

UBC Student Senate Caucus

Meeting Minutes for Feb 19, 2014

Meeting Location & Time: UBC SUB 266J, 5:00 – 6:00pm Date: Wednesday, February 19th, 2014
Meeting Started:
Meeting Ended:

Prepared by: Graham Beales (Vice-Chair)

Formatted and Initial Edits by: Graham Beales (Vice-Chair)

Present: Elaine Kuo, Barak Caracheo, Tanya Shum, Nina Karimi, Graham Beales, Melissa Patton, Anne Kessler, Kiran Mahal, Mona Maleki, Natalie Marshall, Jared Lee, Julienne Jagdeo, Casey Chan, Nani Yahya, Philip Edgcumbe

Invited: Louise Cowin (VP Students, UBC)
Janet Teasdale (Managing Director of Student Development and Services, UBC)
Barry Eccleton (Director, UBC Campus Security)
Umang Khandelwal (Associate VP Academic & University Affairs, AMS)
Eric Zhao (Incoming Senator At-Large)

Regrets: Philip Edgcumbe, Tom MacLachlan, Mark Prescott, Cole Leonoff

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

Moved to approve by Natalie, seconded by Casey.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting – January 22nd, 2014

Motion: That the SSC approve the Minutes of the SSC meeting held on January 22nd, 2014.

Philip requested that SSC attendance records be appended to the minutes before they are placed online as is stated in the SSC Policies, there was no disagreement.

Carried

Moved to approve by Graham, seconded by Jared.

3. Reports from Task Forces on Campus Safety and Intersectional Gender-Based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes

Janet introduced the reason for the creation of the two Task Forces, and the differences between the two. Two major events caused the working groups to be created. First, there were the sexual assaults on campus which resulted in the Campus Safety Working Group. The Campus Safety Working Group has a specific set of actions to complete and a timeline to carry them out on. The second event was the Sauder Frosh Chants, which were followed a few days later with a second chant causing the Intersectional Gender-Based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes Task Force to be created.

Barry introduced the recommendations from the Campus Safety Task Force. It was created at the request of the president's office, and he mentioned that the RCMP have confirmed that the assaults were the result of a single individual. The report emphasizes that UBC has a safe campus and is backed up by both the RCMP and statistics. Barry mentioned five specific recommendations:

- 1) Installing closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras at key locations such as the bus loop and entrances and exits to buildings. Research shows that cameras normally do a poor job of assisting in identifying perpetrators, and that is why they would only be installed at key locations. Janet commented that this is the most controversial recommendation in the report due to privacy issues.
- 2) Promoting a safe and respectful campus community. UBC has many measures in place today, and the report includes recommendations to increase them. Specifically, this includes orientations and cross-departmental communication.
- 3) Maximizing UBC's good relationship with the RCMP.
- 4) Communication. This includes blue phones, and old technology that will be kept in place, as well as looking at new solutions such as a mobile technology in the future.
- 5) Mobility and visibility on campus. This includes things like lighting the walking paths, keeping track of the changing vegetation in the seasons, and how it modifies sightlines, and removing isolated areas on campus.

The report had already been presented to the UBC Executive, and Barry asked if student senators could read the report and provide feedback.

Julianne asked whether the blue phones were working. Barry replied that yes, they are tested twice a week, although their usage is down by sixty percent from three to four years ago. Janet also mentioned that the original idea behind the blue phones is that you can run between them and be tracked by Campus Security so they can find you easily.

Mona mentioned that charging places for cellphones would be useful as a safety precaution as currently Irving Barber is the only easy place to charge a cellphone. Julianne also commented that when thinking about mobile solutions it is important to realize that many students still do not have smartphones.

Nina asked from whom feedback was being collected and received the answer of the whole UBC community. There was a link placed on the VP Students website and a broadcast email was sent to all UBC students and staff asking for feedback.

Janet briefly presented the Task Force on Intersectional Gender Based Violence and Aboriginal stereotypes, and asked if everyone could read it and collect as much feedback as possible.

Jared asked what the goal of the taskforce is and received the reply that it means to attack gender based violence in general including cross-oppression and cross discrimination issues. The recommendations were meant to be holistic.

Kiran mentioned that there will be a couple of sessions for student leaders to provide feedback on the recommendations.

4. Review of February 19th, 2014 Senate Agenda

Philip mentioned that he didn't feel a response to a question of Anne's was not fully captured in the minutes, and he would raise that at Senate Proper.

Admissions Committee

The province gives a certain number of domestic students that it will pay for, and that is the enrollment target for domestic students. However, UBC sets the number for international students. Philip mentioned that the number for medical students interviewed has decreased by approximately ten percent, and wondered why for graduate students any 500 level courses they took as undergraduates may no longer count towards a graduate degree. It was decided that Natalie would ask for clarification at Senate Proper.

Curriculum Committee

Eric, Philip, and Casey as medical students had a meeting regarding the new medical program framework and curriculum renewal. The students raised two primary issues, any tuition changes and the 'flex' time mentioned in the framework. As to the former, nothing had been mentioned as to tuition yet, but an attempt to increase it was expected by the students. As to the latter, students were unsure what 'flex' time actually was, and were worried that the holidays between second and third year would disappear. Kiran asked what Dentistry's thoughts on the medicine curriculum renewal was and received the reply that Dentistry supports a split between the medicine and dentistry programs.

Academic Policy Committee

Regarding the rolling graduation for the Doctor of Medicine program, Melissa asked how long the students have between the normal graduation date and the start of their residency to complete remedial courses and received the reply of one month. It was also noted that the same policy was put into place in 2013 for Graduate students so no new administrative process is required.

Student Awards Committee

There was a question regarding how the student classification of Vantage College students will affect other awards they may receive. Graham replied that it would affect the awards UBC adjudicates, but no external awards as Vantage College students can still label themselves as a UBC undergraduate student. Also, the regulations governing student awards are currently undergoing review to remove problems regarding Vantage College students and the awards UBC adjudicates.

Registrar's Report

Graham mentioned that the dates for the second term exam period did not make sense. It was decided that he would mention it to her before Senate proper as the SSC expected it was a typo.

5. Feedback on Mental Health Services

Mona asked whether the SSC was interested in joining the UBC Mental Health Network, and received an overwhelming yes.

6. Discussion

Anne reminded the SSC that the lunch with Louise Cowen to receive feedback on student mental health services was to take place from 12:00 to 13:30 on Wednesday February 26th. Student Senators must RSVP to the event.

Nina updated the SSC on implementing changes to reporting the Student Evaluations of Teaching.

At the meeting on the subject, Nina, Anne, Mona, Natalie, and Umang discussed the idea of having Teacher Evaluations published with data from the department level, and learned that would not be more useful than the currently published faculty level data due to the fact that the averages come out the same. A different idea that came out of the discussion is for each faculty to clearly define the outcomes of teacher evaluations in the email sent to students that asks them to fill out each evaluation.

A request that stemmed from that meeting is for faculty student senators to do some investigation into faculty curriculum committees. To motivate this, Natalie emphasized that curriculum committees can improve every Faculty's program and make real changes. Student representation is needed on them. Kiran commented that it would be worthwhile to get the VP Academics (or equivalents) of the Faculty undergraduate societies interested as well. Melissa asked how one gets the curriculum committee to bring people on and received the reply that normally a Faculty enjoys having a few students on the committee. However, if no students are on the committee we should lobby the Faculty for that to change and assuming resistance talk to the Provost and he will most likely fix it. Barak asked about graduate students as they only take classes from a Faculty other than that which they are registered in, and there often aren't specific curriculum committees. No clear solution was reached for graduate students.

The AMS VP Academic's office was finalizing the annual Academic Experience Survey. A draft was completed and circulated in the middle of January, and the survey will be released in March. If were interested in providing feedback, they should have contacted Anne.

Nina recommended that all student senators should emphasize teaching excellence in their transition reports.

Kiran reminded the SSC of her email regarding a Topic of Broad Academic Interest to be introduced at the March meeting of Senate Proper by student senators. Its purpose is to give Senate an idea of the current state of student health and wellness support on campus as well as current initiatives on campus and where they are not hitting the mark. The topic is looking to create an ad-hoc committee to make recommendations for policies and changes to Senate. If anyone was interested in helping with the topic, they were to let Kiran know. She was going to send out a doodle to schedule a meeting on the subject. There are discussion with the Okanagan student senators to make it a joint campus initiative as well.

Natalie asked the general student feel on Co-Curricular records. Kiran mentioned that researched shows they are not a useful method for recognizing co-curricular activities, and that perhaps course credit may be more useful.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting of the SSC will be before the next Senate meeting at 5pm.