AMS University and External Relations Committee

Agenda of the AMS University and External Affairs Committee
May 10th, 2013

Attendance
Present: Roshak, Ekat, Umang, Kiran, Colum, Tanner, Pierre.

Regrets:
Recording Secretary: Roshak Momtahen

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 11:04

Agenda Items

1. Update from the VP External Office
   - Make Your Mark campaign wrapping up.
   - New translink website for upasses
   - Prepping for COMPAS program
   - Starting studs.

2. Update from the VP Academic Office
   - New Academic policies, later in agenda
   - Data from Acadia Park survey; in partnership with sociology class.
   - Data from world café survey.
   - New report to be completed in a few months.
   - Revision to Policy 71, with regards to tuition consultation.
   - 3,000 people completed academic survey; working with VP Students to run joint focus groups.
   - Clusters of specific topics within a focus group.
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- New AVP Academic. New hiring upcoming for other positions in the office.

3. Alliance of BC Students
   - Idea of a loose coalition of provincial BC student unions emerged in 90’s.
   - Recent framework was initially led by AMS Pres. McElroy.
   - Ex. Where’s the Funding? & Vote Education
   - New structure is needed to continue effective campaigning.

Motion: To accept the new governing structures of the ABCS and the AMS’s consequent entry into the organization.

Moved by Colum & seconded by Paul. Passed unanimously.

4. UBC updating Regional Context Statement
   - Every municipality needs a growth strategy that exists with regards to Regional Context Statement from MetroVancouver.
   - UBC land use plan currently refers to old MetroVan statement.
   - New Land Use Plan to be developed with regards to current MetroVancouver statement.
   - UBC must hold public hearing.
   - In current round, student population not fully counted. Would impact allocations such as green space allocation.
   - AMS asking for the UBC Farm to be formally recognized in Land Use Plan.
   - Asking for assessing mixed income neighborhoods with regards to social sustainability. Land use plan makes no reference to social sustainability.

5. Sauder Master of Management tuition proposal
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- AMS was not invited in consultation for new differential in Master of Management tuition proposal.
- More of a info session than consultation.
- Proposal is to create a large tuition differential between international and domestic tuition.
- Most tuition caps only apply to undergrad international students. AMS recommends that such policies be effected consistent for both undergrad and grad students.

6. Election of Colum as Vice-Chair

Colum, seconded by Tanner

Adjourn

1. Moved Colum Seconded Tanner
   There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:22.
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Agenda of the AMS University and External Affairs Committee
May 31st, 2013

Attendance

Present: Roshak, Andrew (proxy for John Lee, Chris Roach (proxy for Colum),

Regrets:

Recording Secretary:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:10

Agenda Items

1. Update from the VP External Office
   - Discussing Upass and COMPAS.
   - Planning SUDS –August 8-11. Planning for 100 delegates.
   - Planning for lobby days

2. Update from the VP Academic Office
   - Research on social sustainability with C+CP. We gave our thoughts on affordability.
   - Planning for focus groups with VP Students office.
   - Acadia Park needs assessment.
   - Master of Management & Regional Context Statement approved by BoG.
   - Going to BoG again on Tuesday.
   - Concerns were raised regarding definitions of cost recovery for tuition.

3. Election Reserve Fund
   - Designed under the term of President McElroy.
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- Currently $5,000 every year, kept in trust for campaign season.
- Roach: avoid band-aid solutions. Grad students need to be able to campaign lobby.
- Current problems with VP’s having access with fund and spending limits.
- Pierre: Very easy to hit limits, due to legal limits on third party spending in elections.
- Very easy to tie our hands when the fund is too strictly coded.
- Fund does not define what an ‘election campaign’ is.
- Pierre: Perhaps we shouldn’t just focus on electoral campaigns.
- Pierre: The fund should be capable for use on general lobbying.
- Kiran: What did Council explicitly ask us to do?
- Tanner: To review the concept of the Fund.
- Kiran: What’s the balance?
- Tanner: $0. Annual transfer is $15,000.
- Assuming an improvement in financial situation, there won’t be a problem with funding a reserve fund. We need enough to run an emergency campaign but not more due to tough financial situations.
- Tanner: municipal election coming up in 2014 and federal in 2015.
- Assume, an election tomorrow, how much money would you need?
- Tanner: $12,000 for a good federal campaign.
- Roshak: Is $5-6000 a good compromise number?
- Kiran: Where would the $9000 we save go?
- Tanner: post-election provincial lobbying.
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- Chris: If we widen terms of Fund, we don’t need to suspend code. We don’t want to set precedent.
- Pierre: Changing the code would change to way our Society looks at lobbying.
- Kiran: Maybe as you change code, also come up with an outline for future lobbying.
- Moved by Chris, seconded by Alireza.
  - Motion to widen the terms of the Election Reserve Fund in code in order to be able to lobby in between elections.
  - Moved unanimously.
  - Moved by Chris seconded by Alireza: Direct External office to ensure the Fund is used for political but not partisan ends.
  - Unanimous.

4. Student Financial Support Project

- Kiran: UBC is changing the way they financially support students.
- Restructuring of bursary program to be based on need not merit.
- Currently to access bursary you must be on provincial student loan.
- UBC wants to make its own method to assess need.
- Directed for those not on student loans.
- Way to give students more long term financial planning.
- UBC program will look at real cost that UBC students face, not general provincial averages.
- Sessions coming up to discuss technical requirements.
Principles and goals have been defined, BoG and AMS Council have already approved.

Down to technical issues.

Kiran: Ideally, this program will be the place to go for applications and scholarships. One-stop financial aid shop.

Tanner: Great to have an exhaustive list of scholarships. Also ideally paperless. Great to have tax resources as well.

Kiran: Some scholarships don’t advertise.

Chris: Would be great if external scholarships were also available.

Tanner: Possible to have some sort of connection to ESP?

Kiran: Financial Profile will probably go to your ESP.

Kiran: This program will hopefully connect to ESPs.

Rachel: Currently ESP’s only discuss eligibility.

Kiran: UBC will be hoping to be very transparent.

Tanner: Can international students use this?

Kiran: Currently all of int-student aid is merit-based. By 2015, you will receive school offer, financial report, bursary offer, and housing offer. Every profile is read and considered for major entrance scholarship.

Kiran: 1% of international tuition goes to bursary pool. But UBC does not have a need to provide for international students.

Tanner: Would be awesome if international students have same resources.

Kiran: They have access to same profile and tools but not access to bursary pool. There was a discussion regarding loaning to international students. But the interest rate would be high due to high risk.
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- Chris: Would UBC hold off a degree due to loans?
- Kiran: They would need some sort of collateral.

Adjourn

1. Moved Tanner, Seconded Kiran
   There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:50.