Mission Statement

• “To improve the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of the students of UBC.”

• “The Society will foster communication, both internally and externally, in order to be democratic, fair, accountable to, and accessible to its members.”
WHAT IS OPEN GOVERNMENT?
What is Open Government?

- Open Government is the belief that governments have a responsibility to their citizens to be accountable, transparent and participatory. Open government provides citizens with opportunities to learn about, and participate in, the processes of government through better access to public information and deliberations.
History

• Not a new concept – roots in the Enlightenment, 17th century – discussions around how to create a democratic society

• Governments at various levels around the world are starting to establish formalized open government frameworks in an effort to demonstrate commitments to becoming more accountable and transparent governments for the citizens they serve (BC, Canada, USA, municipal governments, et al.)
Open Government Principles

• Created by the Sunlight Foundation (USA, California) in 2008 to “govern” the metrics to measure compliance with Open Government

• 1. Completeness
• 2. Primacy
• 3. Timeliness
• 4. Ease of Physical and Electronic Access
• 5. Machine readability
• 6. Non-discrimination
• 7. Use of Commonly Owned Standards
• 8. Licensing
• 9. Permanence
• 10. Usage Costs
Benefits of Open Government

• New and innovative solutions: By allowing members the power to easily obtain information, they are better positioned to develop informed and creative solutions to problems or opportunities facing their community.

• Building trust: Public trust and confidence should increase over the longer-term when members are provided more opportunities to access open information and deliberations.

• Accountability: Commitment to the transparency of budgets and expenditures holds an organization to a high level of accountability for its spending actions and decisions.

• Enhanced public participation: Greater public participation in Council meetings, hearings and deliberations will increase the validity of public input to be used in decisions.
Challenges of Open Government

- Data, technology and infrastructure
- Resources:
- Personal privacy imperative/Legal Constraints
- Apathy
- Complexity
The 3 Goals

• Transparent: information and decisions are open and freely available for public review and discussion

• Participatory: seeks to mobilize citizens to engage in public debate, provide input and make contributions that lead to more responsive, innovative and effective governance

• Accountable: established rules and guidelines that ensure the government is able to explain their actions to the public
Implementation and Concept

OPEN GOVERNMENT AND THE AMS
Is the AMS Open Government Compliant?

• Short Answer: No.
• AMS has policies around records access, communications, reporting requirements, etc.
• Ready access to AMS information difficult, technological challenges and policy questions
Why Should We Be Compliant?

• AMS membership is compulsory; mandate includes both governance and services
• AMS undergoing most significant re-imagining in its’ existence
• Long term planning and role within UBC
• AMS is involved in every element of student life; history and research
• AMS should be on the cutting edge; technology and policy
Program Proposal

ACCESS AMS – OPEN GOVERNMENT STRATEGY
Access AMS

• Goal: To open the AMS to the broader community, building a greater degree of accountability and transparency about internal operations, finances, and planning of the society, as well as fostering member engagement and use of AMS resources.

• Vision Statement: “To build an open AMS that is transparent and accountable to its members, with opportunities for meaningful, accessible public participation, made possible through innovation, technology and collaboration.”
What’s Involved?

- Technology
- Culture
- Policy
- Communications + Engagement
Strategy Elements

• Technology – Making sure there are tools for information to be readily and easily accessible

• Policy – Ensuring fair and open regulations for flow of information, structures to ensure engagement, transparency

• Culture – Enshrining the values of transparency in our operations

• Communications + Engagement: Focus on how to engage students in a two-way conversation
Timeline

• April 30\textsuperscript{th} – Presentation to AMS Council
• May 25\textsuperscript{th} – Strategy document submitted to Councillors, AMS 2030 Taskforce
• May 26\textsuperscript{th}-June 15\textsuperscript{th} – Consultation with consistencies, departments, committees
• Late June – Submission to Council for approval for early July Council meeting