AMS External Advocacy

And what it means to be an advocate
Generally...

Advocacy takes different shapes and forms. We will cover different types of representation, and different ways that someone can make their voice heard.

Talk about why advocacy matters.

And an overview of recurring themes of AMS external advocacy.
Meaning of “Advocacy”

Old French: *advocacie*,

Middle English: One who intercedes for another

Protector

Champion

patron

Plead cases
Towards a voice

It’s about giving voice to those who need to be heard
Be it an individual or a group
In order to achieve positive changes
In a variety of sectors such as public policy, resource allocations, decision making processes that affect involved communities, or empowering affected communities to influence decisions that affect them
**Insider/Internal**

Participate within official policy-making spaces: engaging with politicians, civil servants, submissions, meetings

**outsider/External**

Public and media campaigns, member mobilization to more radical tactics such as protests and occupying spaces
So like what do we do
There are so many factors influencing the approach: Government and ministers change, have different approaches and are responsive to different types of pressures. Different issues sit on varying scales of priority. Other stakeholders may have varying opinions on your ask.
Our Past Campaigns

- Champion the Vote (provincial elections)
- Get out the Vote (federal elections)
- Rent with Rights
- GetonboardBC

Campaigns: engage and educate our membership, demonstrate student support.
Less publicly visible work

- Provincial Budget Submission
- Bus #480, SWATP submission, Translink consultations
- Meetings, lobby trips
  - Such as the end of October
  - And the one to Ottawa
- Conferences
Role as a councillor
Types of representation

**DELEGATE**

- Elected by their constituents to act as the “mouthpiece”
- Are delegates, do not hold autonomy
- Acts as voice of those who are literally not present
- Kind of tough to talk to every single person

**TRUSTEE**

- Elected by constituency, ‘entrusted’ with decision making role
- Have sufficient autonomy to deliberate, and act for the greater common good
- Allow the rep to consider the long term benefit over constituent’s short term gain
What can you do?

- Participating in the campaigns
  - Volunteer with Brooklyn - more to come!
  - Champion the voice
- Be well prepared to scrutinize the documents your executives share with you
  - Constructively challenge our arguments
- Develop a knowledge base for area expertise
- Jakok will touch more on it