This report provides a summary of the feedback and views from the AMS Council, the AMS Executive, the Constituency Presidents and 605 student respondents from the UBC Vancouver campus for the University Presidential Search Committee.
Executive Summary
This submission summarizes the feedback the AMS received on the guiding questions presented by the UBC Chancellor and Chair of the University Presidential Search Committee, Sarah Morgan-Silvester. Members of the UBC Community were invited to submit their views and advice during the Presidential Search consultation. We received responses from the AMS Council, AMS Executive, and Constituency Presidents representing degree-granting faculties or schools. The AMS also sent out an email to all UBC students with information on Professor Stephen Toope’s decision, the Townhall consultation, the guiding questions simplified into a survey format, a redirect link to the www.bog.ubc.ca website, and the president.search@ubc.ca email should they wish to send their feedback directly to the committee. The AMS collected feedback from 605 students. This submission contains answers from all 605 student respondents over an 8 day period from June 24, 2013 to July 1, 2013.

All results provide a number of interesting insights into the opinions of the student body. Strong themes that emerged are listed below in response to the guiding questions.

Opportunities facing the University over the next 5-10 years
• **Enriched Educational Experiences and club activities** represent the highest trend in what students think UBC should continue doing. Leadership skills, applied learning and personal development gained from on and off campus organizations outside of the traditional classroom provide valuable experiences for students. Though E3s are a core part of the student learning pillar in Place and Promise, institutional survey results show that not all students are afforded the same access to such experiences. The incoming President should continue to support these programs and review barriers to engagement.
• **Building community** on campus and in the local community ranks as the second highest trend in what students wish to see continue and expanded. Interdisciplinary studies, cross-faculty pride, commuter student integration, connections to the greater community and building a personal support network are important to students. Though UBC has numerous smaller on-campus communities and student groups, students wish to see a President who can bring the different parts of the university together to create a sense of unity.
• Students are attracted by UBC’s **academic reputation**, calibre of **research**, supportive **faculty**, **academic resources**, its leadership and focus in **sustainability** and the beauty of the **campus presentation**. UBC can continue to use these areas as recruitment tools to attract the brightest students.

Challenges, issues and priorities facing the University over the next 5-10 years
• **Lack of unifying community** on campus represents the highest trend in which respondents think UBC needs to improve on. Students want a President who will build a sense of cohesiveness and school spirit especially for commuter students and students in distributed campuses in order to make each individual feel connected and needed as part of the whole UBC community. Students want a President who will value cross-campus events, non-academic spaces and outside classroom involvement opportunities.
• **Affordability** –is the next highest issue and challenge that respondents reported. Students expressed concerns regarding the continually rising cost of tuition especially for international students and the need for an accompanying increase in financial aid and awards. There is a significant need for increased on-campus housing at more affordable prices along with an increase of on-campus food options and lower food prices.
• **Communication and consultation** – Widespread feedback from respondents show that they are unclear as to how the University budgets, prioritizes and allocates funds. Students want a President who is transparent, communicates and consults effectively and regularly with students and follows up with visible action.

• **Quality of Education** – Respondents report inconsistent quality of teaching with a need for effective teaching assessments and academic infrastructure improvements. With regards to Flexible Learning, the next President will need to understand the transformations from the student perspective and continually engage and communicate with students. Students also expressed needs for increased course offerings, interdisciplinarity, effective academic advising, more spaces to study and increased career preparation.

• **Campus Development** – Respondents report intense frustration and a disruption of learning regarding continual campus development without a clear understanding or a feeling of consultation behind the developments. Students associate that the University prioritizes campus development over their learning and experience. The AMS feels that a long term vision for the university campus is one that should have all stakeholders included, not disenfranchised. Students hope that the incoming President will critically examine the current campus development plans and in doing so determine whether the plan as it stands still aligns with the changing academic needs of the campus in the long term with student families in mind.

• **Support Services** – With the introduction of Vantage College on the horizon, students reported challenges in building intercultural awareness, understanding, sensitivity and fluency on campus. Increasing and supporting childcare, student health and wellbeing and overall support for graduate students are also major priorities.

**Key roles and responsibilities of the President in leading UBC through the next 5-10 years**

• Keeping in touch with the evolving needs of the student body and building a university infrastructure that is responsive and supportive of these needs

• Setting university priorities on UBC’s position in the changing landscape of higher education

• Improving internal communication and ensuring transparency and due process in all forms of consultation with stakeholders

• Bringing the university together under its common strategic vision and direction through continual engagement of diverse groups and building a sense of community

• Demonstrating a commitment to increase the quality of the student experience including reviewing and supporting greater affordability, transportation, health and wellbeing, personal development, career preparation and other support services

• Critically assessing UBC’s current position and priorities in the key areas identified by the campus community. Re-affirming commitments and/or calling for reviews to make improvements or changes

**The necessary and desirable characteristics, leadership skills, qualifications, values and experience of candidates for the position of President**

• Puts students first and advocates for students’ best interests

• Genuinely cares about UBC students, faculty and staff

• Open-minded and receptive to different groups of people

• Willing to take the time to connect with and understand students
Places emphasis on the quality of education and student life over profits and private interests that are not a part of UBC

Embraces and pushes for change, committed to improving the university

Willing to listen and respond to student concerns

Strong vision and leadership, strategist, future-thinker

Effective communicator, public speaker, inspires people to action

Strong values, ethics and social consciousness

Values and supports research, equity, sustainability, affordability, health and wellbeing, diversity, intercultural understanding

Honest, creative, approachable, visible, humble, friendly

Track record of good fiscal management

Diverse experiences working internationally, in a large university, in academia, in leadership roles, in a mix of private and public sectors

Survey Questions
From the feedback session with the Constituency Presidents, we found that many student leaders were not aware of all the issues facing the entire campus. They also did not fully know the role, actions and plans of the President and had difficulty answering the Chancellor’s guiding questions. We modified the questions into a simplified survey format for the general student population listed below:

- Basic information including full name; email; program faculty and year; type of campus involvement
- What are some things UBC does well/you would like to see continue?
- What are some things UBC is lacking/needs improvement on?
- What are the necessary and desirable characteristics, leadership skills, experience and values of the next UBC President?

The AMS cannot release identifying information without consent. The survey responses are grouped into four categories: A (AMS Council), B (Constituency Presidents), C (AMS Executives), D (Student survey). Those who did not respond through the AMS were encouraged to send their feedback directly to the Presidential Search Committee.

Students in their responses were grateful for the opportunity to be consulted and the AMS thanks the Presidential Search Committee for including them in the in-person consultations.