This report provides a summary of my activities since taking office October 16th, 2013

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1 Introduction

Wow, these past few months have gone by very quickly. It has been a pleasure to take on this role, and I am pleased that I will be able to continue to serve the AMS for the next year. Much of the past few months has been learning and building relationships with administrators, faculty, staff and students. This third and final ternary report is supposed to serve as a summary of the year and suggestions for the next executive. However, because this covers my entire time as an executive at the AMS, and because I will be once again serving in this role next term, the report will include my Performance Accountability Incentive goals and what action I have taken on them, a summary of the projects and initiatives I have worked on, brief overviews of the business of committees I sit on, and will, where applicable, speak to the future direction of projects and initiatives. There may be some unfortunate disconnect between this report and the last report. The ternary reports are normally due in June, September and February, however, due to the transition happening in the office in September, no report was submitted. I have done my best to give background on issues to bridge this gap.

2 Hiring

2.1 International and Aboriginal Students’ Commissioner

This position had not been filled when I came into office, and a suggestion passed on to me was to consider separating the position into an International Students’ Commissioner and an Aboriginal Students’ Commissioner. There had been difficulty finding someone who had a full understanding of both of the aspects of this role in the past, and I found this to be the case again. There was sufficient budget remaining for the year to hire for both positions, at 8 hours a week each, instead of 10 hours a week for the combined position. I hired Camila Contreras Leon in November to the position of International Students’ Commissioner and Spencer Lindsay in January to the position of Aboriginal Students’ Commissioner. Section 9 outlines their activities in their positions so far.

3 Committee Updates and Work

3.1 AMS Committees

3.1.1 Education Committee
The Education Committee has been meeting somewhat regularly throughout my term. Umang and I provide an update on the activities of the office at every meeting, and have often brought up topics for discussion or feedback to the committee, on issues such as the Exam Database, the Midterm Evaluations of Teaching, Policy 73 (the policy on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities), and the questions on the Academic Experience Survey. In October I brought forward a policy on Open Access that was approved by the committee and subsequently AMS Council. This year the committee has been exploring what its mandate is, further than just being a place for updates and feedback from the VP Academic’s office. Ideas such as hosting events on academic topics, or running an event for dissemination of information to and for feedback from the general student population on the activities of the VP
Academic’s office, have been explored as options. More detail of the issues and topics discussed can be found in the minutes of the committee.

3.1.2 University and External Relations Committee
The University and External Relations Committee has been meeting somewhat regularly throughout my term. I have brought up many issues to discuss with the committee, such as the tuition, the new process for consultation on tuition for new programs, and the Academic Experience Survey questions that are relevant to the committee. I also brought through a policy to endorse the recommendations of the Acadia Park Needs Assessment Report, which was passed, and subsequently passed by Council. An upcoming topic of the committee will be responding to the two policy referendums that passed in February which have to do with my office. More detail of the issues and topics discussed can be found in the minutes of the committee.

3.1.3 Budget Committee
The VP Academic and University Affairs is the Chair of the Budget Committee. The Committee has met on an ad-hoc basis to review budget changes and refer them to Council for approval. Items considered have included changes to the VP Administration’s budget and the Services budget. The Committee was also asked by the Legislative Procedures Committee to review its own structure, as the structure and membership of Budget Committee was an item of discussion for a bylaw change. Notes from the discussion were passed on to LPC to aid them in their decision. It was decided that a Council member should serve as the Chair of the Committee, and the VP Academic and a representative from SAC will no long sit on the committee, and these bylaw changes were approved by referendum in January.

Budget Committee is also responsible for the selection of new BAGB members. The Committee went through a process of evaluating all candidates to create a shortlist. 3-4 members of the committee then interviewed candidates for both the alumni position and the 2 student positions. The Committee met and deliberated on the candidates and recommended candidates to Council for approval. It was recommended to me that the selection process be reviewed; however, there was not sufficient time to do this before hiring had to happen. I will be recommending to the Chair of BAGB that BAGB evaluate for itself the process and recommend changes.

3.2 University Committees (Standing and Ad Hoc)

3.2.1 Student Evaluation of Teaching (SEoT) Implementation Committee
This committee is a UBC committee made up of university administrators and representatives from the major faculties to discuss the implementation of the SEoT. The committee has met twice since October, and I was able to attend one meeting, but was away for the other, so Umang attended in my place. The most important topic of conversation has been the importance of high response rates, and how to achieve this. It has been recognized that students being able to see the impact of the evaluations is extremely important, and the committee is working on making the processes that Faculties undergo with the results better communicated to students.

3.2.2 Connect Steering Committee
This committee brings together all stakeholders in the implementation of Connect. The committee meets monthly to discuss how the implementation is going, what issues are arising/continuing/have been resolved. We also have discussed issues of perceptions of Connect, issues around faculty no longer using it, how to resolve those issues and contingency planning. The committee is also provided with bi-weekly
email updates on the progress of the implementation and on the status of Connect. I have been able to attend all but one meeting.

3.2.3 University Health and Safety Committee
The University Health and Safety Committee meets to discuss high level health and safety issues at UBC. The committee recently restructured itself and created 3 sub-committees. The purpose of this was to take a more active role in providing suggestions to the University on Health and Safety related matters, rather than simply receiving reports. Several recommendations were brought to the meeting in November, where they were discussed, and a draft report written. I was unfortunately unable to attend January’s meeting due to it conflicting with my class schedule, and Umang was unable to attend in my stead.

3.2.4 Ponderosa Commons Working Committee
This committee works on issues related to design and development of the new Ponderosa Commons. The committee has met once, and an update was provided on the opening of Phase 1 and on Phase 2, which has now been approved by Board 3, and on which construction has started.

3.2.5 Bookstore Advisory Committee
The Bookstore Advisory Committee is a body made up of staff, faculty, and students that provides feedback and advice to the UBC Bookstore on its product and service offerings to the UBC community. I unfortunately was unable to attend the only meeting they have held in the past few months.

3.2.6 Vantage College Advisory Committee
This committee is the advisory body for Vantage College and the development of the first year international student program within the college. The committee met once in the fall and discussed new hiring that has happened, the hiring of the Academic Director, the creation of curriculum, applications to the program and the planning that is happening for student life and integration.

3.2.7 RCMP Community Police Advisory Committee
This committee is hosted by the RCMP University Detachment with representatives from the AMS, Metro Van Parks Board, Campus Security, UNA, UEL and the VP Students Office. The committee met once in the fall, and provided updates on all types of crime that have happened in the area. There was discussion around the possibility of Thunderbird Arena being licensed, and what body would make decisions on licensing. Little information could be provided on the continuing investigation into the stranger sexual assaults on campus because that is being investigated by a major crimes unit of the RCMP, not the local dispatch.

3.2.8 Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee and Aquatic Centre Working Committee
While Kiran Mahal had previously sat on this committee, it was not part of her position as VP Academic, so another individual from AMS Council was chosen to sit on this committee.

3.2.9 Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee
The university Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee is a cross campus committee comprised on students, faculty, staff and administrators. This committee discusses and strategies on initiatives relating to student mental health and wellbeing on campus from a diverse range of perspectives. This committee did not meet over the last few months.
3.2.10 Scholarly Communications Steering Committee
The Scholarly Communications Steering Committee met has not met in person during this time, however, was asked to comment on some changes the government was proposing that would encourage open access publishing, and I provided some feedback to the committee on this.

3.2.11 UTown@UBC
The UTown@UBC Committee brings together stakeholders from all areas of the University, both academic and nonacademic, to discuss issues that relate to the campus as a community and town. The last meeting consisted of updated from stakeholders with no major topics of discussion.

3.2.12 Student Financial Support Project Working Group
This is a project exploring how to improve UBC’s financial support for students. Due to it being a time sensitive project, and the transition time between Kiran and myself, Joaquin took over as the AMS representative for this project.

3.2.13 Flexible Learning Strategy Network
The Flexible Learning Strategy Network meets to discuss high-level strategy for UBC relating to flexible learning. The network has met twice since I have been in office and I have been able to attend both meetings, however, the material discussed is confidential.

3.2.14 Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund Adjudication Committee
The TLEF is a fund paid for by a percentage of all tuition paid to UBC. The purpose of the fund is to enhance student learning through funding projects that have a meaningful impact on student learning, are sustainable and have student involvement. The GSS VP Academic and External and I sit as the two students on the adjudication committee. The committee received all the applications in early December, and met to decide who would adjudicate which applications. Each member then went and read and evaluated approximately 45 applications, and then through 2 meetings in January and 1 meeting in February, adjudicated the fund. This year, there was the option for applications to be Flexible Learning projects, meaning they had an innovative use of technology, though the committee adjudicated all the applications based on overall merit, rather than having separate ‘pots’ for FL and Standard applications.

3.2.15 Jump Start Steering Committee/Orientations Steering Committee
The Jump Start Steering Committee met once in the fall to receive updates on this year’s jumpstart program. A significant topic of conversation was whether, following up from the events of this fall, the committee should be changed to have a broader mandate, to that of an Orientations Steering Committee, and there was general consensus about this. The committee met once again in February, with a slightly different group of individuals to reflect the new mandate, and the committee discussed the draft terms of reference of the new committee, and I raised concerns about the mandate of the committee on the issue of student-led versus university-led orientations. I also suggested more student representation from the AMS on the committee other than myself. With some of the draft recommendations from the Task Force on Intersectional-Gender Based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes pertaining directly to this, I’m sure this will be a continuing conversation in the next months.

3.2.16 Learning Technologies Advisory Committee – Pedagogical Working Group (LTAC-PWG)
This committee meets to discuss broad issues surrounding learning technologies at UBC. Issues discussed have included Connect (though this has a separate Steering Committee, as mentioned above), whether UBC should at this time be pursuing a mobile version of Connect, technologies for curriculum mapping and iClickers.
3.2.17 Clicker Review Committee
This is a committee that was struck up after a conversation at LTAC-PWG and will be examining whether UBC should continue using iClickers as the main clicker technology or move to a mobile version, and whether UBC should continue to have one, main supported clicker technology at all. I was able to attend the one meeting so far. They also asked for more student representation, and I put an open call to VP Academics of Undergrad societies, student senators and the AMS Education Committee, and Daniel Munro is joining me on this committee as a student voice.

3.2.18 Informal Learning Spaces Committee
This is a committee that meets once a year to adjudicate a fund that provides money for the creation of informal learning spaces on campus. The committee met in February.

4  UBC Mental Health Network
Since the signing of the MOU between the AMS and the UBC Mental Health Network, we have continued to collaborate and work closely together to expand the Network. I have been unable to attend some meetings of the Network, but have sent Matthew Duguay as the AMS’s representative. The Network has been recently discussing its internal structure and what better structure it might create to ensure sustainability, and institutionalization of the Network: options such as becoming an AMS Resource Group, becoming a non-profit society or a non-profit organization are continuing to be explored. The Chair of the Network, Kimberley Carter, and I meet regularly to discuss issues and collaboration. We have held several meeting with Janet Teasdale and Cheryl Washburn around how to create an institutionalized relationship between the AMS, MHN and UBC in order to facilitate collaboration and communication. Kim, Liyang (the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner) and I have also been working to prepare for the upcoming review of Policy 73, the policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, and how we can better incorporate mental health into this policy. Liyang has been doing background research into other universities’ policies, and Kim and I have been working for student representation on the committee, which we have been told should be the case, however, the review committee has yet to be officially struck.

5  VP Academic Caucus
The VP Academic Caucus is made up of all the VP Academics, and occasionally the VP Externals, of all the undergraduate and graduate student societies. Topics of discussion included the midterm evaluations of teaching, the exam database and the issue of syllabi that has been an ongoing project of student senators. I was new to this table, so the meeting also included introductions and I asked all those in attendance to speak to academic issues in their faculties. The Caucus will be meeting again in early March to discuss these issues again, as well as the Academic Experience Survey, and a presentation and discussion on student engagement with the Flexible Learning Initiative.

6  Performance Accountability Incentive Goals
I was asked by the Oversight Committee to bring forward two goals for my time in office. I prepared them and sent them in the first few days in January, however the Oversight Committee was unable to meet with me to discuss the goals specifically and they have not been approved by Council at this time. I will provide the overall goal and speak to what has been done for each of these projects throughout my term.
6.1 AMS Academic Experience Survey 2014

*Goal: To have the Academic Experience Survey ready to go in order that the next VP AUA is able to run the survey at the beginning of their term (mid-march) and work towards institutionalizing the survey.*

This goal I have been working on since late December. An initial email was sent out to many campus stakeholder groups indicating that consultation was upcoming and it recommended beginning to think about questions. A follow up email was sent mid to late January with an initial draft of questions, made up of questions from previous year, for them to get a sense of the type of questions and what would be asked this year. These stakeholder groups were: undergraduate societies and the GSS (sent to presidents and VP Academics), student senators, the members of the Education Committee and the University and External Relations Committee, SASC, the International Students’ Association and UBC administrators who work in relevant areas. So far, we have received feedback and/or questions from student senators, AUS, EUS, GSS, and nearly all the UBC administrators and we are following up with those we have not heard from. Both the Education Committee and the University and External Relations Committee at their meetings discussed and provided feedback on questions relevant to their mandates. Some additional individuals or groups were contacted personally for consultation on specific portions that are relevant to them, such as Kim from the MHN, UBC’s Registrar Kate Ross, the Executives, the Student Services Manager, and the commissioners in my office. Consultation is ongoing and we are still receiving suggestions from different groups and individuals and working with them on wording.

I have been in close conversation with Ben Pollard, the Director of the VP Students Portfolio Initiatives, and his expertise on surveys and data has been a fantastic asset for formation and wording on questions. He has promised that some of his staff will be able to enter the survey questions into the system and create the survey logic, which I anticipate saving me a lot of time, for which I am very grateful. Umang has also been helping me significantly on this work. We have set the date of Friday, February 28th as the deadline for feedback, in order make final adjustments and to make sure the survey is ready to be rolled out mid-March. We plan on running the final question set by the Education Committee, the University and External Relations Committee, the Executive and past VP Academic Kiran Mahal as well as the data and survey experts in Ben Pollard’s office.

I have not had sufficient time to do a full scan of options for institutionalizing the survey, which was one sub-goal, however, one conversation I have been having is with former AVP Academic Sean Cregten, who has a new data analysis company, and the possibility of them taking over several aspects of the survey to remove the burden of work (especially in the analysis phase) from this office, where they may not always be knowledgeable of data and surveys and support from the VP Students’ office, through signing a multi-year contract with the company. This would of course come to Council.

6.2 Acadia Park

*Goal: To lobby the University on the recommendations of the Acadia Park Needs Assessment Report.*

The Acadia Park Needs Assessment Report was published and sent to relevant University administrators August 27th, 2013 by Kiran Mahal. Louise Cowin indicated a full response would be provided at the beginning of November. Mid-November, when I had not heard from her, I inquired as to the status of the response. She had not had time to review the response due to the many unforeseen events of this fall, and we finally met the first week of December with her, the Acting Associate VP Campus and Community Planning (C+CP) Lisa Colby and Andrew Parr to discuss the University’s response (which can be found in the agenda package for February’s UBC Bog meeting). The response split the response into short term and long term items. Many issues raised by the Needs Assessment were addressed in the report, for example, $16 million will be spent in the next 4 years to do significant renovations to the units in Acadia Park. At this meeting,
Louise promised that the report as well as the University’s response would go to the Board of Governors at their February meeting. Two significant concerns remained. Firstly, fixing the consultation processes of C+CP was listed as long term, and secondly, there were no responses to the concerns around the land use designation of Acadia Park, beyond saying that planning decisions will be made in 15-20 years time. I raised these issues with President Toope and Louise at the Executives’ meeting with President Toope in early January, and Louise followed up with them. It was decided that the best course of action would be to meet with the new AVP C+CP Micheal White once he started. As well, Louise and I presented to the Board of Governors Property and Planning Committee on January 28th. Louise spoke to the process that had occurred, with a promise for continuing conversation on the issue with the new AVP, and I spoke to the major concerns in regards to the land use plan, and also thanked Louise for her continuing work on this issue. Over Christmas we had been preparing a letter raising these concerns to also go to the Board of Governors, however, because of the continuing dialogue, we decided to put this off until a future date, if needed. As well, the residents of Acadia scheduled a meeting with Pascal Spothelfer, the VP Communications and Community Partnership, to discuss the issue of Acadia Park, which happened today, February 21st, and it went well. Two meetings have been scheduled within the next 2 weeks with Michael White, one of which is to address specifically the issue of consultation, and I’m very optimistic about these meetings. Brittany has also been working with Acadia Residents to set a date for a Town Hall to speak to the findings of the report and to be there for any questions from residents, and we will hopefully be finalizing the date within the next week, for mid-March. I would finally like to thank Brittany for all her help with this issue.

7 Other Portfolio Projects and Initiatives

7.1 Exam Database
The Exam Database project continues, and Umang has been taking on the bulk of the work on this project. The project manager was hired as of November 1st, and my office has been in close communication with him. The Steering Committee met in December and will be meeting again in the second week of March to discuss high level strategy and direction for the project. A working group has been formed to take on the more operational decisions that need to be made and the AMS will of course take a large role in this. The project manager has been working on engaging faculty and Faculties in the project, and will be bringing updates on the formation of the working group, a full timeline and plans for engaging faculty to the next Steering Committee Meeting.

7.2 Affordable Housing & Housing Demand Study
In November, there was a meeting with Matt Parson, who has been working on the Student Housing Action Plan and several UBC administrators in follow up to this plan. The issue of the interest that Housing is required to pay back to the Endowment has been taken off the table at these discussions. The meeting centred mostly on a proposed new Housing Demand Study (the last one was in 2009), which will examine students’ housing needs and the issue of affordability. We held a subsequent meeting to discuss what should be raised in the survey, and just recently brought us a full draft of questions for review. The survey will be going out the first week of March.

7.3 Housing Contract
This is a new project that I have taken up. It stems from a concern around students’ rights in residence and embedding those within the Housing Contract has been seen as an important way to do this. Curtis Tse, who is the Student BoG Representative for UBCO, is also very interested in this (the contracts are very similar) and we have been working together on the project. We have compiled our concerns, which have to do with the process by which students are evicted from residence, the time they have been notice of eviction and eviction
itself, the appeals process and other smaller concerns, and met with the Managing Director of Student Housing and Hospitality Services Andrew Parr and the Director of Residence Life Janice Robinson on January 16th to raise our concerns. The response centred mostly on the fact that the UBC Counsel advises them to write the contract in this way. Andrew and Janice will be getting in contact with UBC Counsel to see what they think, and will be getting back to us on a few questions, and we will be having a follow up meeting soon.

7.4 Midterm Evaluations of Teaching
After the initial pilot last year, there was a fuller roll out of the Midterm Evaluations of Teaching (MEoT) project this year. Umang worked with undergraduate VP Academics, who subsequently worked with departmental reps, to work on the ground to connect with professors. While this was successful in some cases, overall it did not work as well as hoped. Simon Bates and Marianne Schroeder, both from CTLT, Umang and I met last week to discuss this project and whether this course of action should be maintained. It was decided that it might be best to focus our efforts on one area, such as Arts where there has been good update and interest as well as support from the Faculty. This was discussed at the most recent Education Committee meeting, where there was general approval of this, and will be discussed at the next VP Academic Caucus as well.

7.5 Services Review Follow Up
I have continued to help Matthew Duguay on certain aspects following up from the Services Review where they have to do with the University. We held one meeting with Andrew Parr and Louise Cowin in the fall regarding the possibility of an off-campus housing office and they are doing some examination on their side to see how this might be done. We have also been in conversation with Kim Kiloh, the Director of the Centre for Student Involvement and Careers about the possibility of moving Volunteer Connect to the CSI+C. These meetings have been very positive and productive and we have now moved into more operational discussions, and are looking to draft an MOU.

8 Other Non-Project Based Work

8.1 UBC Regional Context Statement
UBC is currently undergoing a process to update its Regional Context Statement in the Land Use Plan to align it with Metro Vancouver’s new regional growth strategy. The draft statement underwent consultation in April/May and the AMS made a formal submission. One of the key issues raised in that submission was an exclusion of students from the population count. This concern was raised to the Board of Governors over the summer but it was still approved. It was sent to Metro Vancouver for comments in September, and UBC was asked to clarify certain aspects, including whether or not students are counted. Further edits were brought to the Board of Governors in November and were approved. It is still not made entirely clear in the documents that students are not counted. The statement was put up for Public Hearing on February 12th, and I put together a submission to this hearing outlining the AMS’s continuing concerns. The statement will now go to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for approval, as it represents an amendment to the Land Use Plan.

8.2 Orientations
Following up from the CUS Frosh Chants Janet Teasdale, the Director of Student Development and Services, and Kim Kiloh, the Director of the Centre for Student Involvement and Careers, invited Derek Moore and I to a meeting to discuss orientations. They had prepared a document that compared orientation standards that are based on academic research to what is happening at UBC, and where opportunities lie. This was explored as a
possible shared framework for standards for orientations. I provided feedback on these standards. The conversation has been somewhat put on hold due to the work of the Task Force, however this conversation will be continuing soon with the newly formed Orientations Steering Committee.

8.3 Tuition Consultation for new programs
After last year's events with the new Bachelor's of International Economics, the University realized that it needed better consultation processes around tuition consultation for new programs. The University has an existing policy (Policy 71) that requires consultation for increases in tuition, but this has been interpreted previously as only applying to increases, not to new programs. The University may be considering amending the Policy to clearly state that new programs count, but in the meantime the VP Students' office is mandating student consultation on all new programs. Ben Pollard, from the VPS office, brought myself, the GSS and the ISA together to discuss the proposed process for consultation, and we agreed it was generally good but would re-evaluate in the summer. In the last 2 months, we have received notice of 4 new programs: the Bachelor of Media Studies (Arts), the PharmD program (Pharmacy), the Graduate Certificate in Orientation and Mobility (Education) and the joint Masters' in Public Health with a Diploma in Dental Public Health (Dentistry and the School of Population and Public Health). Please see my submissions to Council on February 26th for full detail on each of these programs. There have been some concerns raised about tuition, and a concern for all four has been the extremely short period for consultation (the longest was 2 weeks and the shortest was 4 days) and the lack of detailed budgetary documents that are provided. We expect more in the next few weeks, and we expect to be working with the VP Students' office over the summer to improve this process. I should finally note that some of these occurred while I was away in February, and I owe a great debt to Umang for making sure everything happened that needed to.

8.4 Policy 73
Several people early in my term had mentioned that Policy 73, UBC's policy on accommodations for students with disabilities, was going to be soon up for review. I did a bit of digging and eventually found out that this was true, though the committee had yet to be struck. The committee has yet to be struck but after speaking with Janet Teasdale, the Director of Student Development and Services and Janet Mee, the Director of Access and Diversity, they agreed that there should be student representation on the review committee. As mentioned in Section 4, I have been working with Kimberly Carter of the MHN to better incorporate mental health into this policy. There is no representative group for students with disabilities on campus (partly due to the diverse nature of disabilities), and therefore I thought it was extremely important to be able to hear the voices of students with disabilities in this process. In early January I approached Janet Mee regarding this with the idea of running a student survey and interviews/focus groups and she agreed it was a great idea. We put together survey questions and the survey was sent to students registered with access and diversity and in and AMS newsletter to catch students not registered. We will be compiling this data soon in order to ensure the voices of students with disabilities are heard throughout this process.

8.5 Mental Health Symposium Planning Committee
As a member of the Mental Health Network I was invited to take part in the planning committee for the Mental Health Symposium, an annual event that focuses on mental health on campus. I was able to attend most meetings (especially once they ensured I was getting the meeting doodles!) and provided input on various aspects of the event. I ensured the event was promoted by the AMS communication channels. The event was very well attended and was a great success, though I unfortunately was unable to attend because I was out of town. The committee had a debriefing meeting and we put together suggestions for next year's planning committee and for the symposium itself. If you've read past this point, come tell me, and if you're the first person to come I'll buy you a blue chip cookie! One new thing this year was providing attendees' time during the event to put together projects, and these projects will be given a minimum funding for their
project with the possibility of more, and I will be helping put together criteria and supporting these projects over the next months.

8.6 University Search Committees
I have not sat on any search committees in the past few months, but an issue arose this fall about how students are chosen for these types of search committees. After an instance where there was some question about how student representatives are to be chosen arose, Caroline arranged a meeting where Chris Roach (GSS President) and I to meet with Louise Cowin to discuss this. She asked us to write a memorandum on how we think this should be dealt with and that would become the new procedure to follow. This should be done in consultation with LPC, as it makes sense to have a matching internal policy on how we appoint students to committees, and I will be bringing this up to LPC after turnover.

8.7 Campus Safety Working Group
During the first few weeks after the stranger sexual assaults all the executives including myself were attending the Campus Safety Working Group meetings, however, it became clear that it was unsustainable for us all to attend, so Matthew Duguay became the main AMS representative to this group.

8.8 Open Access
In late October/early November I brought forward a policy through the Education Committee and AMS Council endorsing UBC’s statement on open access publishing and calling on UBC to go even farther and look to other Universities that mandate open access, and I was therefore able to make a statement that effect at the November Senate Meeting where this statement was being brought forward.

8.9 Tuition Consultation
The University’s overall yearly tuition consultation is currently open for comment. This year, as it has been for a few years, the proposal is a 2% increase for domestic and 3% for international for the first year, and subsequently 2%. We are currently putting together a submission to this consultation.

9 Staff Portfolio Updates
Below are short updates on the work of the staff in my office.

9.1 Associate Vice President – Umang Khandelwal
Umang serves as my right hand woman in the office and is a great help to me on many things. She attends meetings when I am unable to, picks up work when I am overwhelmed and generally is a great voice for me to bounce things off of. I owe a great debt to her for taking over all operations of the office while I was away in February for a week and a half and ensuring that things such as tuition consultation on new programs happened. She has been spearheading the Midterm Evaluations of Teaching Project as well as the Exam Database. She has also been helping me greatly with preparing everything for this year’s Academic Experience Survey.

9.2 Campus Development Commissioner – Brittany Jang
Brittany has been an amazing asset to me on the Acadia Park file. Coming into this position without the intimate details of projects that come from working on them for months, Brittany has served as an invaluable bridge for me on that project. She has helped me create connections with the Acadia residents, got me up to speed on all the issues, and has helped with every aspect of it. She is currently working on getting together a Town Hall for us to present the results of the report to the community. Brittany also regularly attends
Campus and Community Planning information sessions or consultations in order to report back anything relevant, and determine if we need to make a response to an issue. Recently, as she will be graduating this year, she has been organizing all of her files from her 2 years in the position to ensure a smooth transition with her successor.

9.3  **Equity Commissioner – Brett Sinclair**
Brett has been working on creating a document to help clarify the University's many documents and strategies on equity and intercultural understanding. He will soon be using this document to help run several sessions with AMS Council to help build a strategic plan on equity for the AMS. This is extremely timely given the events of this fall and the recent recommendations from the Task Force on Intersectional Gender Based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes. He has been invaluable to me in understanding the various policies and statements of the University surrounding equity, discrimination and harassment, and intercultural understanding, and in responding to the events and resulting reports of the last few months. He has also helped me with the project on Policy 73.

9.4  **Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner – Liyang Wan**
Liyang has been working this fall on evaluating other universities' policies on mental health and accommodations in order to inform the work Kim and I have been doing on Policy 73. She has evaluated and compiled many different policies and is nearly complete a report on these. She has also been doing research into possible structures for the Mental Health Network. This position is jointly supervised between me and the chair of the MHN.

9.5  **International Students' Commissioner – Camila Contreras Leon**
Camila was hired for this position in late November. She is working on building relationship with different campus partners such as International House, the Global Lounge and the ISA. She sits on the adjudication committee for the Global Fund. Recently she has been in conversation with administrators at the International House regarding the new laws around visas. Since she is getting settled into the position, she is now evaluating what type of projects she can take on with a view for ensuring the continuation of these projects with whoever is in the position after May.

9.6  **Aboriginal Student's Commissioner – Spencer Lindsay**
Spencer was hired for this position in mid-January. Since this is in some ways a new position, he has been working on creating a direction or strategic plan for what this position, and the AMS more generally, should be doing on Aboriginal issues on campus. He has been making connections with Musqueam, with different indigenous groups on campus, with campus administrators and within the AMS as well. He will be creating documents to help the AMS improve its relationship with aboriginal students and Musqueam in the future.


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