UNECON

Meeting called to order at 3:09 PM.

Members present: Robin A., Veronica K., Jude C., Jenna O., Sareena M., Daniel M., Rodney LM.

Guests: Ashley Bentley, Arno Rosenfeld.

Sareena M. voted to act as temporary Vice Chair of UNECON. Corum not present.

Voted to delay sending October's meeting minutes to council to make further amendments.
Corum not present

Afford UBC:
- Context: Afford UBC is the campaign run by the AMS to oppose the international tuition increases set by the University
  - Being promoted on Facebook
  - The Alumni support petition has about 500 signatures
  - Rally in Agora today had about 500 people
  - Distributed 1000 pieces of literature for the campaign
  - Collecting signatures for form letters for Martha Piper to oppose tuition increases
  - Will be doing a mail drop in Martha Piper's office
  - Ad coming out in Globe and Mail for coverage on campaign and events
- Questions:
  - Rodney: How long does UBC have to deal with these increases? Is it every year?
  - Veronica: Normally they increase tuition 2 or 3% every year. Only has to review tuition every 3 years.

Vice-President Academic Business
Jenna Omassi:
- Sexual Assault External Policy
- Context: Currently the University does not have a specific policy outlining the processes on how to deal with sexual assault. There are some nuances of how to deal with sexual assault and violence in the University’s respectful environment statement and non-academic misconduct process, but there is no standalone policy pertaining to sexual assault and violence. This external policy coming from the AMS calls on the University to create
an effective policy on sexual assault and violence itself. The AMS policy will ensure that the University will implement this policy in a mindful and thorough manner.
  o Working since May
  o Research Assistant was hired to work on what constitutes a sexual assault policy
  o Realized that we could not effectively implement an internal sexual assault policy due to the nature of our organization
  o We want to adopt sexual assault policy on a larger scale
  o Instead of making an internal policy, embed sexual assault and violence into an external policy that calls University to make a sexual assault policy to make sure there are strict processes in line
  o We were going to wait until new year but there has been a lot of conversations about many sexual assault incidences on campus
  o The timing for this policy aligns with the current environment on campus
  o We held off on this policy from the AMS because we thought it wasn’t the right time
  o This is the perfect time to make sure we are effective and can support survivors
  o The policy is based off of our asks and the research based off of the research assistant we hired
  o What we’re asking of the university are what many survivors are asking for
  o We want to make sure that the policy is survivor centric, promotes survivors
  o ** Goals of the AMS Sexual Assault policy:**
    • Asks university to implement a pro-survivor approach
    • Asks university to create a sexual assault response team
    • Ensures that UBC provides proper support and education

- **Jenna on feedback on Policy:**
  o That we don’t explicitly say that we ask the University to create a policy
  o Going through a creation of a policy takes longer, more politics behind it
  o Other policies at other universities tend to not be as effective, receives backlash
  o More effective to create a protocol

- **University is hoping a protocol will help solve the problem of creating a policy where it makes sexualized violence as a separate category**

  o **Question/Comments:**
  o **Rodney:** “speaking as a survivor of sexual assault”, it seems like there is a lot of gaps to be filled to receive help as a survivor. There are a lot of loops.
- **Ashley**: People were referred to wrong place (equity office or non-academic misconduct process) and did not receive adequate help that was survivor centric. We need to make this process more accessible

- **Problems with University’s current approach to sexual assault and violence:**
  - Long time line for non-academic misconduct process
  - People that are involved in process are not equipped with the right training
  - Logistical issues
  - The process is there to help survivors, just needs to be improved drastically
  - Our policy is to make sure they make the right improvements

- **Call to action**: Jenna will be making the following changes to the external policy before it goes to AMS council
  - To review it after 1 year rather than 2
  - To word it so that it says something along the lines that once the protocol and processes are in place, they should look to make a policy, consult survivors and advocates
  - To include processes for non-students and add accountability of professors and staff, tenured professors
  - Jenna will take feedback, make changes, do an email vote to UNECORN, and will send to council by Dec 2, 2015 to be approved.

**Other business:**
- **Rodney**: How can we ask the University to change syllabi to implement TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) recommendations?
- **Jenna**: The Provost’s office is doing an environmental scan to see what classes already include aboriginal content.

- **Call to action**: Jenna’s office to connect with Provost’s office to get more info on this. She will check in to see what’s been done already and will bring it back to UNECORN.

Motion to adjourn: Rodney. Seconded: Jude

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM.