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

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# Contents

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................... 4
2. Hiring and Organization ........................................................................................ 4
3. Budgeting .................................................................................................................. 5
   3.1 Funding Acknowledgements ............................................................................ 5
4. Committee Updates and Work .............................................................................. 5
   4.1 AMS Committees ............................................................................................ 5
   4.2 University Committees .................................................................................... 6
   4.3 University Search Committees ........................................................................ 8
5. UNA ......................................................................................................................... 8
6. UBC Mental Health Network .................................................................................. 9
7. VP Academic Caucus .............................................................................................. 9
8. Performance Accountability Incentive Goals ....................................................... 9
   8.1 Midterm Evaluations of Teaching Pilot Project .............................................. 10
   8.2 AMS Academic Experience Survey 2013 ...................................................... 10
   8.3 Tuition Consultation ...................................................................................... 11
   8.4 Services Review .............................................................................................. 11
   8.5 Mental Health and Wellbeing ......................................................................... 12
9. Other Portfolio Projects and Initiatives ................................................................. 12
   9.1 Exam Database ............................................................................................... 12
   9.2 Flexible Learning ............................................................................................ 12
   9.3 Acadia Park Community Needs Assessment ................................................ 13
   9.4 Inter-Constituency Orientation and Reception .............................................. 13
   9.5 Affordable Housing ........................................................................................ 14
10. Other Non-Project Based Work ........................................................................... 14
   10.1 Masters of Management Tuition .................................................................... 14
   10.2 UBC Regional Context Statement ................................................................ 14
   10.3 AMS Impact Grant ....................................................................................... 14
   10.4 Student Financial Support Project ................................................................ 15
   10.5 Vantage College – Tuition .......................................................................... 15
   10.6 Universitas 21 Student Summit .................................................................... 15
   10.7 UBC Equity Office Review ......................................................................... 15
   10.8 BC Open Textbook Initiative ...................................................................... 15
11. Staff Portfolio Updates ........................................................................................ 16
   11.1 Associate Vice President – Umang Khandelwal ........................................... 16
11.2  Campus Development Commissioner – Brittany Jang ........................................................................................................16
11.3  Equity Commissioner – Brett Sinclair ..................................................................................................................................16
11.4  Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner – Liyang Wan .................................................................................................16


1 Introduction

Already time for another report, time sure does fly. Believe it or not, I really do look forward to writing these reports for council and for the students I represent. Not only is it a chance to hold myself accountable, but it is also a much appreciated opportunity to reflect and look forward. I often feel caught up in the day to day of a very large portfolio - speed walking from meeting to meeting and clearing my inbox only to receive another batch of emails. In the pace of our daily work schedules we tend to overlook the small gains and even more so the large strides that those small gains collectively result in.

I am very pleased to report one such project that through small gains we were able to make a very large step in the right direction for students. In the March meeting of the UBC Vancouver Senate, a motion passed unanimously to support the re-establishment of the UBC central exam database. I am incredibly proud of the all the work that went into that step but there is so much more to do to get the database up and running and populated and that works begins now.

In addition to the exam database, I have been able to make significant gains on other projects carrying over from my last term including the Acadia Park Community Needs Assessment. This summer will involve a lot of research, report writing, and data analysis but we have some exciting things on the horizon that I can’t wait to share.

This report provides an update on the work of the committees that I sit on as well as the work of my Office over the past 3 months. As this is the first report of this executive term, this report will also outline my Performance Accountability Incentive Goals as required by AMS Code. Last but not least, this report also includes brief updates on the work of my diligent and hardworking staff. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about anything contained in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me. Enjoy!

2 Hiring and Organization

Over the past few months I have put together my team of staff and we have hit the ground running. I have filled the existing roles of Associate Vice President (Umang Khandelwal); Campus Development Commissioner (Brittany Jang); and Equity Commissioner (Brett Sinclair) but have also added on a new role for this year. I am very excited to have brought on a Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner (Liyang Wan) to the team. This position will work jointly with the Mental Health Network to fulfil the strategic priorities of the Network, as set by the membership of the Network. This position reflects the AMS’ strong commitment to working collaboratively campus wide to improve and enhance the wellbeing of UBC students. I am confident that this position and the Mental Health Network will allow students at UBC to continue to shape the university’s approach to student wellbeing.

I am incredibly grateful to have two returning staff members, Brittany and Brett, who have shown a great commitment to their positions over the past year. Having an experienced team has enabled our Office to continue work on projects and also be responsive. Despite being new to the AMS, Umang and Liyang have jumped right into the work of the Office and are already proving to be excellent representatives of students and student interests. We still have one position to be filled, the International and Aboriginal portfolio. We are currently working on reviewing the job description and determining the priorities and goals of the position so we can ensure we have the right person in the job when it is hired.
3 Budgeting

Over the month of April, the AMS underwent a zero based budgeting process led by the VP Finance. As a result the budgeting process took a lot of thought and strategic planning to identify the priorities for every Office early on. This year, the Academic and University Affairs portfolio budget has increased to reflect the small increase in staff and additional large scale projects being undertaken this year. In order to support many of these additional projects, we have also aimed to seek out external funding and support as acknowledged below. The full budget submission with rationale for this Office is available upon request, please contact me directly or Joaquin (vpfinance@ams.ubc.ca).

3.1 Funding Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following entities for their financial support in making key projects in this portfolio possible:

- AMS Sustainability Fund – Acadia Park Community Needs Assessment
- Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund – Exam Database Project
- Graduating Class Council Grant 2013 – Exam Database Project
- Graduating Class Council Grant 2012 – Funding Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner position

4 Committee Updates and Work

4.1 AMS Committees

4.1.1 Education Committee

My Office has been working closely with Education Committee to assist in setting priorities and goals for the summer term of the Committee. Our Office’s main goal for the committee over the summer is to review all the existing AMS Academic policies and suggest renewals, revisions, and identify gaps in our existing policies. Throughout this process, this Office will write complete background briefing notes for each policy – something that is currently does not exist for all policies. The purpose of this process will be to provide appropriate context and information to future Council’s to base decisions on related policies off of. Umang and Armin (Chair of Education Committee) have started this process and we hope to work through the entire set of policies during this coming academic year.

4.1.2 University and External Relations Committee

The committee has been meeting regularly and my Office has taken a number of items and policies for discussion to the committee including the Student Financial Support Project, Vantage College First Year Program, Regional Context Statement and Masters of Management Tuition. More information about these items can be found further in this report.

4.1.3 Budget Committee

The VP Academic and University Affairs sits as the Chair of the Budget Committee. Budget Committee has been hard at work over the past few months assisting the VP Finance with the development of the preliminary and now final budget. Joaquin put in an immense amount of work through the newly implemented zero based budgeting process and Budget Committee has the difficult and unpleasant task of making further cuts to budget to mitigate as much as possible to large operational deficit.
This round of budgeting has been a tough one. The AMS is at its lowest point with the declining business revenues. This year presents a crucial decision point for the AMS, with our business contribution being the lowest in recent history now is the time to determine if we want to continue our reliance on fluctuating business revenues to support our operating budget or move towards a fee re-structuring to open up our discretionary revenues. While the final budget is going to council this week for approval, Budget Committee, Council and the VP Finance Office have much more work ahead in remedying our structural deficit because this really cannot wait one more year.

Budget Committee is also responsible for making recommendations on the appointment of members to the AMS Business and Administration Governance Board. The process for the next round of appointments will begin in September.

4.2 University Committees

4.2.1 Student Evaluation of Teaching Implementation Committee
Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the last committee meeting in person as it conflicted with a meeting of the Board of Governors where I was invited to speak about this year’s tuition consultation process. The committee will meet again towards the end of the summer.

4.2.2 ASIST Steering Committee
The ASIST Steering Committee did not formally meet.

4.2.3 LMS Implementation Committee
The Committee has been preparing for the larger university wide roll out of Connect.

4.2.4 University Health and Safety Committee
This committee meets monthly; the meetings mainly consist of updates and discussion topics. Some topics of significant included the possibility of adding a system of Automatic Electronic Diffibulators across campus and ambulance response times to campus. In order to expand the breadth of discussion beyond workplace and occupational safety, the committee has now adopted a sub-committee structure to address key issues in a more concerted manner. The sub-committee divisions include: health; accountability; and communications.

4.2.5 Ponderosa Commons Working Committee
Student housing offers have gone out of Ponderosa Commons Phase 1 student housing which has added 513 new beds to the UBC student housing stock. Ponderosa Phase 2 was recently approved by the Board of Governors and now has the green light to begin construction. The project is being funded through a 5.5% internal loan to Student Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS) from the Student Housing Financing Endowment and from Faculty and UBC cash and fundraising contributions. SHHS is required to pay back its portion of the loan through student rental revenue.
4.2.6 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. At the last meeting the committee discussed the Bookstore Expansion Project which is now well underway; e-books and rental options for students; and progress on the opportunity for fair dealing exemption to be applied on course packs to reduce the price for students.

4.2.7 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 College has formally been named 'Vantage College' after a year of placeholder names; as such you may recognize this as Pathways, Bridge to UBC, or ABC College. The Committee is now led by James Ridge was appointed as the Principal of the College.

The program has been rapidly coming together and the committee has been discussing faculty hiring in departments for the program; progression requirements for students moving from 1st year in the College to 2nd year in on the Faculties; Orchard Commons and other infrastructure requirements; and other general updates on the operations of the College. The College staff have been actively engaging with the ISA and the AMS for continuous feedback on the program.

4.2.8 Property and Planning Advisory Committee
PPAC met, approved and recommended the following projects to the UBC Board of Governors over the last term:
- Orchard Commons (for recommendation)

4.2.9 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 did not meet over the past few months; the next meeting will be taking place this month.

4.2.10 Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee and Aquatic Centre Working Committee
Over the last few months, the committee provided feedback on and approved the high level schematic designs for the new Aquatic Centre. The designs went to public consultation and the project was approved by the Board of Governors. Construction will begin in Term 1 of the academic year.

4.2.11 Religious and Cultural Events Task Force
I have been serving as a student representative on a task force commissioned by the UBC President's Office to review and advise on policy surrounding religious and cultural events/celebrations on campus. The committee has made significant progress on creating draft guidelines. These will be sent to the university Executive for approval and will then go out for public consultation in September.

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1 Formerly referred to as the “Bridge to UBC Program Target Committee” in previous reports
4.2.12 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, but will hopefully meet soon to review the results of the recent National College Health Assessment survey.

4.2.13 Scholarly Communications Steering Committee
The Scholarly Communications Steering Committee met and approved the draft UBC Open Access Position Statement after 2 years of research, revisions and discussions. The Statement is being referred to both Senates for adoption. The UBC Okanagan Senate has approved the statement. The Vancouver Senate Library Committee also approved the statement and it will be up for further discussions in Senate come September. This is a great step in the right direction for UBC and we are looking forward to the Vancouver Senate lending its support.

4.2.14 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 two meetings consisted of updated from stakeholders with no major topics of discussion.

4.3 University Search Committees

4.3.1 Registrar and AVP Enrolment Search Committee
The committee is currently in the process of interviewing shortlisted candidates for the position.

4.3.2 Manager Student Engagement
I assisted the Centre for Student Involvement and Careers in the interview process for the position of Manager of Student Engagement.

4.3.3 Development Permit Board Student Rep
I assisted in process for interviewing and selecting a student to sit on the UBC Development Permit Board.

5 UNA
In the past the VP Academic and University Affairs has served as the student representative on the UNA Board. This year after some discussion, we decided that the position was better suited for the President. The UNA discusses a range of issues that go beyond the realm of the Academic and University Affairs portfolio such as the transit and external relations. Given that the President is versed in the work of all the VPs portfolios, it makes sense for the President to take on the position and represent the work being done by the VP Academic, VP External and progress on projects like the New SUB and Microbrewery.
I sat on the UNA Board last year as the student representative and greatly enjoyed my time with the organization. I learned a lot from the staff at the UNA and my fellow Board members and I look forward to continuing to work closely with the UNA on campus specific issues.

6 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. Now consisting of over 21 student groups, the Network has highlighted the strategic plan priorities for the coming year and appointed a phenomenal advisory board. I am incredibly proud to see how far the Network has come over the last year when I first proposed a restructuring to the Co-Chairs. I am incredibly happy to have played a very small role in the rapid expansion and success of the Network over this past year and can’t wait to see how much further it goes with the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner position in place.

7 VP Academic Caucus
Last week marked the first VP Academic Caucus with the newly elected constituency VPs Academic. Topics of discussion included the midterm evaluations of teaching pilot project, flexible learning, the exam database and our goals as a group for the year.

8 Performance Accountability Incentive Goals
AMS Executives are required to submit goals to the AMS Oversight Committee on an annual basis that will be tracked and assessed to adjudicate the amount of the $5,000 Performance Accountability Incentive each executive will receive at the end of their term in Office. This was previously referred to as the Performance Accountability Restriction, the process underwent some changes by Council in February. I still believe there are some major issues with this process and the way in which the “success” of an executive term is measured. I have shared these concerns with the Chair of the Oversight Committee and I hope over the next year this process will be further amended to fulfil the desired intention of providing accountability and oversight to the elected executives.

Below is a complete list of my PAI Goals submitted to the Oversight Committee on May 22nd, 2013:

**PAI Goals, Vice President, Academic and University Affairs**

1. In partnership with the CTLT and undergraduate societies, support and lead university wide roll out of Course 360s (Midterm Evaluations of Teaching) with a focus on widespread participation in Faculties that took part in the 2012/13 Pilot Project and smaller scale participation in Faculties that have not previously been engaged in the pilot.

2. Conduct, report, and widely distribute results of the 2013 AMS Academic Experience Survey and further enhance the data and recommendations made through conducting a series of student focus groups in partnership with the Vice President, Students Office.

3. Work with Vice President, Students Office to implement recommendations to revise tuition consultation policy and processes.
(4) Conduct a comprehensive review of AMS Services that engages internal and external stakeholder opinions to present data supported recommendations to AMS Council for consideration.

(5) Conduct collaborative review of UBC policies to assess their impact on student mental health and wellbeing through engaging various academic and service level experts from UBC and beyond.

8.1 Midterm Evaluations of Teaching Pilot Project
Last year, the AMS conducted a very successful pilot project of Midterm Evaluations of Teaching (MEoT) in partnership with the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology that engaged 4 undergraduate societies and their respective Faculties. Through working with the Science Undergraduate Society, Arts Undergraduate Society, Engineering Undergraduate Society and Kinesiology Undergraduate Society the pilot reached over 3500 students through 35 courses taught by 22 faculty members.

In addition to conducting the pilots themselves, we conducted a research study around the pilot to identify student and faculty members’ perceptions and feedback at the end of the term. The results were extremely positive and further solidified the benefits that this project can have on the entire university.

Following the completion of the pilot project, we hosted a debrief meeting with the VPs Academic and Associate Deans of the participating faculties to discuss the pilot and next steps. Overall, the Associate Deans felt that the pilot was successful but mandating a system wide requirement for MEoT in their Faculties is not appropriate at this time and seems to go against the nature and spirit of MEoTs. They felt the most successful way forward would be to provide resources and information to instructors to make conducting these evaluations in their courses as simple and rewarding as possible.

Building of the success of the pilot project and the feedback received from the Associate Deans, the AMS has an opportunity to lead a larger roll out of MEoT across campus, under a new label – the Course 360.

With the support of the CTLT, we will be designing online informational resources and designing an online survey tool system that will allow faculty members to easily prepare, administer, and analyze the results of their feedback. The informational resources will consist of short video vignettes; ‘how to’ tools, slide decks for meeting presentations etc. with the intention that these resources will be shared widely through the CTLT channels and from Faculty Dean’s Offices.

In addition to the top down approach, we will also work with undergraduate societies to facilitate a bottom up approach from students. Our Office will provide training and support to undergraduate society executives and departmental clubs to make presentations at Faculty and Departmental meetings about the projects to encourage participation and highlight the importance from a student perspective.

8.2 AMS Academic Experience Survey 2013
This year marked the second round of the AMS Academic Experience Survey, and the response rate exceeded last year’s results. The success of last year’s survey and report, have made this project one of key interest to the university administration and there are many units that are keen on seeing the results of this year’s survey. Last year, my AVP Sean Cregten took the lead on the data analysis and report generation. I must say, that this survey is a major undertaking – one entire position alone could and should be dedicated to carrying out this project.
In reviewing the preliminary results of the survey, there are a lot of interesting things emerging from the data and I am very much looking forward to releasing the results and seeing the dialogue that follows. The full survey report will follow a similar format to last year’s report and be released in early July.

8.2.1 Focus groups
This year, in addition to collecting quantitative data from the survey, we are aiming to paint a more comprehensive and complete picture of the student experience behind the data. This will be achieved through conducting a series of student focus groups, in partnerships with the VP Student Office. The students participating in focus groups will also have an opportunity to share their feedback directly with a member of the University Executive team. This will not only provide a chance for direct student voice, it will also enable us to make clear and directed recommendations to the university for tangible change.

8.3 Tuition Consultation
Over the last year, it has become apparent that the current university tuition consultation policy and processes are not adequate to cover the range of tuition issues that arise at UBC. After going through the Bachelor of International Economics tuition consultation process last year, some clear gaps emerged and a document was drafted by the Office to communicate these gaps to the administration and make recommendations for addressing them. These recommendations were discussed in a meeting with the VP Students and Provost at the beginning of the new executive’s term. The recommendations were then passed on to the university Executive for consideration and were ultimately approved. My Office is now working closely with the VP Students Office to implement these recommendations to improve the tuition consultation process moving forward and update the university policy as necessary.

8.4 Services Review
The last review of the AMS Services took place in 1994 in tandem with a full organizational review that was commissioned by AMS Council. Since the results of this review were released and recommendations implemented, there has been no subsequent formal review of the Department. A recommendation was made to the AMS Executive in 2011 by the then ECSS to conduct a full review of the Services. The Executives at the time agreed that a Services Review was necessary but there was little agreement between the Services and the Executives as to what the Review would look like and how it would be funded. As a result, no Review materialized.

As a student society, we exist to serve the unique needs of our membership. Without conducting regular, robust reviews of our Service offerings we cannot be certain that the services we are offering to our membership are in fact meeting their needs. As we prepare for our move into the New SUB, we are presented with a key opportunity to clarify the vision of our Services Department, identify operational efficiencies and assess our service offerings to ensure that we are providing the best possible value to our members and are transitioning a Services Department to the New SUB that is well supported.

The proposal for a Service Review was developed by my Office and the Review is being led by my Office given my past experience as a Service Coordinator for 2 years prior to taking on an Executive role with the AMS.
8.5 Mental Health and Wellbeing
Data collected through the National College Health Assessment and the AMS Academic Experience Survey show that academics are a major root cause of student stress and anxiety. Policies and frameworks play a large part in setting the academic environment of an institution. As a result, a proposal was made to conduct a review of the academic environment with a focus on policies to recommend changes to better support students. The review will also aim to create a UBC specific policy development framework that fully addresses policy impacts on student health and wellbeing.

Last year, I prepared a proposal and terms of reference for the committee. Since then I have begun to form a review committee and this project has now been ramped up with the support of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner. Our timeline of compiling results and recommendations for September still stands.

9 Other Portfolio Projects and Initiatives

9.1 Exam Database
After 6 months of discussions in committee, the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee approved and referred a motion of support for the exam database project to the Vancouver Senate. I co-presented the project to the Senate with Dr. Simon Bates and I am very proud to say that 2 years after the project was presented as a Topic of Broad Academic Interest, the Senate unanimously supported the re-establishment of a central exam database at UBC. While the project will still be voluntary for faculty members to participate given the constraints of UBC Policy 88, I am confident that with the right approach we can get back to the culture that UBC used to have of making exams readily available to students to support independent study.

Now the work begins – the development and implementation of the project. Thankfully, this project has gained widespread support across the university and I have been able to assemble a Steering Committee to advise, guide and lead the process. The Steering Committee includes representatives from the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology; VP Students Office; Enrolment Services; and the UBC Library. In addition to this support, the project also received TLEF funding and we are in the process of hiring a full time position to support the development, implementation and evaluation of the project.

We will be engaging interested constituencies in the Exam Database Development process through hosting a vision and assessment workshop that will aim to set clear goals for the development of the database and how we will measure success.

9.2 Flexible Learning
The University has recently announced a new initiative – Flexible Learning. “The Flexible Learning Initiative is a major strategic priority for UBC. It will focus on developing, delivering and evaluating learning experiences that promote effective and dramatic changes in student achievement. Flexible learning enables pedagogical and logistical flexibility, often facilitated by technology.” For the next few years, the focus of FL will be aimed at improving undergraduate courses. The AMS Executive has received regular updated from the Provosts Office regarding the project and presentations have been made to Senate also.

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2 [http://flexible.learning.ubc.ca/](http://flexible.learning.ubc.ca/)
There was recently a letter of intent process across campus for units to submit proposals relating to FL. The AMS, through my Office, submitted an LOI aimed at engaging students in all stages of the FL initiative including setting strategic priorities, course design, implementation, and assessment of the initiative. The proposal received support from the adjudication committee and we will be working with the VP Students Office and GSS over the next month to develop the project plan.

In addition to the LOI process, I also made a presentation at the kick-off event outlining what Flexible Learning looks like and means to students. I have also taken part in a strategic think tank sessions aimed at discussing the wider initiative beyond undergraduate courses. At the last VP Academic Caucus we had a guest come to the meeting to gain feedback on developing an internal communications plan about the initiative for students.

This project is rapidly evolving and is moving quite quickly. Through the LOI process, 63 submissions were received many of them aimed at transforming large 1st and 2nd year courses and some aimed at transforming entire programs such as the Biology program in the Faculty of Science. I will continue to provide updates to council regularly, and the Flexible Learning website is also being actively updated.

9.3 Acadia Park Community Needs Assessment

My Office is currently in the process of undertaking a community needs assessment for Acadia Park Student Family Housing. We partnered with a Sociology class to collect qualitative data through interviews and focus groups with residents. The class did a phenomenal job and has provided us with valuable data and insights into the community. We owe a very big thank you to Dr. Sophia Woodman and her Sociology 382 students for all their time, commitment and hard work!

In addition to the qualitative data, we are currently conducting an online survey. We hosted a World Café event for the community on March 13th where we invited all residents to take part in this interactive event to share what they value most in their community. We have over 100 adults and 50 children in attendance and were able to engage in some very enlightening and robust discussions.

Throughout the process of conducting this community needs assessment I have been continuously impressed by the level of engagement and enthusiasm Acadia Park residents have for their community. Acadia truly is a remarkable community that has so much to offer the student families living there as well as the wider UBC community. I am really looking forward to sharing the results of the needs assessment over the next few months.

9.4 Inter-Constituency Orientation and Reception

My Office is currently in the process of organizing a two part event aimed at facilitating inter-constituency collaboration. This event is being planned in partnership with Student Development and Services; Enrolment Services; and Alumni Affairs. The first part of the event will consist of a series of skill building workshops and discussion session for constituency executives based on topics of interest they identified. The second part of the event will be a networking reception for the students as well as staff, faculty and administrators from units across campus that will work with the constituency executives over the year. The event will be taking place this week on June 13th and will hopefully be the starting point for a series of inter-connected events and workshops to support our constituency executives.
9.5 Affordable Housing
I am currently working with Student Board of Governors Rep Matt Parson to draft a proposal for a large scale university wide initiative to address the issue of affordable housing on campus. We are currently in the research and proposal development stage for this ambitious project, but hope to begin discussions with the AMS committees and university within the next month.

10 Other Non-Project Based Work

10.1 Masters of Management Tuition
The Sauder School of Business proposed a large international student tuition differential increase for their Masters of Management program. This tuition differential proposed a nearly 50% increase in international student tuition in a program where neither domestic nor international student seats are government subsidized and therefore both groups of students should be paying the full cost of their tuition. The AMS and GSS prepared a joint submission to the Board of Governors opposing the tuition increase, and also both council’s passes policy motions to that effect. The tuition proposal went to the Board of Governors at the June meeting and the Board approved the tuition increase despite the opposition.

In addition to raising concern about the tuition proposal itself, we also found that there was lack of clarify in a number of regard with respect to international student tuition. There included:
- No formalized tuition increase guarantee for international students in multi-year graduate programs
- No clear definition of “cost recovery” for international student tuition
- No clear policy for when tuition differentials are appropriate and necessary

These concerns were also included in the submission and we are waiting to hear back on whether the Board of Governors will be addressing them. We shared these concerns with the VP Students directly and she agreed they were areas that deserve further consideration.

10.2 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 and the Board decided to approve the draft statement without including students in the population count despite the concerns raised. The Board made its decision based on the rationale provided by Campus and Community Planning. We plan to continue to put pressure on the university to include students in the population numbers and are conducting further research on this issue.

10.3 AMS Impact Grant
I have been working with former AMS President Matt Parson and our Government Relations Office, Pierre, to set up the first round of adjudication of the AMS Impact Grant and to plan for the short term and long term growth and set up of the grant.
10.4 Student Financial Support Project
The university has taken on an ambitious project to restructure and revision the student financial support offered at UBC. The goal of this project is to provide financial support to UBC students who need it and when they need it. Currently, bursary funding is only available to students who are on provincial student loans. This is because the student loan system is the only assessment tool the university has to identify student need. This project will aim to delink bursaries from student loans by developing an internal UBC assessment tool to assess student need based on a financial profile that students complete and the costs associated with attending UBC Vancouver specifically.

AMS Council approved a policy motion supporting this project and the project was discussed in both Education Committee and University and External Relations Committee. The first stakeholder meeting for the project will be taking place this coming week and the feedback provided by both committees will be shared.

10.5 Vantage College – Tuition
The AMS worked with the College staff to organize a tuition consultation for the new first year program in April. There was an open house session with a presentation on the proposal followed by an online video recording of the session and feedback form. The AMS made a formal submission regarding the tuition for consideration by the Board of Governors.

10.6 Universitas 21 Student Summit
The May, UBC hosted the Universitas 21 Student Summit, bringing 2-3 students from each of the U21 universities from across the world to our campus for two days of robust discussions and idea sharing. I was able to work with the organizing committee to provide feedback for possible areas of discussion and also to assist in organizing a dinner with the AMS executives. I also had the privilege of co-facilitating a session on mental health and wellbeing. The delegates were all so engaged and had a lot of ideas to offer, I am sure the UBC delegates will bring the ideas to life on our campus over the coming year.

10.7 UBC Equity Office Review
Recently, the university commissioned a review of the Equity Office. The results of the review have now been released along with the UBC response. Caroline, Derek and I met with the VP Students Office to discuss the results of the review and the proposed next steps. Along with reviewing the proposed changes, my Office will be compiling the opportunities for students presented in the review report and will be facilitating an internal process within the AMS to clarify, and articulate the AMS’ commitment to equity and our vision for the direction the university should go with its commitment and new structure. This process will be facilitated by our Equity Commissioner, Brett Sinclair.

10.8 BC Open Textbook Initiative
My Office has been conducting some research into the BC Open Textbook Initiative and the potential opportunities for UBC students. We met with the CTLT to discuss UBC’s thoughts on the project. The discussion that took place was very interesting and we left the meeting with a few potential projects to explore further, more updates to come in the next few months.
11 Staff Portfolio Updates
Below are updates on the work of the commissioners who work in my portfolio.

11.1 Associate Vice President – Umang Khandelwal
As of May 2013, I have been working on a couple of projects with Kiran and the Education Committee as part of my new role at the VP Academic office. I have been working on the BC Open Textbook Initiative with Kiran, meeting with people from the University and the Ministry. The project is still in its preliminary phase, with the Office still getting more information on the initiative and its prospective applications at UBC. With the Education Committee, I have been working on reviewing the AMS Academic policies. I have also been working on the Flexible Learning Initiative in a smaller capacity. Kiran and I, along with a team from the Centre of Student Involvement and Career Services have been organizing an inter-constituency orientation and reception which is to take place on June 13th, 2013.

11.2 Campus Development Commissioner – Brittany Jang
Over the past 3 the Campus Development Commissioner’s work has been centred on the Acadia Park Needs Assessment. Through her work she has helped to conduct background research relevant to the needs assessment, including archival and literature reviews. Brittany has also helped in the data collection process, inputting survey data, helping to design a second survey for residents, and aiding our collaborating professors when needed. She continues to attend meetings with active and concerned residents from the Acadia Park community, and is most recently focussed on analysing and synthesizing the data provided by Professor Woodman’s class. In addition to her work on the Acadia Park Needs Assessment, she continues to stay up to date with developments across campus through various campus events and consultations.

11.3 Equity Commissioner – Brett Sinclair
Over the first month of his term, the Equity Commissioner has been mainly focusing on the newest draft of the UBC Intercultural Strategic plan that is open to student consultation as well as the University’s recent equity consultation and their response to it. Over the duration of this year, the student focused action items in these two documents will be his main focus. This will involve some external lobbying to the University as well as leading an internal discussion around AMS’ equity framework. Another project over this last month has been the further re-assessment of the AMS Discrimination & Harassment policy for holes t we more recently brought to our attention. Furthermore a guide and a visionary statement are being developed for this policy. Brett has also continued his work on the Courageous Conversations project and has begun to great a central source of information on the academic and leadership development capabilities of the University around intercultural understanding and equity.

11.4 Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner – Liyang Wan
Since May I have familiarized myself with the expectations, responsibilities, and tasks of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner. In particular I have examined and analyzed policies and statistics associated with mental health wellness at UBC, including but not limited to: the University of British Columbia’s Mental Health Network Strategic Plan 2013-2016, Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the Healthful Academic Environment Review. Combined with extensive conversations and frequent meetings with both the VP Academic and University Affairs and the Chair of the Mental Health Network, I have composed draft copies of the Constitutions and Code of Procedures for both the Mental Health Network and Advisory Board. Revisions are ongoing, particularly for the latter until information regarding membership and internal structure of the
board are finalized. In addition I have just completed a newly revised draft of the Strategic Plan, which is currently being reviewed to be finalized as a working document.

I have attended my first meeting with the Mental Health Network's Working Committee/ Administrative Team and also have met several members of the Advisory Board. I plan on attending my first monthly meeting with the Network Members, come this month's end, to get a firm grasp on what the Network requires and is interested in in terms of gathering facts and information regarding mental health.

As well I have set up a meeting with CTLT with regards to the pilot “Organizations” project, aimed at providing an online communication platform for groups and organizations much like that of the MHN. It is my hope that we are able to participate and utilize “Organizations” as an online internal communication platform for all Network members to easily access and use, as the MHN desires.

Ongoing projects at the moment include compiling data, policies, and practices from U15 and U21 universities. Using such information I intend to work with the VP Academic and University Affairs to compose a report comparing them to that of UBC’s, to be reviewed by a review committee who will examine the academic environment at UBC. As well I intend on working with the MHN on coming up with a series of visual, info-graphic campaigns aimed at promoting awareness towards student mental health.

Respectfully submitted June 10th, 2013,

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