THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
Minutes of July 10th, 2017

Attendance

Present: Cameron England (Chair), Sally Lin (VP External Affairs), Jamiu Abdsalami (Member-at-large)

Guests: Max Holmes (AVP Academic), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor)

Regrets: Antony Tsui (Councillor), Christopher Hakim (Councillor), Daniel Lam (VP Academic and University Affairs), Jeanie Malone (Councillor)

Recording Secretary: Jamiu Abdsalami

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:11pm.

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Cameron Seconded: Sally

That the agenda be adopted.

[The motion carries unanimously. Note that quorum was not present]

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Cameron Seconded: Jamiu

That the minutes of June 19th, 2017 be approved.

[The motion carries unanimously. Note that quorum was not present]
VP AUA Updates (Max Holmes)

Max: Academic Experience Survey (AES) has been the main focus, draft version has been released.

Tuition Consultation Policy and Policy on AES are also currently underway.

UBC Ombudsperson meeting: There was an Ombuds report from UBC and it was mostly good. A key thing to note was that, only 15% of student who pay Ombuds fee know what it goes to, so more awareness needs to happen. The AMS and UBC will work together on this effort.

UBC-Okanagan Ombuds office shut down about a year and half ago and they’ve been forwarding complaints to the UBC-Vancouver office which is subsidized by UBC-V students. So we are inherently paying for them to use the service. We would like this reviewed.

Daniel Lam met with Ben Pollard (Director VP Student Initiatives) RE: Tuition consultation, clarification on “standardized process” relating to CPI etc. and from there, might consider Policy 71 review/renegotiation.

Textbook Broke Campaign is in its planning phase. There’s an event scheduled for February in the First Nation’s Longhouse.

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are also being worked on with the AMS VPX office.

Cameron: Thanks for the update on the AES.

Jamiu: What was the online interaction about the GSS on the topic of AES.

Max: The graduates have always been able to fill out the AES, but were never distinctly categorized since the start of the new company running the survey in 2015. This year was the first time that Graduates were identified. Turns out the graduates trust the AMS more in spending their money than the undergraduates and other interesting information. Might be a good idea to talk to the GSS and include more graduate specific questions in future AES surveys.

VP External Updates (Sally Lin)
Sally: Engagement map on campus partners for caucuses has been created and will be finalized before presenting to Advocomm.

Kelly and Sally were at the student caucus meeting with the Terms of Reference of the UAC to help with post-secondary negotiations about U-Pass.

Transit Proposal also happening. City of Vancouver had a conversation with the AMS VPX office about improvements to certain stations and other high level details.

Academic affordability with OER work underway. Been creating metrics for a listening tour that will be happening in the future.

University Sexual Violence and Prevention office is currently undergoing a hiring process.

Andrew Parr (Managing Director of SHHS) had a discussion with the VPX office about SHHS changes to the residence contract and ensuring they address promises made about renting with rights a few years ago.

Kelsi and Sally are going to be meeting with David Eby to ensure a collaborative relationship is developed with the new MLA.

Consultation Period

Policy E3

Now to be reviewed annually: because changes happen every year and we have to ensure that we are keeping up to speed with lobbying efforts and changing terrains.

The AMS President is now included in lobbying efforts as they are usually very involved with the process regardless.

BIRT the Advocacy Committee recommend that Council approve the amended document “Policy E-3 - Institutional Housing Provincial Regulation and Residential Contracts Recommendation” as presented.

Moved: Jamiu  Seconded: Sally

[The motion carries unanimously. Note that quorum was not present]
Policy E7

Mostly for clarifications and updates, no major changes.

BIRT the Advocacy Committee recommend that Council approve the amended document “Policy E-7 - Long Term Solutions and Rapid Transit Advocacy” as presented.

Moved: Sally Seconded: Cameron

[The motion carries unanimously. Note that quorum was not present]

Discussion on Caucus Recommendations

Sally: Regarding the 4 options presented in this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_nyXSbBDKacRITTUuz--vtsomhK6jxmAN6-43eqyqGQ/edit

Option 2: This doesn’t serve the purpose of an actual caucus and might not be as effective.

Option 3: A waste of council time, since council has already seen it severally and approved it.

Option 4: Rejecting entirely creates a waste of resources spent in the past year researching this.

Option 1: Seems like the best option, so amendments will be brought back to the committee for further discussion.

Cameron: What are we doing to make Equity Caucus work better?

Sally: The VP academic office and Governance Review Implementation Committee were invited to discuss this and more light was shed. Details will be brought back to next committee meeting.

Sally: As mentioned before, these individuals in the Caucuses are not necessarily meant to fully represent and embody these groups, but rather interested individuals who have a vested interest and are able to show sensitivity towards those sectors.

Jamiu: Can we invite GovComm to next Advocomm to help with the discussion?
Cameron: Agreed, we are going forward with **option one**. We’ll come back next meeting and have a more in-depth discussion on solutions in regards to fixing the Equity Caucus.

Sally: Working groups are flexible but we should try to set a deadline to ensure ToR are ready for September. The caucuses can use an operational report or something similar to review and see how the caucus works over the year to make improvements for the next year.

Cameron: Should we have a stricter timeline and hope to finish discussion next meeting?

Jamiu: We should leave timing more flexible and decide at the end of next meeting what a feasible timeline looks like.

Max: We should review the ToR yearly.

Sally: Yes, that is something that’s already has to occur.

Cameron: More discussion in the next meeting.

**The Carleton Effect (Sally Lin)**

Sally: VPX office has been working on a joint initiative with about 25 other schools to share resources on “rape culture” on campus and how to combat it. This is a new initiative that some schools have been working on and can be a way for us to lead by example in stepping up to share resources. There are some terms that we can discuss more on later.

Cameron: I like the idea and think it’ll be good for us.

Jamiu: I also like it, though I’d be interested to hear more details about those terms.

Max: Regardless, I think it’s definitely a great initiative and I look forward to hearing more about it.
Bike Share Program

Sally: UBC approached the VPX office that they are considering a bike share program and currently looking into its feasibility and implementation. In terms of whether it’ll be just on or also off-campus, external company or internally run etc. What are some of our priorities?

Cameron: Should allow access to larger community, for more widespread accessibility. So definitely off-campus usage possible.

Jamiu: Consider talking to Bike Kitchen about their PNY program and learn from them about the current usage, reach, implementation etc.

Sally: Will be done further, but already reaching out to them. Do we want an AMS policy on biking and sustainability.

Jamiu: Do we have an AMS sustainable transport policy and would this fall under it?

Kelsi: In the past we’ve had an external policy supporting the city of Vancouver in creating their bike co-op.

Sally: Will look into a policy for AMS stance on bikes.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is July 24th, 2017.

Adjourn

Moved: Cameron    Seconded: Jamiu

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04pm.