revise it, and I will get in touch with certain groups representing students with disabilities to help aid my advocacy.**

2. With collaboration with UBC Equity and Inclusion as well as AMS Events, conduct a diversity review of AMS Events and Programming using relevant data in the Academic Experience Survey

**This goal might need to be revised. I will follow up with the President and the Events Manager on how we want to work on this.**

ii. Work towards greater Indigenous engagement at UBC

1. Continue to financially support and plan the annual Winterfeast and the Nehiyopaskwaitsimowin Pow-wow.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: My Indigenous Students Commissioner has set up a meeting with Lucy Hache, last year's FNISSA President and Aboriginal Students Commissioner, to discuss the relationship with FNISSA moving forward, and how the Pow Wow should be run.**

2. Host a Longhouse Lunch in collaboration with Indigenous groups to discuss ways the AMS could better support Indigenous students on campus.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: The date of the Longhouse Lunch has been set for February 27th.**

3. Sponsor and host the Indigenous Student Welcome Event.

4. Expand AMS-supported Indigenous programming and start an Indigenous Speaker Series with collaboration with different Indigenous student groups on campus (FNISSA, Unceded Airwaves)

5. Work with the Indigenous Students Commissioner to engage Indigenous students with the strategic plan, in hopes to make the priority of Indigeneity at UBC be validated by the Indigenous community at UBC.

### **c. ENHANCED STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

i. Work with Undergraduate Societies to help improve the student experience within each faculty as well as within the University.

1. Work with the VP Academic Caucus to push for an expansion to mid-course feedback surveys across campus.

**Next steps: I will bring this up when VP Academic Caucus meets in July/August.**

2. Strike up the Interfaculty Working Group on Mental Health and Wellbeing alongside the LFS|US VP Academic to be used as an advocacy body for the AMS to the University with regards to issues associated with mental health and wellbeing.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: I have talked with Jess Fang (LFSUS VP Academic) about this idea that was brought up by her. We concluded that we wanted to discuss this further with the Mental Health Network as their Council is very similar. I have reached out to them.**

3. Have the Associate VP reach out with UBC faculty and undergraduate societies to begin development on a counter-course handbook for the 2018/2019 Academic Year that will give tips to new incoming students on how to succeed in specific courses they may see in their early UBC

experience.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: Max has been working with the University Affairs Commissioners in the development stages of the Counter Course Handbook, and we are developing the timeline right now.**

**ii. Push for UBC to Enhance the Student Experience**

**1.** Continue to work with the University to develop ways to better support student mental health and wellbeing, in an effort to reduce wait times at UBC Counselling.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: I heard a presentation from Algonquin College at CACUSS to discuss a method that they have used to reduce wait times in UBC Counselling. I will set up a meeting with the Director of UBC Counselling to discuss this.**

**2.** Sit on the newly established International Student Mental Health Committee to find ways to support international students in their mental health and wellbeing.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: Hasn't met yet, but I will look up who heads this committee to discuss priorities. It will be good to bring up the Academic Experience Data surrounding issues that matter greatly to International students, such as housing security and food security.**

**3.** Continue to push for an AMS seat on the UBC Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

**4.** Work within Senate Teaching and Learning Committee to explore ways to implement Universal Design of Learning into classrooms.

**Next steps: Talk with student members on T&L (including Marium) about UDL and make it a priority for the next triennium. Talk with Nicole, who did some research surrounding UDL last year.**

**5.** In collaboration with the VP External, push for amendments to the current UBC Residence Contracts to make sure that student renters in Student Housing have the same rights as those renting off campus.

**Next steps: Find Andrew Parr, and invite Max and Sally to this meeting.**

**iii. Academic Experience Survey**

**1.** Present a report on AES data during the 2016/2017 school year to Council, in an engaging manner.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: I presented the most interesting pieces of data to Council on June 28th, where I played a game with Councillors and handed out prizes. My office has held a consultation period over the next few weeks where Councillors can look at the data and give comments and suggestions for recommendations for the AMS moving forward. The recommendations are presented in a consultation period attached to the July 19th Council meeting. Once Council is content, there will be meetings set up with different stakeholders to discuss this data and move forward with our goals.**

**2.** Continue to use standardized questions in the Academic Experience Survey in order to observe trends in data over several years.

**UPDATE JULY 2017: It was decided with Max and Kelsi that there should be an internal AES Policy to mandate the AES as well as standardizing questions for each year, two years, five years, etc. I have since drafted that policy, and will go through review with different stakeholders. We will work closely with Daile MacDonald from Insights West to decide which questions we want to standardize.**

## **Staff Updates**

### **Associate VP AUA - John Maximilian “Max” Holmes**

My Associate VP Academic has been working extensively on the Counter Course Handbook brought up by last year’s AVP, and has instructed the two University Affairs Commissioners to . He has also been working on the Academic Experience Survey report, and has conducted consultations with members of Council to allow Council to be involved in the formation of recommendations for the first time. Additionally he has been working on getting the Listening Tour up and running for this year, in an effort to listen to professors’ concerns surrounding Open Educational Resources.

### **Campaigns and Outreach Commissioner - Cristina Initchi**

My COC has been working extensively on planning the office’s signature campaign: Textbook Broke BC. Our goal is to revamp our campaign to ensure that it is interactive and allows students to get involved, so we are changing the booths we do every year as well as hopefully creating new campaign material. We are in talks with the bookstore about our campaign. Also, my COC has been working to help support my Indigenous Students Commissioner in her work in planning the programming that is happening throughout the year.

### **Indigenous Students Commissioner - Reeva Billy**

My ISC has been having talks with different student groups on campus representing Indigenous students, and while it has been difficult to contact some groups, there has been progress going on. My commissioner is expected to meet with Linc Kesler and Lucy Hache, both were fundamental in supporting the AMS’s goals in indigeneity.

### **University Affairs Commissioners - Nicole Liang and Akuechbeny Kuol**

My UACs have been helping to attend meetings surrounding Open Educational Resources Listening Tour with Will Angel. They have been working on several tuition consultations with Max and I. Also, they are starting to work on the Counter Course Handbook. They are being introduced with University officials.