AMS Education Committee

Minutes of February 3rd, 2014

Attendance

Present: Armin [Chair], Kurtis [Member-at-large], Eric [Member-at-large], Helen [Councilor], Riley [Councilor], Jordan [Member-at-large], Joaquin [VP Finance]

Guests: Tanner [VP External]

Regrets: Everybody else

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Kurtis Seconded: Riley

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Riley Seconded: Jordan

That the minutes from November 26, 2013 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Academic Experience Survey

- Kurtis: Are there obvious categories of questions that are just useless? For example, we’re asking if there are interesting questions in my major. Is that useless, though? Is there valid data that comes from that? Seems like we could get rid of that.
It seems like that question and type of question is too broad. We need more specific ones. If it doesn’t seem like we can get useful output from a question, why ask it?

Questions like “my syllabi has enough relevant info” are irrelevant, aren’t they? Senate is working on something like this.

In general, seems like we need more specific questions. If you ask super broad questions from the get go, wouldn’t you get people deterred from finishing the rest of it?

- Should not be asking 2 questions in one question. Example: first question of registration/degree planning.
- Dislikes: redundancy of questions in some parts.
- CUS Frosh chant question – divide between whether we should be specifying a given faculty/student group.
- Joaquin: we need to be looking at what the university will be working on next year.
  - We need to make questions on student financial assistance, advising, flexible learning type stuff, etc., much better in terms of question quality on the survey.
- Not necessarily an ideal length for each section of questions.
- Faculty specific results: why no Forestry? Faculty specific analysis is based on who reaches out to Anne to work with her on a mini-survey.
- There are questions on the proposed list about lecture capturing, but what about other flexible learning questions? Should we put more questions about stuff like open learning (Coursera), or about how UBC administers distance education questions (apparently that’s on the provost survey).
- There are questions about whether students feel satisfied about their enrolment process. This is good, but add something about issues with info on SSC is changed when course starts.
- ESP questions – do they already exist on PAIR surveys?***
- New set of questions added regarding discrimination. Same as other questions that already exist regarding discrimination, but the wording is slightly altered. Is there a reason for this? Examples on page 5.
- Other issues with survey:
  - Length is too long!
  - Do we get enough responses – is the data useful?
  - Data normally used to back the AMS on lobbying the university (exam database, housing etc.)
  - Make better effort to communicate impact of survey responses in lobbying successes.

Additional Stuff

- Think of potential ideas for committee reform before next meeting.
Adjourn

Moved: Riley
Seconded: Eric

*The motion carries unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.
AMS Education Committee

Minutes of March 10th, 2014

Attendance

Present: Armin [Chair], Eric [Member-at-large], Helen [Councilor], Jordan [Member-at-large], Riley [Councilor, Anne [VP Academic and University Affairs], Lauren [Councilor], Bahareh [VP External], Kurtis [Member-at-large]

Guests:

Regrets: Everybody else

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Riley Seconded: Lauren

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Helen Seconded: Lauren

That the minutes from February 24, 2014 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Update from VPAUA Office

- Tuition consultation on new programs going on (masters in naval engineering, etc.)
- Continued work on Academic Experience Survey
- iClicker focus group committee – anyone interested for 1-2 hours?
AMS Education Committee

Minutes of March 10, 2014

Middle Eastern Studies Project

- Bahareh: great to have emphasis on middle eastern nations, but it would be great if we could find a way to draw parallels to other culture-based programs as well (and not just focus on the middle eastern aspect of it).
  - For example, adding a whereas clause about how UBC has other culture based programs and how this could extend the quality and value of those by extending into this area.
  - Putting more information in a whereas clause where we could also mention how this would benefit other programs. “Whereas the MESP would be complementary to other similar studies at UBC such as the Asian Studies, African Studies, European Studies Programs, etc…”
- Wording in first whereas clause – maybe emphasize that it’s not compared to other Canadian universities, but more so major Canadian universities (since we’re comparing to the likes of UT and McGill)
- Not just endorse the initiative itself, but also the proposal of the overall program (and the overall creation of a Middle Eastern Studies program)
- Will formally approve this at March 24th meeting, but committee tasks Anne to begin writing proposal document for Council and finally approve 2 weeks from now, which is still 2 days prior to the next Council meeting (March 26th)

Learning Space Designer Visit

- Professor Jamieson from University of Melbourne coming in to discuss learning spaces and student experience with UBC students.
- Anyone available/interested between April 7-24?
- If not available, send questions to Anne or Armin, and they can get forward them.
- More information next meeting.

Adjourn

Moved: Bahareh  Seconded: Kurtis

The motion carries unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.
AMS Education Committee

Minutes of March 24th, 2014

Attendance

Present: Armin [Chair], Eric [Member-at-large], Helen [Councilor], Jordan [Member-at-large], Anne [VP Academic and University Affairs], Lauren [Councilor], Bahareh [VP External], Kurtis [Member-at-large]

Guests:

Regrets: Everybody else

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Anne  Seconded: Kurtis

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Lauren  Seconded: Bahareh

That the minutes from March 10, 2014 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Update from VPAUA Office

- Academic Experience Survey
- Tuition Consultation work
- In talks with university about Volunteer Connect, etc.
- Senate Library Committee mentioned: Asian studies might be getting a Persian Studies stream
Middle Eastern Studies Motion for Council

- Discussing final approval of motion
- Adding “at UBC” to a few of the clauses. Redundant, but added for clarity.
- This version of wording addresses the issues we’ve brought up in the past few meetings.
- Committee unanimously supports the finalized version and is okay with how it’s being sent to Council.

Moved: Jordan  Seconded: Bahareh

That the motion in support of the Middle Eastern Studies Program, as it’s being sent to Council, is supported by the Education Committee unanimously.

The motion carries unanimously.

Academic Experience Survey

- Average Undergraduate number of questions answered is 106.
- Feedback given on questions, length, structure, wording, content, etc., to Anne.

Student Learning Space Expert

- April 9th, 10-11AM
- April 10th, 2-3PM
- Those are 2 possible dates for Education Committee to meet up with the expert, if the desire exists.
- Committee would prefer to send Anne questions.

Adjourn

Moved: Lauren  Seconded: Kurtis

The motion carries unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.
AMS Education Committee

Minutes of May 14th, 2014

Attendance

Present: Armin [Chair], Tiffany [Councilor], Christina [Member-at-Large], Sareena [Member-at-Large], Arpan [Member-at-Large], Michael [Councilor], Carmen [Councilor], Bahareh [AMS VP External]

Guests: Maryam [Flexible Learning Assessment Survey]

Regrets: Anne Kessler [AMS VPAUA], Elaine [Councilor]

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Michael Seconded: Tiffany

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Tiffany Seconded: Sareena

That the minutes from March 24, 2014 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Update from VPAUA Office

- Academic Experience Survey was rolled out, and there are 3750 responses! Looking to hire a student over the summer to help us with the analysis.
- Hiring is done.
• Sitting on the hiring committee for the UBC AVP Equity and can't tell much more details.
• Meeting with the new VP academics of the undergrad societies next week Friday
• The student senators met the weekend before last and did their strategic planning for the year, focusing on three areas: equity requirements in courses (follow up from the UBC Task force on intersectional gender based violence and aboriginal stereotypes), FL, and mental health.
• CTLT is having some focus groups on the use of iclickers. They'll provide pizza and drinks and ask some questions, fairly informal. They have this listed as an event on the CTLT website, students can pick which session works best and quickly RSVP. Please share this with your networks: http://events.ctlt.ubc.ca/events/view/3349
• Been having lots of conversations about assessment of FL courses with UBC and Maryam.
• Exam database is going well. The project manager is working on sorting out the legal issues around exams that are already public. The database itself should be up by the end of the summer, and we’re definitely hoping to run some focus groups on the beta version of it, before it goes out for wide distribution. EDUCOM interested in that?
• Would Educom be interested in some meet and greet/general discussions/roundtables/some type of idea sharing or collaboration with the VP Academics, the student senators and/or the staff?
• Would Educom like to be part of a session later on in the summer about the future of the old SUB aka the UBC life building? Anne is on the working committee for that and they’re looking for groups of students to consult with on plans. Good for Educom and Unecorn.
• Anne: One of the things Educom talked quite a bit about last year was a type of “academic forum” (Armin can give more background). I've asked for some money in my budget to pay for this (refreshments included!) Is this something you’re still interested? Would educom like to help my office plan this? What would they like this to look like?

Flexible Learning Assessment Surveys

• Discussion and overview of what flexible learning entails.
• Does flexible learning for different types of students? What do students want from flexible learning? For those who have taken flexible learning courses, what do they think of them?
• One survey asks about how they learn in their courses in general.
• One survey asks about the flexible learning course specifically. Intended to be used as a toolkit for professors.
• Goal is to see if the survey is good, appropriate language, clear questions, etc...
• There is some repetition in questions from the Student Pedagogy Survey.
• Send feedback, suggestions, and other notes to Armin.

Teaching in Blended Learning Environment Course
• Afsaneh email—forward to Educom to see if they’d like to provide feedback on the 3 pillars outlined for this blended environment.
  o Collaboration, assessment, engagement.
• Staff member from CTLT is making a course for instructors who are teaching in Flexible Learning courses. Wants student perspective on the 3 pillars noted above and how they incorporate into the potential course.
• Send feedback to Armin.

Discussion of Summer Activities

• Focus Group

Adjourn

Moved: Bahareh  Seconded: Carmen

*The motion carries unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.
AMS Education Committee

Minutes of June 4th, 2014

Attendance

Present: Armin [Chair], Tiffany [Councilor], Christina [Member-at-Large], Sarena [Member-at-Large], Michael [Councilor], Carmen [Councilor], Bahareh [AMS VP External], Anne [VPAUA], Daniel [AVPA], Elaine [Councilor]

Guests:

Regrets:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Sareena  Seconded: Tiffany

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Carmen  Seconded: Christina

That the minutes of May 14, 2014 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Update from VPAUA Office

- Still working with people from CTLT on Teaching and Evaluations project.
- Some issues popping up with Exam Database with regards to copyright issues coming up. Currently asking constituency VPAs for exams in their faculties that we could use to put on the exam database. Steering committee meeting coming up in July for this.
• More work being done on mental health, progress being made in collaboration with other groups. Relooking at some UBC policy and how mental health can be better incorporated into that.
• Flexible learning team has released a new draft of the FL strategic plan. There will be a QA session on June 9th from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM.
• June 3-10, CTLT workshops and events: teaching and learning with technology (trying to learn more about “gamification” tactics in the learning process).
• Academic Experience Survey – made summary of comments in the survey. Number 1 comment was “this survey does not apply to graduate students.” Will work more with graduate students in developing 2015 questions next year. Looking at getting survey technology (60k per year), dependent on Council’s approval, which will help make surveys simpler to administer and “better” in future years. Software would also make the report-making portion of the survey a quick ordeal, not an 8-week process. Interview for survey data person going well—will likely have someone by this Friday, June 6.
• iClicker review committee was formed to review UBC’s use of iClickers a while ago. Surveys and focus groups were held with faculty and students, and they found most people were satisfied with them, so UBC will be sticking with the iClickers. There might be change to this in the next 5 years, but for now, the university will be sticking to the iClicker system.

Follow-Up on Surveys + Teaching in Blended Learning Environment questions

• Maryam was very happy with responses and suggestions for how the surveys could be improved. She will provide us with an update once things get fixed/finalized so we can see a more finalized version of what our ideas and thoughts led to.
• Teaching in Blended Learning Environment survey answers are going to be published into a report given out to professors who take the training course. If anyone on the committee would like to remain anonymous and not have their information presented publically, let Armin know.

Invitations for focus groups

• UBC IT Focus Group, June 24th from 1-2pm for students. If there’s anything that might be worth bringing up with regards to an IT review, from a student perspective (ie WIFI access, for example), this would be the place to bring it up.
• UBC Life Building Focus Group Meetings. June 13th, 3-5pm will be the first focus group meeting. Opportunity for students to give perspective on what they want the old SUB building to become/entail once we move out of it. However, students will still have about half of the basement of this building (we will also keep the Norm). Looking for 4-5 “student leader” spots.

Academic Forum

• Opportunity for Educom to be more connected and engaged with VPAUA’s office and general students. Can we better collaborate better with Student Senate Caucus?
- Michael: In my program, academic issues are normally dealt with internally, so not sure if this type of AMS initiative would be of much value. Program Evaluation Surveys are being debated to be reinstated in our program.
- Carmen: In SUS, we do a beef and pizza type of event to get info on what to look into for academic issues, but it doesn’t go too well in terms of collecting valuable feedback (people often write things just to get their pizza ticket).
- Education faculty also deals with things internally.
- Is there a point to try to do something at an AMS level?
  - We could work on some type of student representation on curriculum committee-type work. Many faculties don’t have students or require to have students on their curriculum committees. This would be more like a project we can take on as a committee.
- If we did something project-based as a committee rather than an open forum with an unclear end goal, we know what we’re working towards which could be of greater benefit overall (especially the curriculum idea).
- Forum type idea would be 1-day or something short that might not have a huge impact, but a project type initiative like getting more student representation on curriculum committees could have a greater impact if we were to accomplish something like that.
- Forum might lead to having students come and ask for help with their personal issues for which we would then become a service desk of where students should go for their individual issues. That’s not really the point of Educom.
- However, forum could be useful for raising awareness on issues. We could bring in university officials to give more information on what they’re doing for academic type work (like flexible learning, for example).
- CTLT is already doing some work on engagement on these academic type issues, so what would we be adding to that through this forum? Could we pair our conversations at a forum-like event with what they do at the CTLT? Anne believes they would work with us.
- If we paired with CTLC and helped on getting a broad group of students RSVP’d, and helped shape the open forum, it would be of more benefit for students at large than a non-structured forum.
- Educom could help CTLT with engaging typically non-engaged students and we can help lead broken up group conversations during the day/forum event.
- If we’re doing it AMS/CTLT collaboration, we can potentially entice a higher-up at UBC to come out.

Adjourn

Moved: Elaine               Seconded: Christina

The motion carries unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.
AMS Education Committee

Minutes of June 25th, 2014

Attendance

Present: Armin [Chair], Daniel [AVPA], Christina [Member-at-large], Elaine [Councilor], Sareena [Member-at-large], Michael [Councilor], Carmen [Councilor], Arpan [Member-at-large]

Regrets: Tiffany [Councilor], Anne [VPAUA], Bahareh [VPX]

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Christina Seconded: Sareena

That the agenda be adopted.

*The motion carries unanimously.*

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Sareena Seconded: Elaine

That the minutes of June 4, 2014 be approved.

*The motion carries unanimously.*

Update from VPAUA Office

- Hired a survey analyst for Academic Survey analysis.
- Upcoming focus groups for research project in VP Students’ Office and CTLT. Can get bookstore gift card for participating.
  - Separate focus groups for “normal” student and for “involved” student
- Sareena attempted to sign up, but there was error in form.
- Working on Midterm Evaluations of Teaching.
Vantage College

- Consultation done this morning on student perspectives of what could be improved upon for the transition into university.
- What happened at the meeting:
  - Group of students (some of the RAs who’ve been hired to be RAs for the College and student senators) were asked questions relating to aspects that would’ve helped their transition to UBC, questions relating to mental health, how they chose their programs which generated good discussion.
  - Explained the structure of the programs within Vantage College:
    - 11-month program (regular two winter terms + extra term)
    - 7 courses at once per term
      - Not all are full courses, some are tutorials for English language learning
      - There is a multi-disciplinary research course where students work with faculty member
        - Will be a Vantage College program for presentation of research among Vantage College students
    - 1 Arts program, 2 Science programs
  - Concerns:
    - How do you ensure that students within the college with all the courses don’t just stay within the college (ensuring that they are incorporated into general population)?
    - Are they still finalizing academic programs, hence why they’re doing focus groups?
    - Consultation was more about the broader picture for the College
    - Will they have anything solid for September?
    - Hoping so. I think they should have it mostly done, but doing finalization
    - Anymore consultations?
    - Not sure, will let you know.

Academic Forum

- Looking to expand our role from solely a consulting role to a more proactive role. Anne’s included the Academic Forum in her budget. Looking to create the plan/framework throughout the summer to implement during the school year. Create a plan in the next 3-4 meetings so that we can be ready during the year. Last meeting, we discussed potentially partnering with CTLT for this Forum to engage student opinions/perspective. Is there a better way of approaching this?
- This is good, but it would be interesting to see what the FL will be running.
- We likely won’t see the results of the FL for a while. Miriam is going on mat leave in August, but is the head for the FL project. There will be two graduate students taking the lead (one will be starting next month, the other will be starting in August).
• Perhaps looking to piggyback from what CTLT already does to drive it in the direction towards a specific topic? There are 2 different routes we can take.
• Want to ensure that we don’t duplicate with something the CTLT already does.
• They’re doing focus groups, the survey and a journaling project with an LFS class (a FL class). These are the 3 components of the FL project.
• Last time, we discussed having a round table about what FL is.
• Want to know what direction we want to take
• Will need to partner with CTLT to some extent to get the answers to the questions people will have
• Might be good to piggyback on CTLT, but would also be cool to start own event.
• One area where there isn’t as much student engagement is in the kind of higher level non-pedagogical policy issues (e.g. FL survey is about experience in the class, but FL is also about what happens outside of the class)
• Who would be the best person to contact about this?
• Could talk to Mary-Anne, Simon Bates (CTLT).
• We seem to want to put on our own event, which enhances what CTLT already does, but focusing more on the student engagement aspect.
• Which is important since CTLT focuses at the faculty level, but not so much for students.
• What I hope for us to accomplish before summer ends: coming up with a timeline for this forum, connecting with the right people in CTLT.
• I think it would be valuable to have someone from CTLT come into our meeting at some point to discuss what we will be talking about at the forum.
• Will try to do this for the next meeting or in two weeks’ time.
• They may have more time sooner than later because August gets very busy for them.
• So what we need to do: start conversation with CTLT so that we can move forward with what we can contribute to them. After we connect with them, we can create a timeline.
• Timeline-wise, end of October is “Celebrate Learning” Week, so it could be a good time to have the forum, but unsure of what/if CTLT does a lot during this week.
• Between now and the next meeting, I’m going to make sure that I have a meeting with someone in CTLT. If anyone is really interested in doing more for this Forum, let me know.
• For the forum, we should be careful not for redundancy, especially since so many faculties do a “Beef and Pizza” event. It’s good to collaborate with CTLT so that it makes it separate of these events.

Adjourn

Moved: Carmen          Seconded: Michael

*The motion carries unanimously.*
The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.
AMS Education Committee

Minutes of August 13th, 2014

Attendance

Present: Armin [Chair], Tiffany [Councilor], Sareena [Member-at-Large], Daniel [AVPA]

Guests:

Regrets:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Tiffany Seconded: Sareena

That the agenda be adopted.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Sareena Seconded: Tiffany

That the minutes of June 25, 2014 be approved.

The motion carries unanimously.

Update from VPAUA Office

- Academic Experience Survey almost done! Working on recommendations that have arisen from 2014 survey results (safety on campus, supporting academic environment for students, extracurricular involvement being recognized with academic credit, undergraduate research)
- Also looking into data on discrimination and how students feel discriminated (if at all) and trying to make recommendations based on that.
- Working on a new AMS policy based on UBC Policy 69 (student safety abroad)
- New International Students Commissioner hired. Working on new research project on Vantage College (what are students’ perspectives as they go into it, is it effective from their perspective?)
• Anne made presentation to Senate’s new mental health committee. Talked about everything on the AMS’s radar to give the committee ideas and thoughts on what could be done there.
• Exam Database (online portion) is to be done soon. Going to be soliciting professors to put material in there soon (hopefully even some by end of summer). Hoping for full database within next year or two.

Academic Forum

• What would attract students to come?
  o Smaller discussion setting with primarily students, with maybe a couple UBC admin-leveled people.
  o It would be enticing to students if the rep from UBC who comes is someone “higher up” with more authority and decision making power.
  o Must have some free food.
• What sort of format would appeal to students?
  o Round table format. Someone designated to note-take, and just round-table talking amongst the students. Maybe limit this to 1.5/2 hours?
  o Before round table, perhaps have some 1-on-1 time between students and the UBC reps so that people who are shy in groups can talk on a more intimate level with the UBC reps.
  o Have a professor who runs a FL class (or students who are taking a FL class) to come and share their experiences and include that perspective in the environments.
  o Maybe someone asks a question to the entire group, and then everyone breaks up into smaller groups to discuss their responses and share that back with the bigger group afterwards.
  o Send students a questionnaire prior to the day so that we can gear questions that we ask students that day geared towards the pre-event questionnaire responses.
• What worries, excites, confuses students on FL?
  o Some courses have FL sections and non-FL sections, and it seemed the non-FL sections were evaluated differently and some students didn’t like that.
  o In FL courses like APSC 160, it was easy to fall behind because of the self-teaching that had to happen. However, it almost felt like there was no professor needed in that scenario because of all the self-teaching. A TA would have sufficed. However, many other students appreciated this type of course because of how self-paced it was. The lecture hall experience was a lot more engaging as well since we weren’t getting lectured, but rather, were working on practice problems.
  o One thing that excites students is how FL courses make the experience of learning a course self-paced. As long as they’re organized, self-paced learning can be a better learning experience for students.
o Self-paced FL environment could also be troublesome for first year students who are new to this experience and don’t have the work ethic and organization to handle it productively.

o FL courses might also present heavy coursework quantities with online modules, group activities (in and out of class), etc., that would make the course a lot more demanding due to all these different skews going on.

o Do people know what FL classes are? Are they aware that FL is something UBC is trying to implement more and more of?
  ▪ General student would see “FL” as coursework that is heavily based on technology/independent/group work and non-traditional learning experience.
  ▪ Most students aren’t aware of FL or that UBC is working on doing more and more of these.

o It would be good to touch on the different types of FL classes. Not all FL classes are the same. Some are flexible in how you learn. Others are flexible in how you evaluate and do projects; it really depends.

o It would be good to help distinguish different skews of FL like flip classroom environments and others.

• Could we have all FL classes ID’d as “FL” on the SSC, and can we describe how they’re FL.
• Can we get a better gage from students on what subject matter they would want to see in FL format? Would they want Math in FL? No? Why not? And of the courses that are already FL, how do they like what’s being done?

Adjourn

Moved: Sareena  Seconded: Tiffany

The motion carries unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.