This report provides a summary of my activities over the last 4 months and provides an update on goals and projects for the year.

Prepared by | Kiran Mahal  
Vice President, Academic and University Affairs  
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1 Introduction

Half way into the term! The first 6 months in this position have gone by quickly. While much of the university slows down over the summer, the AMS is diligently preparing for the beginning of the academic year. Much of the summer was focused on project work and preparation. Coming into my position, I had a small idea of just how vast the Academic and University Affairs portfolio is, but 6 months into I can say with confidence that I had no idea what was to come. Every day I come into my office, have a conversation with a student, staff or faculty member another idea or issue pops up to add to a large list of areas to dedicate time to. Thankfully, I have a staff of dedicated and hardworking individuals to assist me with this large portfolio. You will find a summary of some of the work they have been doing included in this report.

The last 4 months have brought great experiences, most notably honouring our graduates and welcoming our incoming students. Not only did I have the privilege of attending the convocation ceremonies of many of the classmates I have had the pleasure of spending my last 4 years at UBC, I also had the great honour of attending the moving and much awaited honorary degree ceremony for the interned Japanese Canadians. Witnessing the reconfering of degrees and the conferring of the degree Honoris Causa – Inter Silvas Academi Resituere Iustitiam (to restore justice among the groves of the academy) to interned Japanese Canadians whose studies at UBC were disrupted in 1942, is one UBC experience I will never forget. No academic year is complete without the excitement of orientations. I was able to attend the welcoming of international and aboriginal students to UBC at the Opening Ceremonies of the expanded Jumpstart Program and hear the personal stories of a number of UBC students. And of course feel the phenomenal energy in Doug Mitchell Arena as I attended my 5th (yes, 5th) Imagine Day Pep Rally. What an incredible way to start the academic year!

This summer consisted of a lot of research, report writing and preparation for the start of the academic year. My office has been doing its best to bring well informed and well research ideas to the university administration to back our advocacy efforts. Unfortunately, I was out of the office for a majority of July due to unforeseen medical issues however August was a great time for catching up and most of my projects are back on track. I am definitely looking forward to an exciting second half of my term.

This report will provide an update on the work the committees I sit on have done as well as provide an update on the progress of my goals and highlight other areas I have been working on. I have done my best to keep things concise, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. For more context on some of the items discussed in this report, please refer to my first executive report covering the beginning of my term. As always, a big thank you goes to the AMS staff, my fellow executives and my office commissioner for their support, encouragement and for making the AMS such a great place to work!

2 Organization

In my last report, I outlined the commissioner positions that I anticipated hiring to work on projects in my office. Since then, there has been some reorganization of roles. The position of International and Intercultural Commissioner, Campus Development Commissioner, Equity Commissioner and Associate Vice-President remain the same. The updates on the work of these commissioners thus far can be found in section 9 of this report.
In my last report I had mentioned my office had received funding for student mental health and wellness projects. At the time of my last report, I was unsure of whether I would hire a Mental Health and Wellness Commissioner or fund other projects. A number of projects relating to student mental health have been brought forward over the last several months and I feel the funding would be best directed towards supporting these initiatives such as bringing in external experts for the academic policy audit and potentially supporting the work being done by the mental health network.

I hired an Academic Affairs Commissioner as a summer position from May-August however the position did not work out for the individual hired part way through the term. As such, the support work that I had anticipated would be done by the Academic Affairs Commissioner (on midterm evaluations project and academic policy audit) fell onto my plate which placed a slight delay on some of my other projects. Despite this minor setback, things are back in motion. At this time, I am unsure whether I will be re-hiring for this position for the academic year.

3 Committee Updates and Work

3.1 AMS Committees

3.1.1 Education Committee
My office has worked most closely with Education Committee over the last 4 months. The committee met regularly over the summer and we discussed a number of topics including Lecture Capture, Student Evaluations of Teaching, Copyright, BC Post-Secondary Education Quality Assurance to name a few. The committee has been a great resource in providing the student perspective on a number of issues and the diversity in representation on the committee has proven to be very beneficial. I anticipate that my office will continue to interact quite heavily with this committee.

3.1.2 University and External Relations Committee
The committee met regularly over the summer and a number of topics were covered mainly from the Office of the VP External. Much of my involvement has been through attending meetings. Over the next few months I would anticipate more work with this committee as we begin our work on Acadia Park and opening wider discussions on affordable housing on campus.

3.1.3 Student Life and Communications Committee
SLCC also met regularly over the summer term and worked mainly on preparing for First Week, Welcome Back BBQ and the AMS website facelift. Unfortunately I was not able to attend all meetings of this committee as many of them conflicted with other commitments for me but the meetings that I did attend showed a diverse committee with great insights on all areas of student life.

3.1.4 Budget Committee
In my role as VP Academic, I also serve as the Chair of Budget Committee. The work of Budget Committee over the past 4 months has been centred on the passing of the final budget. A budget update was provided at the last council meeting by the VP Finance on behalf of Budget Committee. This budget update showed the state of the society’s finances and spending to date. The results showed that the business contribution was lower than anticipated and Tristan indicated it was too early to determine whether there would be a lower net contribution however in the next few months with the academic
year beginning we will have a better sense of how our businesses will do this year. If numbers are still low, budget committee, in consultation with council, will need to determine the best course of action in terms of decreasing our operating expenses.

3.2 University Committees

3.2.1 LMS Implementation Committee
Much of the work of this committee over the summer has been in preparation for the wide spread launch of the new Learning Management System – Connect for this academic year. All Faculty of Science courses are now using Connect and there are pilots being done for Applied Science and Arts. The work has been focused mostly on the technical side with course migrations and archiving. There is also currently a mid-point project review underway in which I participated by spending some time with the review consultant to provide the AMS perspective on how things have been going thus far.

One of the interesting areas of discussion for students has been the development of the UBC Mobile App which, for next year, will include a mobile version of the LMS allowing students to access course materials and participate in course discussions on the go. Another area of the LMS that has great potential but is still mainly in development is the Community section. There is a lot of potential for this area of Connect to become a hub for communication and interaction with students and I hope this will be an area of focus for the committee in the future.

3.2.2 Student Evaluation of Teaching Implementation Committee
This committee discussed and supported the AMS’ proposal for a pilot project of midterm evaluations of teaching. For more information on the work that is being done around midterm evaluations, please see section 5.2 of this report. There is also upcoming work being done on fixing the back end processes associated with administering end of term evaluations.

3.2.3 ASIST Steering Committee
The ASIST Steering Committee has met once over the summer. During this meeting, there was discussion about the potential of moving forward with a Broader Academic Profile which aims to capture a larger picture of an applicant’s academic experiences by looking at their academic transcript as a whole rather than as just one calculated average. The university is also working on a review of the broad based admissions process, specifically questions asked in the personal profile. This year, major entrance scholarships will be selected based on personal profiles submitted with BBA applications. This will eliminate the past process which required schools to nominate candidates. Finally, plans are moving forward towards creating a consolidated offer system with major entrance scholarships, admissions and housing applications being integrated.

3.2.4 University Health and Safety Committee
The AMS and GSS were invited to send a representative to sit on the University Health and Safety Committee. The VP Academic was selected to be the AMS representative. Currently the committee focuses mainly on occupational hazards for university staff however the mandate is much broader looking towards wider health and safety issues that affect students, staff and faculty. There will be a strategic planning session for this committee in October.
3.2.5 **Ponderosa Commons Working Committee**
Currently, the committee is working on the design process for phase 2 of the ponderosa commons project. Discussions over the summer have been quite interesting as the committee aims to find a balance between student housing needs and the needs of the faculty of education which will be moving into this new building. The concept of a “hub” which brings together staff, faculty and students in a common building where they will work, live and learn is a new one at UBC and ponderosa is the first making it an interesting learning opportunity.

3.2.6 **Property and Planning Advisory Committee**
PPAC deals with any new academic infrastructure and planning projects. Over the summer, PPAC met once and the projects discussed included: changes to the university centre lower level to accommodate the new Vancouver School of Economics, an update on Gage South and a preliminary proposal for a new farm centre on UBC Farm.

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 last meeting was held in June in which we discussed the expansion plans for the University Detachment, potential changes to Special Occasion License in which the RCMP and AMS are working towards streamlining the processes for obtaining SOLs. The RCMP also went over statistics relating to crimes in the detachment area.

3.2.8 **AVP International Search Committees**
The position of Associate Vice President International has been reimagined and is being filled after a few years of vacancy. The vision for this position is now to be an “in-house” position in which the individual filling the position will work mainly at the UBC rather than travelling internationally. The position will be focused on creating buy-in for international partnerships at home and working with the academic community on projects such as internationalization of the curriculum.

3.2.9 **Academic Director of Learning Exchange Search Committee**
UBC is currently seeking out an Academic Director for the UBC Learning Exchange in the downtown eastside. This position is intended to link the academic community at UBC Vancouver with the phenomenal initiatives taking place at the Learning Exchange. This has been a great opportunity to learn more about the Learning Exchange and the unique role it plays in the community.

4 **UNA**
As the VP Academic of the AMS, I sit on the UNA Board as the appointed student director. The UNA has been running consultations on proposed Noise bylaw and an Enforcement and Disputes bylaw. Both have been approved by the UNA Board. Contrary to information that has been circulated about these bylaws, they do not apply to academic or institutional housing areas of campus, only to neighbourhood developments. The UNA has also been working with Campus and Community Planning to secure funding and approve designs for a new skate park in South Campus for the UBC community. The UNA is currently working on developing an editorial board for the Campus Resident Newspaper. I was able to attend a workshop run by Kirk LaPointe which was organized to assist the UNA board in creating the principles for and putting together an editorial board for the Campus Resident.
In accordance with the number of new units built in the neighbourhoods, there will be another seat for an elected resident director on the board which will be filled along with two other vacant seats in the September election. The UNA Annual General Meeting and Resident Directors election will be taking place on ___. The UNA also has plans to conduct a community survey which serves to provide the UNA with demographic information about their community and other information to help inform decision making and communication with the community.

5 Goals and Projects Update

5.1 AMS Academic Experience Survey

5.1.1 Results and Recommendations
The results of the AMS Academic Experience Survey that my office administered in April of this year were made public this summer with all data and recommendations available online. Over 2,400 students completed the survey providing their opinion on a variety of topics relating to student life and academics. Sean Cregten, AVP Academic, spent a significant amount of his time over the last 4 months analysing the results and creating the report.

Sean and I also worked together to review the data and draft recommendations on key issues that stood out in the survey. We provided recommendations on the following areas of the survey:

- Finances and Stress
- Course Workload and Stress
- Faculty Advising Services
- Post-Graduation Preparation
- Programs Designed to Fail Students
- Student Oriented Development
- Affordable Student Housing
- Early Release of Exam Dates
- Exam Database
- AMS Services

The list of recommendations and rationale are available in the report.

5.1.2 Response
The response we received from the UBC community on the survey was overwhelming. Since releasing the report, we have had a number of meetings with university administration to discuss the results and recommendations. We have been able to open up a number of conversations on some of these issues and we foresee many more to come. We have also been able to use this data to back our advocacy efforts on issues including the exam database, early release of exam dates and affordable housing. In addition to supporting the AMS’ efforts, this data has also been beneficial for constituencies. We were able to generate results for each faculty and provide this information to their respective student societies.

We have also received great feedback from UBC Planning and Institutional Research Office (PAIR) on how to improve the survey for future years. PAIR also informed us that many of the results we collected through our survey and recommendations we drew are in line with the data that PAIR has collected.
through UBC wide student surveys including the National Student Engagement Survey and the UBC Undergraduate Experience Survey.

5.1.3 Future Goals
Our hope is that this survey becomes an annual initiative of the AMS. The response we have gotten thus far show the importance of having sound data to back our student advocacy efforts and the valuable information that collecting this data provides. This will also allow us to trend data overtime to see how the student experience evolves overtime and track the AMS’ progress. The results of the survey will also be used to inform the further development and completion of the Long Term Academic Plan started last year by my predecessor Matt Parson. The results show us what students feel are key issues and in order to ensure that these issues do not get lost in transition, the Long Term Academic Plan will focus the work of this office for the coming years and help providing a guiding force for future VP Academics.

In addition to internal and UBC specific uses, the response we have received on the survey from other student unions has started some conversations around creating a national student union survey derived from the work we’ve done at the AMS that asks a standard set of questions at institutions across Canada to create comparable data which can help strengthen individual and national advocacy efforts.

5.2 Midterm Evaluations of Teaching
The ball is rolling quickly on this project as we prepare for the pilot project taking place this academic term. A pilot project proposal was prepared and presented to the Student Evaluation of Teaching Implementation Committee for feedback and support. The committee was very supportive of the idea and there was great discussion on ways that the university can support this student led project. The Academic Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology, Dr. Simon Bates, offered to work closely with us on this project and has been a tremendous support, resource and partner. The CTLT is also working on acquiring software that can be made available to instructors to use for online midterm evaluations that will hopefully be ready for term 2. For the purpose of conducting the pilot project this term, we will be taking a paper based approach.

The faculties that will be participating in this pilot project are: Arts, Science, Kinesiology and Engineering. Dr. Bates and I have been working on developing an information and resource package for professors participating in the pilot project as well as designing a light touch research study to gain feedback on the benefits, strengths and weaknesses of the midterm evaluation process. Undergraduate society VP Academics have been working with their Associate Deans to set the scope of the pilot in their faculty. We will be meeting soon to finalize and communicate the plans for the first term pilot project.

5.2.1 Celebrate Learning Week
CTLT and the AMS are partnering on hosting a workshop during Celebrate Learning Week 2012 for faculty on the topic of midterm evaluations of teaching. We are looking forward to starting more conversations with faculty members on the benefits of concurrent teaching evaluations.

5.3 Exam Database
Backed by the strong data collected through the AMS Academic Experience Report Sean Cregten and I worked on developing a revised exam database proposal. This revised proposal addresses many of the concerns that
were raised by faculty deans and the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee as well as provides more background research on the use of exam databases at other institutions. We have spoken to a number of individuals around campus to gain further feedback and we are confident that this revised proposal makes a strong case for the need for this resource at UBC. Through VP Academic Caucus, we have had discussions with each constituency about the proposal and have received positive feedback and support. Many of the undergraduate societies are willing to pass motions in their council or write a letter of support for us to include in the proposal to senate. We are currently in talks with CTLT and UBC IT around the feasibility and costs of integrating an exam database into the new learning management system. We will be taking the revised proposal to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee in September.

5.4 Early Release of Exam Dates
The project has been moving a bit slower than anticipated as many other unforeseen issues have come up. Thus far, we have spoken to a number of staff members at UBC and it seems that, while the university would like to release exam dates sooner, their current systems make it difficult. Despite this reality, this is something that students really want and have been pushing for a number of years. We are currently working on developing a proposal and policy on this topic and are hoping to work closely with the Registrar’s Office to find some solutions for this.

5.5 Mental Health and Wellness

5.5.1 Syllabus Proposal
This project is aimed at developing a short syllabus insert for each undergraduate course syllabus that provides information and resources for student on mental health and wellness. Currently we are in the process of revising the text of the inset. Once this is complete, we will be developing a proposal to present to Senate and/or Faculty Deans to encourage instructors to include the insert in their class syllabus. This insert will not only provide information for students, it will also aim to reduce the stigma around mental health on campus and also signal to instructors the important role they play as a resource to students.

5.5.2 Academic Policy Audit
One of the key trends that we have found in the data relating to student mental health at UBC has been that academics (course work load, curriculum etc) as well as academic policies and practices are the number one cause of distress for students at UBC. In order to begin the conversation around academic and student mental health, my office will be coordinating a complete audit of UBC academic policies as well as AMS policies to identify those which have a positive or negative effect on student mental health. This audit will be conducted by a committee comprised of experts both on and off campus. Over the summer, I worked on developing the guiding principles and terms of reference for the committee and over the last month I have been identifying potential members of the audit committee. We are hoping to have the committee formed by early October so we can begin the audit in October/November.

5.5.3 UBC Mental Health Network
Over the summer I have been working closely with the UBC Mental Health Network to develop and implement a restructuring. Last year, I sat on the MHN as a rep for the AMS and the Science Undergraduate Society. In my time with the MHN I noticed that there was a lot of potential for the
network to evolve and cover an unfilled role at UBC – to advocate on behalf of student on issues of student mental health and wellness. Early in the summer, I proposed a restructuring of the MHN to the chair and entire network that was aimed at transforming the MHN into more of an advocacy group than an event based group. The response from the group was positive and since then I have been working with the current MHN Chair and the former AMS Speakeasy Coordinator on drafting a new mandate, goals, vision and potential areas of work for the network. I am also working with the MHN to explore options of how the AMS can link with the MHN to provide support and guidance to the group. Currently we are exploring the option of a Memorandum of Understanding between our two groups that can set out a short term agreement with mutual benefits.

5.5.4 UBC Mental Health App
In early August I was invited to sit on a new committee that is working on developing a student health and wellness app through Student Health Services. The committee is hoping to create an app that would be linked in with the new UBC Mobile App and would provide information and resources to students in mobile form. This committee is still in early stages and there is a lot of great potential for this app.

6 Leaders Hall Conference
All 5 of the AMS Executives attended the Leaders Hall Conference hosted at the University of Calgary. There were delegates from institutions from across Canada present including a number from BC. It was a great opportunity to share best practices and get advice on how to be effective leaders in our student unions from experts.

7 Student Union Development Summit
In early August the AMS hosted a Student Union Development Summit which drew student union executives from across Canada to the UBC Campus to engage in a dialogue and collaborative program aimed at sharing best practices. The executives worked with a number of AMS staff members to make this summit happen in a short period of time. It was amazing to see this event pulled together in the span of a few months over the summer, an accomplishment that is credited to the hard work of AMS staff members specifically Tanner Bokor, Collyn Chan, Joaquin Acevedo, Pierre Cenerelli and Joanne Pickford.

During SUDS, I facilitated a session on student mental health and wellness. It was very interesting and informative to learn about the steps that other institutions and student unions are taking to address this important issue. We are also able to get some great advice on how to open up conversations on this topic within the academic community. At the summit we were able to speak to a number of student unions about our academic experience survey. The response we received on this was overwhelming and many other schools would like to host similar surveys with questions that are consistent across Canada. This would be a phenomenal resource for all participating schools to have national data to compare to. We are looking at ways to work with other student unions to make this vision a reality.

8 VP Academic Caucus
Over the summer the VP Academic Caucus, comprised of VP Academics from each constituency student society, met twice. VP Academic Caucus has proven to be a great link between the AMS and constituencies and has enabled us to advocate for university wide issues through faculty channels. We have been working
closely with constituency VP Academics on the midterm evaluations pilot project, exam database proposal and the development of the next academic survey.

8.1 Undergraduate Society Advocacy Training
Based on my past experience being part of an undergraduate society executive team, I noticed that there are little resources available for constituency councils to learn about the way the university works and how to effectively advocate for their constituents. Since the AMS is not able to work on all issues down the faculty or departmental levels, it is important for us to work with constituency student societies. In order to better assist them, my office will be developing advocacy training and workshops for interested constituency councils. We are aiming to have these sessions held in early October once new councillors have been elected/appointed and are working with VP Academic Caucus to develop the training.

9 Other Projects and Areas of Work

9.1 Copyright
My office worked closely with Education Committee to develop an AMS policy in support of UBC’s decision not to sign the agreement with Access Copyright. We engaged in consultations with the GSS, Student Senators and VP Academic Caucus to assess the impacts on students. I used this policy and the results of the consultations to communicate the AMS’ position on the decision as well as flag areas of concern for students. The response we received from the Provosts Office was positive and we have been working with them to develop messaging for students and to develop a mechanism for students to express concerns about access to academic materials.

9.2 Open Access
AMS Education Committee is working on renewing the AMS policy on Open Access. The university is currently working on drafting a statement in support of Open Access which is slated to be brought to Senate in this academic year. Sean and I have been engaging with various stakeholders around campus to find out more about the statement and to communicate the AMS’ position towards a strong university wide open access policy. We are also engaging in consultation with student groups to better inform the renewal of the AMS policy.

9.3 Lecture Capture
The university has struck a working group to explore the idea of lecture capture software to equip lecture halls with the ability to record audio and video of lectures that can be made available to students in the course. Over the summer, there were demo sessions conducted of a shortlist of potential software that the university could purchase. A rep from my office attended the demo sessions and we also invited each constituency to send a rep to attend as well. The working group will now recommend software to the university to purchase. UBC has not yet made a commitment to purchasing software.

In order to encourage the university to purchase software as well as to communicate the benefits of this learning tool for students, I conducted research on the benefits and common concerns surrounding lecture capture. This report also provides recommendations to the university in relation to lecture capture. One of the key issues we are hoping to address with this report is the common misconceptions that faculty have in
relation to recorded lectures. If the university decides to purchase this software, we want to ensure that faculty are informed of the benefits and will actually use it. We are hoping to use this report to push for the purchase of lecture capture software as well as to inform faculty on the benefits of using lecture capture in their courses.

9.4 Pathways Program

Earlier this year the university announced plans to explore the potential of establishing a new affiliate college at UBC that is run by the university for international students. The idea behind Pathways College was to provide an opportunity for international students whose schools are not currently targeted by UBC recruitment to have an opportunity to attend UBC after a year at Pathways. The idea is that Pathways would help these students build up their English and Math skills to a level that is required for admission into UBC.

Over the summer, the International Students Commissioner and I engaged in talks with the Provosts Office to find out more about this program and express our concerns about the lack consideration of the student experience in the development of this program. While the concept is still in early stages, we feel it is important to have a clear understanding of what the relationship between these students at UBC as an institution will be. As well as how these students will interact with the wider UBC student community. We feel that there needs to be strong consideration of the student experience as well as the academic reputation of UBC and the quality of programming that would be provided to students at Pathways.

We are currently compiling areas of concern with detailed rationale which we will be presenting to the Provosts Office and Pathways Development Committee to be addressed before the AMS takes an official stance on the idea.

9.5 Undergraduate Research

One of Matt Parson’s goals for this year is to develop a research grant for students to fund research in areas focused on improving the student experience at UBC. In my conversations with Matt, it was brought to my attention that the AMS does not currently have any policy on undergraduate research and this is not an issue the AMS has addressed fully in the last few years. With the closing of the UBC Undergraduate Research Office over two years ago, the university has started to take a different approach to undergraduate research aiming to integrate it into curriculums. I am currently conducting an environmental scan of the research opportunities that exist at UBC both non-curriculum and curriculum based and to determine what the student opinion on campus is in regard to the availability and accessibility of undergraduate research opportunities.

9.6 Recognizing Student Involvement

Stemming from my conversations with Michelle Aucoin following the release of the draft community engagement strategy, I began to do some research around the ways that other institutions recognize and celebrate student involvement on and off campus. My office is currently developing a report assessing the current state of student involvement at UBC as well as doing research into the methods that other institutions have employed specifically relating to the establishment of a co-curricular record. I have spoken with the VP Students about this issues and we will be having a follow up meeting in October to discuss the report and to assess whether the CCR is a good option for UBC and what steps should be taken for the institution to track and recognize student contributions to the campus community.
9.7 Housing Report
Sean Cregten, AVP Academic and Brittany Jang, Campus Development Commissioner have been working on a report aimed at renewing the AMS’ policies on student housing with a focus on affordability and sustainability. The report is going through the University and External Relations Committee and will be presented to council for approval in late September. The results and recommendations from this report will inform the AMS’ advocacy efforts on student housing for the next few years. Once this report is adopted as policy, my office will begin to develop a strategy to communicate and lobby for our recommendations to the university administration. More information about this report can be found in their staff updates in section 10 of this report.

9.8 Elections Administration
The university recently approached the AMS with concerns regarding the coordination of AMS elections. The AMS administers elections for Board of Governors and Senate representatives on behalf of the university. In the past, there have been some issues with AMS elections such a breach of security and delay in voting information being distributed. In order to address these concerns, I will be preparing a template elections plan on behalf of the AMS to provide the university an overview of how we will prevent future issues with elections. Matt and I were also able to link UBC IT with the company from which we are purchasing new elections software to test security and the ensure that CWL integration is possible.

9.9 Acadia Park
As mentioned in my last report, residents from Acadia Park approached my office to communicate their concerns regarding the decommissioning and redevelopment of Acadia Park – student family housing. We worked with the residents, Student Housing and Hospitality Services and Campus and Community Planning to organize a town hall style meeting with presentations and a question/answer session. The residents submitted a petition outlining their concerns at the meeting. Presentations were made by Student Housing and Hospitality about the relocation of residents and by Campus and Community Planning on the upcoming planning process for Acadia Park. While many questions and issues were addressed, the residents did not feel their concerns were being heard and felt that they were being given non-descript answers to their questions. Following this meeting, Sean and I met with one of the residents representing the group of concerned residents. We further discussed what the residents were asking for and are now working with this group to continue to advocate for them and work on a plan to begin conversations between the university and residents to address this matter.

9.10 Quality Assurance Framework
The BC Ministry of Higher Education is still working on developing a new Quality Assurance Framework for BC Post-Secondary Institution (private and public). The AMS submitted a formal response during the first phase of consultation and I attended a student focus group on behalf of the AMS. The results of the feedback received in phase one has been made public. A second round of online consultation took place over the summer with a workbook consisting of a number of questions addressing a range of issues. I completed and submitted the workbook on behalf of the AMS after consultation with the AMS Education Committee.
9.11 **UTown@UBC Summer Festival**
On July 7th the AMS participated in the first ever [UTown@UBC Summer Festival](http://example.com) which was a community event bringing together staff, faculty, students and residents to celebrate the UBC community. Campus and Community Planning led a steering committee comprised of different stakeholder groups on campus for the event. I took part in this committee as the AMS representative and coordinated the AMS’ activities for the event. The AMS hosted a kids tent that was run by AMS Staff and Shinerama volunteers. Over 500 people attended the event and the plans are to make this an annual event.

9.12 **Killam Professors**
UBC currently has a [call for comments](http://example.com) on proposed amendments to university [Policy 57](http://example.com) – University Killam Professors. The designation of Killam Professor is the highest level of recognition in the university academic community for faculty members. The major highlight of the amended policy is that it now requires candidates to demonstrate excellence in both research and in teaching. In addition to this, the policy now contains an overview of the criteria that candidates must meet in order to be recognized. These changes demonstrate the universities commitment to the quality of teaching and are fully supported by the AMS. I submitted a response to the amendments on behalf of the AMS in consultation with AMS Education Committee. The full submission can be found at the end of this report.

10 **Staff Portfolio Updates**
Below are updates on the work of my Associate VP and commissioner who work in my portfolio.

10.1 **Associate Vice-President Academic and University Affairs – Sean Cregten**
Since May, I have been assisting Brittany, the AMS Campus Development Commissioner on the Student Housing and Sustainability report. I have also finished analysing the data from the AMS Academic Experience Survey and completed the Academic Experience Report 2012 (available for download on the VP Academic section of the AMS website). We have been presenting this survey to key stakeholders in the University and some student groups, and have begun action on the recommendations arising from it. I have also been working on a revised Exam Database proposal to take to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee.

10.2 **Campus Development Commissioner – Brittany Jang**
Since May I have been working on the Student Housing and Sustainability Report with Associate VP Academic, Sean Cregten. Upon renewal of my term as the CDComm I wanted to continue to focus on student housing and the issue affordability, but to tackle it from a different perspective. Over the last four months I have been researching student housing at UBC as it relates to sustainability – both economic and social sustainability. With respect to student housing on campus, I have looked into two policy recommendations for the AMS to adopt; they include: (1) including affordability as economic sustainability in UBC’s Place and Promise, and (2) to add social sustainability in UBC’s Place and Promise, the retention and creation of a sense of community in our student housing hubs. The report is in its final stages, being edited for a final draft after being presented to the University and External Affairs committee.
10.3 International and Intercultural Commissioner – Joaquin Acevedo
Since May, I have been able to get acquainted with previous work accomplished by my predecessors. I was able to establish and continue partnerships with several groups of interest throughout campus. This includes student groups and administration such as ISA, I-House, ISAS, Global Lounge, and AAI. In June, I had the opportunity to attend hiya’yəs, a youth summit, which revolved around understanding First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and Immigrant individuals in Vancouver. Additionally, I established the expectation that the AMS would be involved in the development of Jumpstart year-long program and review International Welcome.

In the area of intercultural understanding, I have reviewed the Intercultural Understanding Strategic plan and have begun preparing comments for the Provost's Office once a consultation begins. Also, I'm currently working with a student run group that aims to support intercultural understanding dialogues around campus.

10.4 Equity Commissioner – Brett Sinclair
Since May, I have been working on spreading the word about the Ashoka program so groups that I have been working with will have access to some government funding for their social change programs. While wrapping up my previous role as International Students Commissioner, I helped the ISA work on their transitions.

In the area of intercultural understanding, I went through training on how to facilitate intercultural events. I also did research on intercultural understanding and used that information to see how the AMS might be able to better model it. I have also started drafting what a 4 or 5 year MoU with the University on Intercultural Understanding would look like. I also attended Chataqua Gatherings. (Which is a series of meetings with interculturalists from around Vancouver to network together and see how projects may overlap.) I have quite a few ideas I may start to bring up over the next few months. One of them being a program called I Share which would help address the problem on campus where there isn't much interactions between social group members. That would include first generationals/second generationals, international/domestic, persons with disabilities/those that aren't, and what not. I have been working with the University to have a committed intercultural active witnessing series for the UBC community as a whole.

I have been working on logistical structures for the Student Dialogue Support Network. (This is a group whose mandate is to increase the capacity to have high risk conversations on campus through a modelling structure.) I also attended conferences on First Nations in Vancouver and explored how to support these populations better at UBC.

11 Appendix – Submissions on Behalf of the AMS
Please find attached to this document two letters that I was directed to submit on behalf of the AMS by Council and Education Committee.

Respectfully submitted September 10th 2012,

Kiran Mahal
Vice President, Academic and University Affairs
Email: vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca
Phone: 604-822-3092
Office: SUB 238K

NOTE – The Equity Commissioner position is a joint position between the VP Academic Office and the VP Administration Office. For updates on Brett's work with the Admin side of the portfolio (relating to internal AMS policy and work with clubs) please contact Caroline Wong vpadmin@ams.ubc.ca
RE: Call for Comments – Proposed Policy Amendment: Policy #57 (University Killam Professors)

Dear Mr. Lai,

I am writing on behalf of the AMS to provide our support to the proposed amendments to policy #57, specifically the change in criteria which requires candidates to demonstrate both research and teaching excellence (1.2.1). This amendment shows UBC’s commitment to providing a high quality educational experience for students. The policy #57 amendments, in addition to other initiatives around campus including the new faculty designation of Professor of Teaching, show signs of a much needed shift at UBC. These changes show that although UBC is a research institution, it is first and foremost a place of higher learning and faculty members who contribute to the teaching mission of the institution will be recognized for their efforts.

The AMS is also in support of the adjustment of the cap of designates to reflect the current size and state of the institution and the clarification of nomination and selection criteria. Specifically, the AMS would like to lend support for criteria points 1.2.3 – 1.2.6 which highlight the important role that professors play in the student community and the impact their efforts make on the student experience.

With the addition of strong criteria that touches on interactions with students, the AMS would like to communicate the need for undergraduate and graduate student representation on the advisory committee. As the amended policy places equal weight on research and teaching, there should also be consideration of an advisory committee representative with expertise in teaching excellence and innovation.

We commend the university for its strong commitment to the quality of education and the recognition of faculty who exemplify these values. We hope that this amendment will continue the momentum towards improving the educational experience for students.

Sincerely,

Kiran Mahal
Vice President, Academic and University Affairs
Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca
604-822-3092
Dear Dr. Redish:

This letter is a written communication of our discussion with you on July 9th, 2012. On June 20th, 2012, AMS Council adopted a stance on the university’s decision to not sign a license agreement with Access Copyright (see enclosure). As directed, I am writing to congratulate the university on its decision not to sign the license agreement. UBC has shown strong leadership in leading the charge against this agreement, which imposes unjustified fees, restrictions, and surveillance on the post secondary community.

In light of the decision not to sign the license agreement, the AMS would like to share some concerns surrounding the education of instructors on their copyright obligations. In the past academic year, a number of students have communicated additional difficulties in accessing materials covered in lectures, as they have not been posted online by professors. These concerns have been particularly prevalent in the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Some students have reported that their instructors cited copyright restrictions as rationale for not providing online access. The AMS is concerned that this may be a result of a misunderstanding of copyright requirements. As a result, the AMS wishes to encourage the university to increase its efforts in educating instructors on matters of copyright, specifically in regards to making available course materials that have been covered in lectures.

The AMS also encourages the university to provide information about the decision and the anticipated impact on students directly to students at the beginning of the fall 2012 term. We suggest that this information be communicated to students through instructors to ensure all students are included. This would also ensure that instructors acknowledge their role in ensuring students receive access to the academic materials necessary for their course work. We also recommend a mechanism for students to communicate concerns about access to materials be included in this information.

It is our understanding that the mandate of the newly established UBC Copyright Office will be to provide resources and assistance to staff and faculty on matters of copyright. The AMS would like to express a need for providing similar access to students, preferably through the Copyright Office to streamline communication and mitigate confusion.
With the passing of Bill C-11 through the Canadian House of Commons, the AMS is interested in continuing dialogue with the Provosts Office regarding the impact on the inclusion of education in fair dealing will have on copyright at UBC.

In closing, the AMS would like to encourage the university as an institution of dialogue and continuous learning to view this decision as a “teachable moment”. The potential to educate students, faculty and staff on issues of civic policy, intellectual property and academic freedom by way of informal and formal learning mechanisms poses an exciting opportunity for UBC.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests and your willingness to work with the AMS around educating students on matters of copyright and access.

Sincerely,

Kiran Mahal
Vice President, Academic and University Affairs
Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca
604-822-3092

Enclosure: AMS Access Copyright Policy, June 20th 2012.

CC: Dr. David Farrar, Provost and Vice President Academic
    Dr. Kenneth Baimbridge, Chair, Senate Teaching and Learning Committee
    Alan Bell, Director Digital Initiatives
From the AMS Education Committee
WHEREAS a balanced approach to copyright in Canada, in which the interests of both creators and users of works receive equal recognition, is in the fundamental interest of society;

WHEREAS Access Copyright has proposed a tariff before the Copyright Board of Canada to cover the reproduction of copyrighted works at post-secondary institutions that imposes unjustified fees, restrictions, and surveillance on the post-secondary community;

WHEREAS AUCC and Access Copyright have entered into a model copyright licensing agreement for the reproduction and use of works at post-secondary institutions that substantially resembles the tariff before the Copyright Board of Canada;

WHEREAS AUCC has withdrawn its objections to the proposed Access Copyright tariff before the Copyright Board of Canada; and

WHEREAS the University has decided not to sign a license agreement with Access Copyright in spite of the decision of the AUCC;

BE IT RESOLVED that the AMS congratulate the University on its decision to not sign a licence agreement with Access Copyright for the decisions indicated in a broadcast email on May 15, 2012, entitled "UBC is not signing a license agreement with Access Copyright";

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VP Academic be directed to communicate to the University the importance of ensuring continued support to staff, faculty, and students regarding matters of intellectual property that may negatively affect the overall learning experiences of students at UBC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VP Academic be directed to communicate to the University the opportunity to consider this decision as a "teachable moment" with regards to issues of civic policy, intellectual property, and academic freedom by providing students with the necessary curriculum and resources.

Note: Requires 2/3rds

... Carried by unanimous consent