

Advocacy Committee Report - July 2017

Cameron England (Chair)

July 16, 2017

Below is a summary of the meetings of the AMS Advocacy Committee for July 2017, which met on July 10th and will meet on July 24th.

July 10th - This meeting did not reach quorum. The agenda and the previous meeting's minutes were approved. In his updates, AVP Academic and University Affairs Max Holmes, sitting in for VP Daniel Lam, discussed the Academic Experience Survey, touching on graduate student involvement and mentioning that a draft version of the survey has been sent out. He also mentioned that a policy on the AES and a tuition consultation policy are both underway. Furthermore, he outlined a meeting that Lam had with the UBC Ombudsperson, who stressed the need for increased awareness among students of where their Ombuds fees go. Also, since UBCO has closed their Ombuds department complaints are being forwarded here, and the AUA office would like that procedure to be reviewed. Additionally, Holmes outlined a meeting Lam had with Ben Pollard (Director, VP Students Initiatives). Finally, he updated on the progress of OERs and Textbook Broke, the former being in progress and the latter being in the planning stage. Meanwhile, VP External Sally Lin announced that an engagement map for community partners for Caucuses is being finalized before being brought to the committee. Next, she discussed her work, together with Kelsi Wall, with the U-Pass Advisory Committee and on a transit proposal for the City of Vancouver. Also, she outlined a meeting she had with Andrew Parr (Managing Director, SHHS). Furthermore, she updated on the progress of academic affordability/OERs and the Sexual Violence and Prevention office, as well as an upcoming meeting with MLA David Eby. Finally, she asked for the committee's feelings towards two potential projects: Engaging in a joint resource-sharing initiative with other universities on "rape culture" and how to combat it, as well as UBC implementing a bike-share program. The committee agreed that both ideas were worth exploring further.

In addition, the committee reviewed two policies: E-3, concerning residential contracts and regulation and E-7, concerning rapid transit advocacy. Both were approved to be sent to Council and recommended for approval.

The next scheduled Advocacy Committee meeting is on July 24th, 2017.