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Whereas many UBC students have diverse needs when accessing building facilities;

Whereas these needs include, but are not limited to, accessing facilities that accommodate disabilities, gender neutrality, safe space, and family responsibilities;

Whereas accommodating these needs is instrumental in improving the quality of the social and personal lives of all students,

Be it resolved that the AMS strive to accommodate the diverse needs of the student population in all future renovations.

Be it further resolved that the AMS encourage UBC to follow suit.

*NOTE: Although this is an internal policy, it is included in the external policy manual because it makes a reference to UBC’s administration. It has not been assigned an external policy number and will expire only if repealed or replaced.
Whereas UBC is considering a move to the NCAA Division II and is concluding its consultation process;

Whereas changes to UBC Athletics have an impact on all students studying at UBC; and

Whereas it is important that the AMS submit its position on the proposed move;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse the AMS NCAA Position Paper as circulated, and officially submit it to the NCAA consultation committee;

Be if further resolved that the AMS Policy on the NCAA from October 8, 2008 be rescinded.
Whereas UBC’s Policy 69, entitled “Student Safety Abroad,” was created in the context of the Chilean earthquake incident to address immediate issues of student safety abroad;

Whereas events that have since transpired, including, but not limited to, UBC’s response to student travel in Iran and Japan, suggest that this document bears further scrutiny;

Whereas the Canadian Government is already responsible for high risk situations regarding Canadian citizens abroad through the DFAIT Travel Registry, and has established contingencies to address dangerous situations as they arise;

Whereas the AMS Education Committee notes incongruities in UBC’s Policy 69 between the spirit of ensuring safe student travel abroad for educational purposes, and addressing University liability; and

Whereas the AMS Education Committee notes the potential for punitive academic measures under Policy 69 that are neither commensurate nor directly related to unauthorized travel to be imposed;

Be it resolved that AMS Council strongly encourage UBC Go Global, appropriate members of the Senate of UBC Vancouver and any other involved campus units to engage in a strong review process of UBC Policy 69 with significant student consultation.
Whereas Student Loan Eligibility Requirements prevent accessibility of post-secondary education by populations in need due to their holding of additional assets, which are assumed to be liquid, though often are not;

Whereas BC has the highest student loan interest rate in Canada, though BC has one of the best credit ratings and other provinces have been striving to eliminate interest rates on student loans entirely;

Whereas a 6-month grace period to pay back student loans is often an insufficient amount of time in which to find gainful employment;

Whereas interest is accumulated on the 6-month grace period meaning that in actuality once a student is not considered a full time university student interest starts to accumulate;

Whereas it is now encouraged and increasingly expected for students to gain work experience through internships and other work opportunities and so many students are away from school for extended periods of time, or taking part time studies, in order to gain these opportunities and the Student Loan Program often considers these students as having left school and their interest begins to accrue, even though these students are not finished school and will be returning to classes; and

Whereas the amount of money distributed through the Student Loan Program has not increased with inflation and is not enough to cover the cost of living. This makes many students on the Student Loan Program have to focus on covering the deficit between the amount the loan gives out and the actual cost of living making these students unable to focus on their studies or their postsecondary experience;

Be it resolved that the AMS of University of British Columbia, Vancouver lobby for a full review of eligibility requirements in order to eliminate the inclusion of non-liquid and necessary assets in loan calculations;

Be it further resolved that the AMS of University of British Columbia, Vancouver lobby for the reduction of the student loan interest rate to the prime borrowing rate;
Be it further resolved that the AMS of University of British Columbia, Vancouver lobby for an increase in the grace period from 6 months to 12 months, and that the 12-month grace period is interest-free;

Be it further resolved that the AMS of University of British Columbia, Vancouver lobby that the Student Loan Program will accommodate the diversifying needs of students and allow for internships and part time status without considering the student as having left school; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS of University of British Columbia, Vancouver lobby for an increase in the monetary amount allotted to students for the cost of living to cover the actual cost of living, and tie the amount allotted to increase with inflation.
Whereas large-scale community planning and development is underway at UBC, including the addition of thousands of new residents on campus;

Whereas the current governance model as created by Bill C-20 was envisioned as a temporary model, to be replaced by a more robust model in the future;

Whereas recent events in the community have underscored some of the challenges facing the current governance model;

Whereas the AMS represents 46,000 students at UBC, including 8,500 students who live on campus, the majority of whom are not represented in the University Neighbourhood Association;

Whereas the AMS endorsed a policy entitled “Governance and Planning” on July 12, 2006, calling for a governance study to be conducted; and

Whereas this policy has since expired;

Be it resolved that the AMS request that the Province initiate a governance review;

Be it further resolved that the AMS request representation on the body overseeing this governance review.
Whereas UBC is positioning itself as a global leader in sustainability, with a commitment to sustainability – as well as enhanced educational experiences – in *Place and Promise: The UBC Plan*;

Whereas the City of Vancouver, as well as the province of British Columbia, have relatively aggressive sustainability goals, situating our university in an ideal geopolitical environment to offer and specialize in sustainability education and research;

Whereas UBC is lagging behind some other leading institutions in the educational aspect of sustainability;

Whereas UBC has significant academic expertise in this realm, with over 300 courses that address some aspect of environmental, social, or economic sustainability in over 17 faculties;

Whereas various faculties have developed programs that address some aspect of environmental sustainability, and these programs are not generally accessible to students outside the faculty;

Whereas environmental sustainability is an interdisciplinary topic and interest area in and of itself, and does not fall neatly within faculty divisions; and

Whereas the creation of a rigorous interfaculty minor in environmental sustainability would allow students to pursue their interests in environmental sustainability regardless of their faculty;

Be it resolved that the AMS encourage the establishment of an interfaculty minor program in environmental sustainability;

Be it further resolved that Council direct the VP Finance and the Sustainability Coordinator to work with the University Sustainability Initiative and other appropriate bodies to this end.
Summary:
Opposes any annual increase of UBC student tuition in excess of 2%, including tuition paid by international students. Supports tuition reductions only if they are compensated by funds from non-student sources and do not reduce academic quality. Requests that the UBC Board of Governors limit tuition fee increases as much as possible, especially in light of the financial burden such increases represent to students.

Whereas the cost of education makes undertaking post-secondary studies at UBC often inaccessible;

Whereas UBC students have a vested interest in maintaining the quality of their university, their education, and their degree;

Whereas the AMS must balance its advocacy to reflect both its members’ interest in a lower cost burden to pursuing academic studies and its members’ interest in a quality academic experience;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose any annual increase of UBC student tuition that would be in excess of 2%;

Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose any percentage annual increase of UBC international student tuition greater than that of UBC Vancouver domestic student tuition;

Be it further resolved that the AMS support in principle the reduction of UBC student tuition, when such a reduction would be met with an equal or greater supply of funds to UBC from non-student sources, such that UBC’s academic quality would not be diminished; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS respectfully request the UBC Board of Governors to consider any proposed increases to tuition fees in light of the cost burden that tuition represents for students, and seek wherever possible to minimize this cost.
Policy Number:
2011-08

Title:
“Where is The Funding” (WTF)

Passed:
August 31, 2011
Expires:
August 31, 2014

Summary:
Directs the AMS executive to work on the “Where is The Funding” (WTF) Campaign with other B.C. student unions to address the province’s funding of postsecondary institutions.

Be it resolved that Council direct VP External Katherine Tyson to work with student unions from [the] University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, Capilano University, [and] Langara College on the Where is The Funding (WTF) Campaign, which addresses postsecondary funding in BC; with a budget of $4500.
**Policy Number:** 2011-09

**Passed:**
September 14, 2011

**Expires:**
September 14, 2014

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**Title:**
Alternative options for the new aquatic center

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**Summary:**

Urges UBC to consider more seriously alternative technically feasible siting options for the new Aquatic Centre, given the value of MacInnes Field and the fact that the housing development in this area is currently defined as “under review.”

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Whereas the New Aquatic Centre Study was commissioned to address three questions, including “If building new, where is the most suitable location for an aquatic centre on campus?”

Whereas only three possible locations for a new Aquatic Centre were provided to the authors of the report for consideration, one of which was immediately deemed inappropriate;

Whereas once the first location was ruled out, “only the MacInnes Field location was further investigated;”

Whereas the report recognizes that MacInnes Field “is a significant multi-purpose green space” and “the stakeholders believed it would be a loss if a new aquatic centre consumed this field;”

Whereas the report’s authors were requested by UBC to minimize the building footprint due to “the planning for the future transit bus terminal and rental housing development moving forward;”

Whereas the aforementioned rental housing development is under review, and should not have constrained a technical feasibility study of aquatic centre siting options, given that a rental housing development is but one potential outcome of many for that area; and

Whereas this report and its highly constrained site assessment has been referred to the UBC New Building Site Selection Committee for a siting decision;

Be it resolved that AMS Council strongly suggest wider consideration of alternative technically feasible siting options for the new Aquatic Centre, given the value of MacInnes Field and the failure of the report to seriously consider alternative siting options;

Be it further resolved that AMS Council suggest this should not be constrained by the presumption of a future rental housing development, given that the area in question is explicitly defined as “under review” and as such should not be presumed for a particular use at this date.
Whereas the government of British Columbia wishes to adopt the Advanced Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 (Bill 18);

Whereas this Act will allow the Board of Governors of UBC (and other post-secondary institutions) to remove by a ⅔ vote an elected student, staff or faculty representative from the board;

Whereas all board members must avoid improper conduct or conflicts of interest, regardless of how they are nominated or elected;

Whereas B.C.’s Society Act, to use but one relevant example, does not allow society boards to remove directors; and

Whereas to be effective and act in the best interests of the institution, all board members must not fear reprisal for making legitimate but critical statements during board meetings;

Be it resolved that the AMS respectfully request that the government modify The Advanced Education Statutes Amendment Act (“The Act”), 2011 by:

- Withdrawing the sections of The Act allowing UBC’s board of governors (and those of other post-secondary institutions) to remove student, staff or faculty board members;
- Withdrawing the sections of The Act excluding certain members of UBC’s staff and faculty; and
- Amending The Act so that the same improper conduct or conflict of interest rules apply to all members of the board;

Be it further resolved that the President and Vice-President External of the AMS issue and widely distribute a public statement based on this motion as soon as possible; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS Executive rapidly engage all relevant stakeholders on this issue with a view to having the law modified in a way that will allow students, staff and faculty to continue to be effective members of UBC’s board of governors.
Whereas the AMS supports increased investments in transit infrastructure in Metro Vancouver; and

Whereas TransLink’s “Moving Forward: Improving Metro Vancouver’s Transportation 2011” proposes increased investment in transit in Metro Vancouver;

Be it resolved that Council direct the VP External, in collaboration with the U-PASS and Transit Commissioner, to issue a public statement in support of the “Moving Forward: Improving Metro Vancouver’s Transportation 2011” transit document.
Endorses the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia (CCCABC) and directs the executive to communicate with the CCCABC to present the specific challenges facing students at UBC Vancouver and in other post-secondary institutions.

Whereas the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia (CCCABC) is a registered voluntary society which promotes the development of comprehensive quality child care;

Whereas the AMS shares these values and would find these advocacy resources and networks valuable;

Whereas the AMS has made a commitment to childcare by dedicating $100,000 per year for ten years to fund much needed expansion of the UBC childcare services; and

Whereas the AMS joined this organization via a motion on February 2, 2010, and this annual membership has since expired;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse and join the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia;

Be it further resolved that the Office of the Vice-President actively engage CCCABC to present the specific challenges facing students at UBC Vancouver and in other post-secondary institutions.
Policy Number:  
2012-04

Title:  
Funding for UBC public transportation initiatives

Summary:
Requests that UBC reserve $3 per month per student, which is the equivalent of the former UPASS subsidy, to fund public transportation initiatives. Also asks that the AMS be given a formal decisional role with respect to the fund allocation process and that report regularly on the initiatives supported by these funds.

Whereas the University of British Columbia subsidized the cost of the UPASS by $3 per month per student from the inception of the program until the adoption of the UPASS-BC contract;

Whereas this subsidy amounted to an annual $1.39 million benefit to AMS Members;

Whereas the current UPASS-BC contract prevents UBC from offering the previous U-Pass subsidy;

Whereas the UBC TREK office has stated that they are committed to the principle of continuing to invest the $1.39 million to transportation improvements benefitting UBC; and

Whereas students currently do not have a role in consultation or oversight of this transportation funding source;

Be it resolved that the AMS request that UBC reserve 3 dollars per month per student in annual funds for the purpose of public transportation initiatives;

Be it further resolved that the AMS request formal representation in the decision making process for allocating the former UPASS subsidy funds; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS request regular reports on the priorities chosen for the former UPASS subsidy funds.
Whereas Bill 78, “An Act to enable students to receive instruction from the postsecondary institutions they attend,” was passed into law last week by Quebec’s National Assembly;

Whereas this legislation imposes hefty fines on persons and organizations, as well as additional penalties against student associations and federations, with the effect of limiting free speech and the right to gather in public places and conduct peaceful demonstrations;

Whereas the Criminal Code provides all tools necessary for the police, municipal authorities and provincial government to deal with people and organizations that commit illegal acts; and

Whereas many commentators in and outside of Quebec, such as the Quebec Bar Association and the Quebec Human Rights Commission, have also pointed out that the measures included in this Act could be challenged on constitutional grounds;

Be it resolved that “An Act to enable students to receive instruction from postsecondary institutions they attend,” be opposed, that the Government of Quebec be called upon to respect the financial, legal and intellectual autonomy of democratically elected student unions and federations, and that a letter be sent to Quebec Premier Jean Charest and copied to the leaders of Quebec’s opposition parties expressing this opinion;

Be it further resolved that the AMS disapproves of acts of violence committed by any party.

NOTE: During its first cabinet meeting on September 20, 2013, the new Parti Québécois government cancelled the tuition increases at the heart of the student conflict. Law 12 was in effect repealed by Decree 924-2012, published in the Gazette Officielle du Québec, Part 2 – Laws and Regulations, 144th year, no. 41, October 10, 2012, p. 4865.
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 postsecondary 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 for its decision to not sign a license 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”; and

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.
Whereas the AMS supports sustainable, efficient rapid transit in Metro Vancouver, especially along the Broadway corridor from Commercial Drive to UBC;

Whereas the Broadway corridor is the 2nd largest commercial district in British Columbia;

Whereas Greater Vancouver’s transit system is over capacity and unable to meet the demands of an evolving metropolitan area, especially along the Broadway corridor, where, according to a recent study by the City of Vancouver, more than 100,000 people board a bus each day, making it “the busiest bus line in North America”;

Whereas, in technical reports, TransLink has admitted that more than 2000 passengers are “passed up” each day in the UBC-Broadway corridor;

Whereas, the current AMS policy in regards to support of rapid transit along the corridor may not foster broad and open discussion on alternative transit solutions;

Whereas, the AMS is seeking a renewed commitment from the provincial government to building future transit infrastructure in the corridor; and

Whereas, the AMS recognizes TransLink’s difficult fiscal situation, where there exists presently $2.5 billion in operating debt, and seeks to develop long term, sustainable funding solutions for the future of transit as a whole in the lower mainland;

Be it resolved that the AMS rescind the motion adopted April 11, 2011, referred by University and External Relations Committee and entitled “UBC AMS Rapid Transit Policy;”

Be it further resolved that while the AMS will continue to advocate for rapid rail as the most suitable system of rapid transit along the corridor, the AMS will be open to alternative proposals for the corridor;

Be it further resolved that rapid transit is defined as a mode of transportation that will shorten the commute from Commercial Drive to UBC to less than 25 minutes, increase carrying capacity by 50%, and allow users to remain on a single mode of transit between Commercial and UBC;
Be it further resolved that during construction, TransLink should strive to have the lowest degree of negative impact on businesses and neighbourhoods along the corridor and said solution must have the lowest possible degree of negative impact upon businesses and neighbourhoods along the corridor and the maximum positive impact once it is in operation; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS support sustainable and equal regional transportation funding options.

Policy Number:  
2012-08  
Passed:  
August 1st, 2012  
Expires:  
August 1st, 2015
Title:  
Changes to regulations governing international study permits in Canada

Summary:  
Authorizes the executive to make a submission to the request for comments “on a proposal to introduce new requirements and conditions for foreign nationals who seek to study in Canada,” as published in the Canada Gazette on June 30, 2012, with a view to mitigate the negative impacts on student privacy and service delivery levels.

Whereas the federal government has announced potential changes to regulations regarding study permits [for foreign nationals who seek to study in Canada]; and

Whereas these changes have the potential to negatively impact student privacy and student service delivery levels;

Be it resolved that Council authorize the President and VP External to make a submission to the consultation process relating to these proposals, in order to mitigate negative impacts on student privacy and service delivery levels.
Whereas the document entitled Student Aid Policy 2012 Summer has been formally submitted to council; and

Whereas this document identifies several gaps in student financial aid for UBC students;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse efforts to provide funding for PhD students beyond their fourth year of study;

Be it further resolved that the AMS recommend that the Province of BC adjust student aid allocations to accurately reflect cost of living expenses, particularly with regards to housing;

Be it further resolved that the AMS recommend that student aid allocations receive an annual cost of living adjustment;

Be it further resolved that the AMS request that the Province of BC grant the University of British Columbia the ability to supplement student aid funding beyond levels specified in provincial cost of living tables, without risk of provincial penalty;

Be it further resolved that the AMS request that the provincial government institute a system of needs based up front student grants;

Be it further resolved that the AMS advocate for the maximum possible reduction in student loan interest rates;

Be it further resolved that the AMS rescind its policy requesting that student interest rates be reduced to the prime interest rate.

Be it further resolved that the AMS advocate for increased provincial core funding for post-secondary institutions within BC; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS advocate that provincial core funding for post-secondary institutions be tied to the Higher Education Price Index.
Whereas the need for child care is essential for many UBC students, as well as for students in other postsecondary institutions and working parents across British Columbia;

Whereas child care costs present a major barrier to postsecondary education for students with young children, especially if they rely on Student Aid to support their living costs;

Whereas the AMS is a member in good standing of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia (CCCABC);

Whereas the CCCABC has presented the “Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning,” a fully costed universal child care plan that would be run by the province’s existing boards of education;

Whereas if this plan is implemented, child care will cost parents $10 per day for full day programs, $7 per day for part-time programs and be free for families earning less than $40,000 per year; and

Whereas CCCABC’s plan has been endorsed by a variety of municipalities and organizations, including the Surrey Board of Trade, the Burnaby and Vancouver Boards of Education and the cities of Burnaby, Surrey and Vancouver;

Be it resolved that the AMS officially endorse Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia’s “Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning.”
Policy Number:
2012-11

Title:
Get OnBoard BC

Passed:
November 28, 2012
Expires:
November 28, 2015

Summary:
Endorses the Get On Board BC public transit coalition, affirms that the AMS will participate actively in helping to achieve the campaign’s mission and authorizes the AMS’s University and Government Relations Adviser to continue serving on the campaign’s Board as Secretary.

Whereas the AMS supports sustainable, efficient transit in Metro Vancouver, especially rapid transit solutions along the Broadway corridor; and

Whereas, the AMS recognizes TransLink’s difficult fiscal situation, where current funding mechanisms are unable to allow for future expansion of transit services in Metro Vancouver; and

Whereas the provincial government of BC, the Mayors of Metro Vancouver, and TransLink, with the assistance of the Federal government, seek to develop long term, sustainable funding solutions for the future of transit as a whole in the lower mainland; and

Whereas; current service levels are inadequate and pressure on Metro Vancouver’s public transit system is increasing, with students, faculty, and staff feeling the detrimental effects; and

Whereas the AMS has taken a leading role in developing the Get On Board BC transit advocacy campaign;

Be it resolved that the AMS affirm support for the Get On Board BC campaign as presented;

Be it further resolved that the AMS continue to work with Get On Board BC as an active partner in helping to achieve the campaign’s mission; and

Be it further resolved that Council allow the University and Government Relations Adviser to continue to work with the Get On Board campaign in their capacity as board Secretary.
Whereas the proposed tuition for the new Bachelor of International Economics (BIE) Program is $10,000 per year for domestic students and $29,000 per year for international students;

Whereas the proposed tuition rate is 113% higher and 43% higher than BA tuition for domestic students and international students respectively;

Whereas throughout the tuition consultation process students expressed opposition to the proposed tuition, including the Economics Students Association and the International Students Association;

Whereas the tuition revenue from the program far exceeds the costs associated with delivering the program and the stated goal of covering the costs of the program and providing a net contribution back to the Vancouver School of Economics could be achieved at lower tuition rates;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the tuition amounts proposed by the University for the BIE program;

Be it further resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs communicate the AMS stance to the University Board of Governors through the formal submission process;

Be it further resolved that AMS council accept the submission prepared by the Office of the Vice President Academic and University Affairs submitted to the Board of Governors.
Whereas research funding for graduate students is often precarious;

Whereas graduate students face increased pressures due to the relative reduction of full-time faculty, especially at the tenure-track or tenured level; and

And whereas B.C. lags behind most comparable jurisdictions in the intensity of its overall R&D investment;

Be it resolved that Council accept the document entitled “Graduate Students and Research Funding: A Position Paper;”

Be it further resolved that the AMS support the Graduate Student Society’s efforts to advocate at the federal, provincial and university levels to improve the academic, research and professional training and opportunities provided to graduate students.
Whereas a central examination database would benefit the UBC community by supporting student self-directed learning; providing equal access to past examinations; and supporting student wellbeing;

Whereas UBC students have indicated wide support for the establishment of a centralized examination database at UBC Vancouver as demonstrated in the 2012 AMS Academic Experience Survey 2012;

Whereas a proposal for a central examination database has been stewarded through the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee by the Office of the Vice President Academic and University Affairs, and has been referred to Senate for support;

Be it resolved that the AMS council support the development of a centralized examination database at UBC Vancouver;

Be it further resolved that the AMS, through the office of the Vice-President Academic, commit to leading the development and implementation of this initiative.

NOTE: A motion was unanimously passed by the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee in support of the establishment of the exam database on February 13, 2013. The motion and accompanying documents were referred to the Senate Agenda Committee for the March 2013 Agenda of the UBC Vancouver Senate.
Policy Number: 2013-03

Title: Lighter Footprint Strategy

Passed: March 6, 2013
Expires: March 6, 2016

Summary: Supports the program outlined in “Transforming Sustainability Education at UBC” and directs the AMS’s Vice-President Academic and University Affairs to insure student input in the creation and implementation of this program.

Whereas the Alma Mater Society operates under the AMS Lighter Footprint Strategy, which directs the AMS to “work with faculty, the UBC Sustainability Office and other groups to develop a more problem-based learning curriculum aimed at reducing our ecological footprint and creating a stronger ecological learning community;”

Whereas the University of British Columbia is committed to exploring and exemplifying “all aspects of economic, environmental, and social sustainability” in its Place and Promise strategic plan; and

Whereas the University Sustainability Initiative’s Teaching & Learning Fellows have outlined an academically sound and feasible plan for better integrating theory and practice of sustainability principles and concepts in the report entitled, “Transforming Sustainability Education at UBC;”

Be it resolved that the AMS formally express its support for the program outlined in “Transforming Sustainability Education at UBC,” and

Be it further resolved that the AMS direct the VP Academic and University Affairs work with the appropriate UBC administrators to insure that students can provide meaningful input in the creation and implementation of this program.
Whereas the writ should be dropped on April 16 for a May 14 general election of the members of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly;

Whereas it is important that issues of concern to postsecondary students be included in party platforms and election debates;

Whereas it is important that the next provincial government acknowledges the importance of such issues; and

Whereas the Vice-President External Affairs is currently developing a strategy to inform and lobby all provincial political parties on issues of interest to its members and postsecondary students in general;

Be it resolved that Council reaffirm the following three principles, already adopted as formal external policies, as a foundation for said strategy:

1. Postsecondary education should be accessible and affordable. Specifically, the government should:
   - Permit UBC to supplement without penalty student aid funding beyond levels specified in provincial cost of living tables;
   - Increase student aid allocations for UBC students so that they reflect the actual cost of living in Vancouver, and then index these costs;
   - Institute a system of needs-based, up-front student grants;
   - Reduce student loan interest rates to prime plus cost recovery;
   - Increase and index core funding for post-secondary institutions.

2. Public transit authorities in Metro Vancouver should be authorized to use all of the funding mechanisms at their disposal to maintain a sustainable and predictable budget and help them find a long-term rapid rail transit solution for the Broadway corridor, North America’s busiest diesel bus line.

3. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia’s province-wide Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning should be implemented as rapidly as possible.
Policy Number: 2013-05

Title: New first year international students program

Summary: Supports the development of a first year international students program at Vantage College that matches the experience and quality of services offered to other UBC students and meets the financial needs of truly diverse student population.

From the Executive Committee

Whereas the UBC Senate and Board of Governors have approved the creation of Vantage College and the establishment of a first year international students program within the college;

Whereas this program will seek to fulfill three goals: 1) to diversify the international student population; 2) act as a living lab for the development of innovative pedagogy in the delivery of first year courses; 3) provide a financial contribution back to the central university budget;

Whereas the AMS is aware of the financial outlook of the university and the contribution that the program will make to ensuring the financial sustainability of UBC;

Be it resolved that Council supports a diverse student body and an investment into improving the delivery of first year curricula;

Be it further resolved that the AMS encourages the university to ensure that the experience and quality of services offered to students enrolled in the program is parallel to those offered to all other UBC students;

Be it further resolved that the AMS encourages the university to minimize the tuition costs associate with the program wherever possible and that funds be allocated towards need-based financial aid and externally funded scholarships to better meet the goal of a diverse student population.

NOTE: Students in this program will be UBC students taking UBC courses such as CHEM 123 and POLI 100; as a result, they will be fee-paying AMS members.
**From the Executive Committee**

Whereas the AMS recognizes that accessibility and affordability are key issues impacting current and prospective UBC students;

Whereas the university has committed to undertaking a student financial support project that aims to improve the systems and processes associated with the allocation of merit based and needs based awards at UBC;

Whereas this project provides many benefits to student including: the offering of comprehensive financial packages; greater transparency in financial aid allocation; UBC specific cost assessment and contribution tools;

Be it resolved that the AMS formally supports the vision and goals of the Student Financial Support Project;

Be it further resolved that the AMS encourages the university to engage in on-going student consultation in the development, design, implementation and communication of the project.
Policy Number:
2013-07

Title:
International student tuition differential for Masters of Management programs

Summary:
Opposes the proposed international student tuition differential for the Masters of Management programs, endorses the “GSS and AMS Joint Submission to Board of Governors Regarding Master of Management International Student Tuition Differential Proposal” and recommends that the Board of Governors adopt resolutions providing a tuition guarantee for multi-year graduate program and requiring that international graduate student tuition be cost recovery only.

From the Executive Committee

Whereas the Sauder School of Business has proposed the introduction of a $12,000 tuition differential increase for international students in the Masters of Management programs;

Whereas the proposed tuition increase would make international tuition 45% greater than domestic tuition in a program where domestic student seats are not government subsidized;

Whereas this proposed tuition increase is not a cost recovery measure;

Whereas the GSS and AMS have concerns about the proposed allocation of the additional tuition revenue and the deficit in rationale and assurance of direct benefit to international students;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the proposed international student tuition differential for the Masters of Management programs;

Be it further resolved that the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs express the AMS’s stance to the University Board of Governors through a formal submission;

Be it further resolved that the AMS Council accepts the submission prepared by the GSS and AMS entitled “GSS and AMS Joint Submission to Board of Governors Regarding Master of Management International Student Tuition Differential Proposal”;

Be it further resolved that the AMS recommend that the Board of Governors adopt resolutions that provide a tuition guarantee for multi-year graduate program and require that international graduate student tuition be cost recovery only.

*NOTE: UBC’s Graduate Student Society Council will be passing a complimentary motion at their May 16, 2013.
Title: UBC population count and students

Summary: Reaffirms the AMS’s submission* to Campus and Community Planning during the public consultation on the updated regional context statement and strongly believes that UBC should include student residents in the population count, especially those who live in year-round student housing.

[Whereas UBC’s administration still seems inclined to exclude students from the population count it is submitting to Metro Vancouver;]

Be it resolved that council reaffirms the submission made to Campus and Community Planning during the public consultation on the updated regional context statement;

Be it further resolved that AMS Council strongly believes that the University should include student residents in the population count, especially those who live in year-round student housing.

*NOTE: The AMS’s original position on this matter was included in the following document: “AMS Submission Regarding Updates to the UBC Regional Context Statement (RCS).“
Whereas TransLink presented an updated version of their 2040 regional transportation strategy at the June 2013 meeting of the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation [Regional Transportation Strategy: Draft Strategic Framework for Consultation, June 10, 2013*];

Whereas TransLink aims to reduce the rate of private vehicle use from 73 to 50% in Metro Vancouver by 2040, while the region’s population is expected to grow by about 40% in the same period;

Whereas TransLink projects it will need $23 billion over the next three decades to maintain and expand the region’s public transit infrastructure and the major roads and bridges under its supervision;

Whereas TransLink has asked Metro Vancouver’s mayors to formally endorse Electronic Road Pricing as one solution to pay for all or part of these expenses;

Whereas UBC Vancouver’s and the Broadway Corridor’s overall public transit needs over the next three decades will increase significantly over the same period, which may require additional funding efforts on the part of the UBC community, including students;

Be it resolved that the AMS strongly encourages TransLink and all levels of government to work cooperatively to find predictable, sustainable and equitable funding for all of Metro Vancouver’s public transit needs over the next three decades;

Be it further resolved that the AMS directs the Office of the Vice-President, External Affairs to conduct research and outreach in support of potential public transit funding solutions.

*NOTE: An updated version of TransLink’s regional transportation strategy was published on July 31st, 2013, under the title Regional Transportation Strategy: Strategic Framework July 2013
Title: Long-term public transit solutions for the Broadway-UBC Corridor

Summary: Supports the City of Vancouver’s recommendation of a below-grade rail line from Commercial Drive to UBC and other solutions under certain conditions, while also affirming that any solution must have minimal impact on businesses and communities along the corridor.

Whereas the AMS supports a sustainable and efficient transit network in Metro Vancouver, especially along the Broadway Corridor, spanning from Commercial Drive to UBC;

Whereas Greater Vancouver’s transit system is over capacity and unable to meet the demands of an evolving metropolitan area, especially along the Broadway corridor, where, according to a recent study by KPMG reports that more than 100,000 people board a bus each day;

Whereas the City of Vancouver has completed their Transportation 2040 study for the Broadway corridor and Vancouver City Council has deemed a below-grade rapid rail extension of the Millennium Line to be the most appropriate solution;

Whereas a recent 2013 KPMG report cited the importance of the Broadway Corridor to the province’s overall economic development, being “B.C’s second largest business and innovation area.” (KPMG, 2013);

Whereas UBC is the province’s second largest employer with 13,900 jobs, $10 billion of annual economic impact, and over 152 different spin-off companies;

Whereas UBC students are currently facing severe difficulties commuting to and from campus, affecting their academic and social experiences while at university; and

Whereas there is a need for the introduction of rapid transit infrastructure throughout the region to accommodate a growing region and economy;

Be it resolved that the AMS formally support the recommendation within the City of Vancouver’s Transportation 2040 plan and continue to advocate for rail-based rapid transit as the most suitable mode of transit along the Broadway corridor, though the AMS will be open to alternative proposals for the corridor so long as they increase carrying capacity by 50%, allow users to remain on a single mode of transit between Commercial Drive and UBC, and that the solution operates the entire length of the corridor; and

Be it further resolved that during construction, there should be the lowest degree of negative impact on businesses and neighbourhoods along the corridor and said solution must have the...
lowest possible degree of negative impact upon businesses and neighbourhoods along the
corridor and the maximum positive impact once it is in operation.

**NOTE:** The KPMG study referred to in this policy was published on February 28, 2013 under the title *The UBC-
Broadway Corridor – Unlocking the Economic Potential* and was commissioned by the City of Vancouver and UBC.
Whereas a recent KPMG study demonstrated that public transit along the Broadway corridor is critically over-capacity, with over 2,000 pass-ups a day;

Whereas the AMS continues to advocate for a long-term rail-based rapid transit solution for the Broadway corridor, which will take several years to be completed once a final funding and technology decision has been made; and

Whereas temporary solutions are needed immediately to increase the safety, reliability, speed and accessibility of public transit;

Be it resolved that the Council direct the Vice-President, External to lobby TransLink, the City of Vancouver and UBC to work collaboratively to find temporary, short-term solutions to bus service along the Broadway corridor;

Be it further resolved that although these solutions should improve capacity and reduce travel time as significantly as possible, negative impacts for residents and businesses in the area should be minimized;

Be it further resolved that these temporary fixes should not replace a permanent, long term solution for the corridor.

*NOTE: The KPMG study referred to in this policy was published on February 28, 2013 under the title The UBC-Broadway Corridor – Unlocking the Economic Potential and was commissioned by the City of Vancouver and UBC.*
Policy Number: 2013-12
Title: Reconciliation and Aboriginal Peoples

Summary:
Supports organizations focusing on reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples to learn and document the truth about what happened in the Indian Residential Schools, inform all Canadians about these facts and explain the lasting impact of these institutions on Canada’s Aboriginal populations.

Whereas the AMS has a long history of involvement with local First Nations; and

Whereas the students of UBC were honoured to be given the “Thunderbird” name, presented by Chief William Scow of the Kwikwasut’inuxw Haxwa’mis First Nation in 1948; and

Whereas the University of British Columbia and University Endowment Lands rest on the ancestral, un-ceded territory of the x̱m̓ɑθk̓əy̓әm (Musqueum) First Nation; and

Whereas Aboriginal peoples in Canada suffered terrible abuse in the Canadian Government’s Indian Residential School program, who’s dark legacy continues to impact Aboriginal people today; and

Whereas to this day, the Canadian general public has limited access to accurate information regarding Canada’s history of colonialism and its impact on Aboriginal people, limiting our understanding and ability to engage with Aboriginal people and the issues they face today;

Be it resolved that the AMS supports the mandate of organizations and bodies focusing on reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples to learn and document the truth about what happened in the Indian Residential Schools, inform all Canadians about these facts and explain the lasting impact of these institutions on Canada’s Aboriginal populations;

Be it further resolved that the AMS encourages all students to both attend the reconciliation focused events happening in Vancouver from September 16 to 22 and to develop a stronger understanding of the history of Aboriginal people in North America and present-day Canada;

Be it further resolved that Council direct the Executive Committee to take appropriate steps to recognize the events and update Council on their efforts.
Title: 
Student Association Caucus of the U-PASS Advisory Committee

Policy Number: 
2013-13

Passed: 
September 25, 2013
Expires: 
September 25, 2016

Summary:
Asks the AMS executive to ensure that the U-PASS Advisory Committee’s Student Association Caucus develops and its members formally adopt terms of reference to provide the framework necessary to ensure that students’ concerns are well-represented in upcoming contract negotiations with TransLink.

Whereas the most recent round of contract negotiations between Metro Vancouver’s post-secondary institutions, student societies and TransLink have revealed that the informal structure of the Student Association Caucus poses certain challenges; and

Whereas a new round of contract negotiations will begin shortly for the 2016 renewal of the U-PASS program;

Be it resolved that Council directs the executive to send a letter on behalf of the AMS to the Student Association Caucus of the U-PASS Advisory Committee requesting that the caucus:

- Develop a terms of reference document with a clear mandate that outlines the purpose and goals of the Student Association Caucus, as well as protocols for decision-making consultation, information-sharing and communication;

- That every society represented on the Student Association Caucus discuss internally and provide feedback on these terms of reference, and formally adopt this framework document as the governing rules of the caucus;

Be it further resolved that Council direct the VP External Affairs deliver this letter to the Student Association Caucus and to the full U-PASS Advisory Committee;

Be it further resolved that Council appoint one councillor to accompany to VP External Affairs to all future Student Association Caucus meetings.
External Policy Manual | Annex: Expired Policies*
Office of the University and Government Relations Advisor

*External policies passed by AMS Council since 1995

“Those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it.” Edmund Burke (1729-1797)
“Study the past if you would define the future.” Confucius (551–479 BC)
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Policy Number: 1995-01

Passed: November 1, 1995
Expired: November 1, 1998

Title: Mumia Abu-Jamal

Summary:
Supports the effort to stay the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, an American convict sentenced to death for the 1981 murder of a police officer in Philadelphia.

Whereas Mumia Abu-Jamal has been wrongly imprisoned and sentenced to death by the State of Pennsylvania;

Whereas Mumia’s original trial was a travesty of justice in that false evidence was used, and witnesses were coerced; and

Whereas Mumia is an outspoken black journalist, former Black Panther and MOVE supporter;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the effort to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

NOTE: This is the first external policy passed by the AMS, following a major reform of student government at UBC.
Whereas, the AMS recognizes that safe and affordable housing is a fundamental human right;

Whereas, secondary suites provide affordable housing, promote integrated neighbourhoods and make economical use of existing infrastructure;

Whereas, the Provincial Government must legalize secondary suites as a right in all single-family dwellings and this must be accompanied by the addition of provincial Standards of Maintenance to the Residential Tenancy Act;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse the Tenants’ Rights Action Coalition’s paper *Secondary Suites: A Call for Safe and Legal Housing.*
Whereas the AMS promotes high-quality student learning and the development of a world-class academic campus;

Whereas the AMS favours a less congested and more easily negotiable campus, long term planning is necessary to ensure these objectives;

Whereas campus accessibility for people with disabilities requires careful planning; and

Whereas effective campus safety and security requires planning at the development stage;

Be it resolved that the AMS support, in principle, the creation of a long term plan for the development of the UBC Campus.
Whereas many of the Crown grants of land to the University of British Columbia were intended for university use only and subject to the University Endowment Lands Act;

Whereas extensive use of university land for market real estate purposes will serve to inhibit and restrict the future construction of academic facilities;

Whereas extensive use of university land for market real estate purposes will serve to inhibit and restrict the development of affordable student housing;

Whereas the development of market real estate on campus will not reflect the demographics of the primarily student university population;

Whereas various community, residential and environmental groups are concerned about impact of commercial development on the pristine and natural setting of the university;

Whereas the interests of the University Real Estate Corp. do not necessarily represent the interests of the students of UBC and the university community; and

Whereas the University of British Columbia is a leading institution in the areas of forestry and geology and its success in these areas is partially due to its special ‘on-site’ programs;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose, in principle, any plans to sell/lease university lands for non-institutional purposes unless the development directly serves the needs of students.

Definition: For the purposes of this policy, “non-institutional” shall mean development other than that for the main academic mission (teaching, university research, cultural expression, etc.) in the main academic core and the south campus. It includes housing, associated research facilities of a more commercial nature, or commercial developments such as retail, offices for businesses, or hotel facilities.
Whereas the University’s long-term plan endorses keeping the student population at current levels for the foreseeable future;

Whereas a government mandated productivity increase, forcing the University to enrol more students on a fixed grant, is similar to a cut in funding because the ratio of dollars to students declines;

Whereas financial cuts of this nature will place the quality of education at the University of British Columbia at risk;

Whereas the effects of a government mandated productivity increase are in contravention of the spirit of the University Act; and

Whereas the University will be forced into making decisions pertaining to enrolment based upon financial instead of legitimate academic pressures;

Be it resolved that the AMS considers both high-quality student learning and access to be essential qualities of any public educational institution; and that the AMS is opposed to sacrificing one for the other.
Policy Number:
1996-05

Title:
Ancillary fees

Passed:
July 24, 1996
Expired:
July 24, 1999

Summary:
Opposes the introduction by UBC of new compulsory ancillary fees or increases to existing compulsory ancillary fees unless approved by students in a referendum. Supports the principle that all such fees share the same tax status as tuition.

Whereas the AMS is concerned that the university may see ancillary fees as a way of increasing revenue from students without increasing tuition;

Whereas the Student Activity Fee was introduced by the university in 1985 to pay for athletics and recreation, despite the fact that the AMS and UBC had made an agreement in 1968 under which the AMS handed over a $5 per student Athletics Fee (later raised to $7 by referendum) and UBC agreed not to increase the fee for athletics without getting approval in an AMS referendum;

Whereas the Student Activity Fee introduced by the university in 1985 has risen 391% without consulting students;

Whereas, unlike tuition fees, ancillary fees are not tax exempt;

Whereas the Ontario provincial government has taken the lead and mandated that administrations gain the approval of students before any compulsory, non-tuition, fees are levied;

Whereas the university does not have policy relating to compulsory ancillary fees; and

Whereas the university ought to show the same respect for students that the AMS does in relation to ancillary fee creation or increase;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the introduction of new compulsory ancillary fees or increases to existing compulsory ancillary fees unless such fees are passed by referendum within the same referendum guidelines that appear in the AMS Constitution and Bylaws;

Be it further resolved that the AMS supports, in principle, the concept that all compulsory ancillary fees paid by students to attend a postsecondary education institution share the same tax status as tuition fees.

Definition: For the purposes of this policy, “compulsory ancillary fees” shall mean fees imposed or administered by the university, or one of its constituent parts or its federated or affiliated institutions, in addition to regular tuition fees, which a student is required to pay in order to enrol in, or successfully complete, any credit course.
Whereas the AMS is committed to a campus that promotes the personal safety of all students and removes barriers to the full participation of all students regardless of disability;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose any budgetary decisions by the University that make safety and accessibility of the campus dependant on external funding, and state its commitment to a safe and barrier-free campus; and

Be it further resolved that AMS Council direct the Executive to communicate this policy to the University administration expressing Council’s concern regarding the recent article in the August 15, 1996 issue of UBC Reports regarding the freeze to the province’s minor capital budget.”
Whereas there has recently been a great deal of discussion concerning the location of the UBC graduation ceremonies;

Whereas much of the opinion expressed by Council thus far has been in opposition to the proposed change in venue from the War Memorial Gym to the Chan Centre;

Whereas the change in venue will provide a more intimate venue and will result in fewer of the smaller faculties being grouped together, an experience which dilutes the meaning of the graduation ceremonies for those graduates;

Whereas other larger faculties have equally legitimate concerns that the move to the Chan Centre will result in their faculties being split into a larger number of groups than before, which would dilute the meaning of the graduation ceremonies for those graduates and that the number of guests in the Chan Centre would be limited to four per graduate; and

Whereas AMS Council has a duty to see that the interests of all its constituencies, both large and small, be represented and upheld to the greatest degree possible;

Be it resolved that AMS Council support the principle that individual faculties be consulted as to their preferred choice for their graduation ceremonies, and that this consultation must include discussion with the appropriate student societies and associations;

Be it further resolved that should the demand exist, ceremonies be held at both the War Memorial Gym and the Chan Centre; and

Be it further resolved that a faculty-by-faculty survey should suffice in terms of sampling student opinion, but should a campus-wide referendum, poll conducted of all students regardless of the year they are in, or other such method be required, that the results be collected and tabulated according to faculty.
Whereas UBC has approved, in principle, an increase in all non-professional international graduate student fees: 24% for currently enrolled students and 310% for new students;

Whereas international graduate students provide great benefits for UBC in terms of teaching and research and enriches a unique diverse graduate student population which allows UBC to be a world class research university;

Whereas 22% of the Graduate Student Society are international graduate students;

Whereas many international graduate students will not be able to bear the cost of living at UBC with increases to tuition in light of what may be inadequate graduate fellowships and financial aid, and declining funding council grants;

Whereas similar changes in Ontario have led to greatly reduced international graduate student enrolment; and

Whereas similar motions have been passed unanimously by the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council and the Graduate Student Society Council;

Be it resolved that the AMS Council stand opposed to the introduction of differential fees for non-professional graduate students.
Whereas the 1997 Federal Budget included changes to student tax status, student loan repayment and education savings plans that will directly aid students in Canada;

Whereas the 1997 Federal Budget created the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, an independent organization designed to provide financial support for modernizing research facilities and equipment at Canadian post-secondary educational institutions and research hospitals in the areas of science, engineering, health and the environment;

Whereas the 1997 Federal Budget reaffirmed the Youth Employment Strategy, a program to support 120,000 summer career placements over the next two years and to create over 19,000 new internship programs in partnership with the private, volunteer and government sectors;

Whereas the 1997 Federal Budget cut an additional $2.6 billion from the Canadian Health and Social Transfer (CHST), on top of the cut last year of $3.6 billion; and

Whereas last year’s cuts alone prompted many universities in Canada to raise tuition by as much as 30%, and engage in drastic program cuts;

Be it resolved that the AMS continue to oppose the federal cuts to the Canadian Health and Social Transfer (CHST) which will place both PSE quality and access at risk; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS acknowledge and support the positive initiatives within the 1997 Federal Budget regarding student tax status, student loan repayment, education savings plans, Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Youth Employment Strategy.
Whereas nations that engage in human rights abuses directly and indirectly inhibit education and higher learning;

Whereas the members of the AMS, who represent a broad spectrum of cultures and backgrounds, are concerned about the protection and promotion of human rights around the world;

Whereas the Government of Canada and the Liberal Party of Canada have strong stances on international human rights;

Whereas APEC, due to its process and economic focus, cannot be a useful vehicle for human rights reform; and

Whereas the federal government, to date, has failed to effectively influence the human rights policies of its trading partners;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the federal government and demand that it apply real and meaningful pressure to its trading partners who violate the UN standards of fundamental human rights.
Whereas basic Human Rights (including but not limited to, the freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of movement), are necessary for the existence and maintenance of high-quality student learning;

Whereas the AMS recognizes that all students, whether domestic or international, are our colleagues;

Whereas the AMS recognizes that education and research must evolve into global concepts; and

Whereas Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Be it resolved that the AMS actively support and uphold the international standard of Human Rights as defined by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the University Board of Governors to adopt a similar stance or policy on Human Rights.
Whereas the AMS ratified a policy proposal on “The Question of Productivity Demands on the University by the Provincial Government” on July 3, 1996 stating that:

“Whereas the University’s long-term plan endorses keeping the student population at current levels for the foreseeable future;

Whereas a government mandated productivity increase, forcing the University to enrol more students on a fixed grant, is similar to a cut in funding because the ratio of dollars to students declines;

Whereas financial cuts of this nature will place the quality of education at the University of British Columbia at risk;

Whereas the effects of a government mandated productivity increase are in contravention of the spirit of the University Act; and

Whereas the University will be forced into making decisions pertaining to enrolment based on financial instead of legitimate academic pressures;

Be it resolved that the AMS considers both high-quality student learning and access to be essential qualities of any public educational institution; and that the AMS is opposed to sacrificing one for the other”;

Whereas the Ministry has imposed a requirement for a 4% increase in full-time student enrolment during the 1996/97 year, while decreasing the University’s operating grant by 1.3 million;

Whereas the Ministry also withheld over $2 million in basic funding as a penalty for failing to increase full-time student enrolment to required levels during 1996/97; and

Whereas the Ministry is requesting that UBC further increase enrolment by a total of 3.2% in the coming year; and

Whereas, on April 16, 1997 the UBC Senate unanimously resolved: “That the Senate advise the Government of British Columbia that the University is unable to increase the present student enrolment until such time as increased funding is available and the necessary infrastructure is in place. Dean McBride to deliver the message”;
Be it resolved that the AMS demonstrate its support for the University’s position on the enrolment quotas as expressed in the above resolution of Senate and direct the President of the Society to indicate the AMS’s position to the Ministry of Education.
Policy Number: 1997-06

Title: Consultation with students about tuition fees

Passed: May 21, 1997
Expired: May 21, 2000

Summary:
Supports the investigation by the Ombudsman of British Columbia into the university’s decision to increase fees in spite of restrictions imposed by UBC Policy 71 and the B.C. Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act and requests her recommendations at the earliest opportunity.

Whereas the University has recently decided to increase international graduate student tuition fees, certain ancillary fees, and certain program fees;

Whereas Policy 71, entitled “Consultation with Students about Tuition Fees”, provides that the University shall consult “elected representatives of students’ in order to have full information in making its decision about tuition fees for the coming year and to meet deadlines for decisions in an orderly fashion”;

Whereas the University’s Associate Vice-President of Academic and Legal Affairs was recently quoted in the press as conceding the University ‘did not follow the requirement (of Policy 71) to meet at the start of the year, but ... tried to live up to the spirit of the policy’;

Whereas the Government of British Columbia has legislated in Section 4 of the Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act a tuition freeze respecting the Province;

Whereas a student of the University, Amir Attaran, has requested the Ombudsman of British Columbia to investigate and to make recommendations on the process by which the University decided to increase fees in light of Policy 71 and the Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act; and

Whereas the AMS notes that a great many students and residents of the Province are seriously affected by the University’s fee increases;

Be it resolved that the AMS supports the investigation by the Ombudsman of British Columbia and kindly requests her recommendations at the earliest opportunity.
Whereas, as defined by the University Act – BC, the academic governance of a university is vested in an academic senate;

Whereas the student members of an academic senate offer an invaluable perspective on the research and curricula of a university; and

Whereas an academic senate, operated at arm’s-length from the administration of a university, ensures academic freedom in teaching and research;

Be it resolved that the AMS consider academic senates a necessary and integral part of any university.
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<th>Policy Number:</th>
<th>1997-08</th>
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<tr>
<td>Passed:</td>
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<td>Expired:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Technical University of British Columbia</td>
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**Summary:**
Opposes the creation of the Technical University of British Columbia, unless adequate safeguards are put in place to defend academic freedom and to ensure that the province’s other publicly funded colleges and universities will not lose government grant revenue as a result.

Whereas, on July 28, 1997, the Government of British Columbia introduced into law the Technical University of British Columbia Act;

Whereas the Technical University of British Columbia Act will create a publicly funded university without the benefit of an academic senate;

Whereas the research activities of the Technical University of British Columbia will be dictated by the Board of Governors, thus eliminating free and independent research contrary to the principles of academic freedom;

Whereas the expenditure of funds for the Technical University of British Columbia would thereby produce financial hardship for students and staff at British Columbia’s other public colleges and universities, while providing for an institution whose governance and structures are not reliably accountable to the public interest;

Whereas the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia (CUFA/BC), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the College Institute Educators’ Association (CIEA) have all opposed the creation of the Technical University of British Columbia in its current form;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the creation of the Technical University of British Columbia until such time as the legislation is amended to provide appropriate safeguards for academic freedom in teaching and learning;

Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose the creation of the Technical University of British Columbia until such time as the Government of British Columbia can offer a clear financial commitment guaranteeing that British Columbia’s other public colleges and universities will not realize a loss of government grant revenue from this initiative.
Whereas the University has recently decided to increase international graduate student fees, certain ancillary fees, and certain program fees;

Whereas the University has not adhered to Policy 71 of the University of British Columbia Policy and Procedures Manual, which requires the University to consult the elected representatives of students prior to deciding on any increases to tuition fees;

Whereas the Government of British Columbia has legislated in Section 4 of the Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act a tuition freeze;

Whereas a group of students of the University, Amir Attaran, Michael Thoms, Annette Muttray and James Pond, filed a petition at the Supreme Court of British Columbia applying for orders to quash these fee increases; and

Whereas the Petitioners have already collected over $1,085 from individuals and over $2,635 in total, including $1,000 from the Graduate Student Society, $100 from the University of Victoria Student Society and $300 from the National Graduate Council;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society of UBC support the petition to be filed at the Supreme Court of British Columbia by Attaran, Thoms, Muttray and Pond by donating $1,000 towards their legal costs to be paid from the University and External Lobbying Fund.
Policy Number:
1997-10

Title:
Tuition rate freeze

Passed:
October 22, 1997
Expired:
October 22, 2000

Summary:
Asks the B.C. government to add tuition fees to the Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act, thus keeping tuition increases at or below the rate of inflation.

Whereas during the 1996 BC provincial election, Premier Glen Clark promised to cap tuition increases for 98/99 and 99/00 at, or below, the rate of inflation;

Whereas the average tuition fee increase across Canada since 1993, according to Statistics Canada, is 45%;

Whereas during a press conference at Douglas College on 10 March 1997, Premier Glen Clark and Education Minister Paul Ramsey reaffirmed their commitment to a cap on tuition, at, or below the rate of inflation, to be maintained for as long as the BC-NDP remain in power;

Whereas a multi-year tuition cap will allow students to financially plan for their education; and

Whereas the strength of the current tuition freeze stems from its inclusion in the Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the provincial government to adhere to its tuition cap promise by adding the tuition cap – at, or below the rate of inflation – to the Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act.
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<td>Passed:</td>
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<td>November 5, 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Third party negotiations by UBC</td>
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**Summary:**
Encourages UBC to include the AMS in all negotiations with third parties when these could have a direct or indirect effect on the society’s activities or members.

Whereas the Alma Mater Society is an autonomous entity in law, created under the authority of the Societies Act;

Whereas the University of British Columbia is an autonomous entity in law, created under the authority of the University Act;

Whereas the University of British Columbia, from time to time, engages in discussions and negotiations with entities, other than the Alma Mater Society, with the intention of creating contractual agreements;

Whereas such negotiations are often closed to members of the public and the Alma Mater Society; and

Whereas such negotiations often, directly or indirectly, lead to consequences that have an effect upon the Alma Mater Society or its activities;

Be it resolved that the AMS encourage the University to include the AMS in all negotiations with third parties where the outcome of said negotiations could, directly or indirectly, have an effect upon the AMS membership or its activities.
Policy Number: 1997-12

Title: Sexual orientation

Summary: Commits the AMS to ensuring that its members are free from discrimination or harassment based upon their sexual orientation.

Whereas the Human Rights Code of BC prohibits discrimination against a person because of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, class, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, or age of that person;

Whereas it is the AMS’s mission to improve the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of the students of UBC;

Whereas discrimination and/or harassment based upon sexual orientation will impair the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of UBC students;

Whereas the AMS has constituted a Student Resource Group, PRIDE UBC, with a mandate, among other things, to work towards the elimination of discrimination against a person based upon sexual orientation; and

Whereas the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, supported and upheld by the AMS, does not specifically declare protection from discrimination and/or harassment based upon sexual orientation;

Be it resolved that the AMS strive to ensure that its members are free from discrimination and/or harassment based upon their sexual orientation.
Whereas the AMS supports the right of UBC students to peacefully exercise their freedom of expression;

Whereas civil disobedience, within a democracy, is recognized as a time-honoured means of exercising a citizen’s freedom of expression;

Whereas the goal of civil disobedience, in most cases, is to raise a particular issue to the consideration of the courts, the public at-large, or both;

Whereas the jailing of those who break the law ought to be utilized as a tool of justice to protect the public from the actions of those incarcerated;

Whereas within a democracy, the public does not require protection from civil disobedience, but does require a constructive means of consideration of the issue which has led to the actions of those individuals who have engaged in civil disobedience; and

Whereas the jailing of students for actions of civil disobedience is a non-constructive means of dealing with this type of conflict;

Be it resolved that the AMS is opposed to the jailing of students for actions of civil disobedience.

**Definition:** For the purposes of this policy, civil disobedience shall mean the refusal, either active or passive, to comply with certain laws as a peaceful form of political protest. Peacefulness shall mean that no individuals should be victims of violence or physical harm, neither should there be any significant or permanent damage to property as a consequence of civil disobedience.
Whereas UBC students, among others, protested against the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) on November 25, 1997 held on the UBC campus;

Whereas the high-security zone surrounding the AELM was designed to ensure that the protesters could not see or be seen by the APEC leaders during their visit to campus;

Whereas the Police, under the premise of protecting international dignitaries from harm, violently engaged UBC students by striking them with bicycles, dousing them with pepper spray and/or wrestling them to the ground; and

Whereas such actions have the clear appearance of being a violation of UBC students’ rights to freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of association;

Be it resolved that the AMS denounce the measures taken to reduce the visibility of protestors to APEC delegates and the violent actions of the Police against UBC students on November 25, 1997.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call for a public inquiry into the actions and decisions of the Federal Government, the University and the Police that led to the violent actions of November 25, 1997.
Whereas Premier Glen Clark has announced that he will consider implementing differential tuition fees for out-of-province students attending postsecondary education in BC;

Whereas the Canadian Constitution guarantees that all Canadians shall enjoy portability of services with regard to social programs, such as education;

Whereas on February 5, 1997, the AMS passed policy opposing differential fees for international graduate students;

Whereas the Student Society of McGill University is seeking to have the Quebec Government’s position supporting differential fees overturned in the Supreme Court of that province; and

Whereas at the simplest level, differential fees for out-of-province students are discriminatory, and counterproductive to the unity of Canada;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the implementation of differential fees for out-of-province students.
Whereas UBC student groups and associations, including non-AMS organizations, improve the quality of the social and personal lives of our members;

Whereas the University, within its East Campus Project, envisions moving all the Greek Letter Societies onto campus land; and

Whereas the Greek Letter Societies offer many UBC students affordable student housing and a social community away from home;

Be it resolved that the AMS strive to ensure that all UBC students, either individually or within groups or associations, are treated fairly and equitably by the UBC administration;

Be it further resolved that opportunities be made for other student organizations to develop alternative housing on campus; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS support the relocation of the Greek Letter Societies, pending their approval, onto campus land with the understanding that such relocation not constitute new residential units under UBC’s OCP obligations.
Policy Number: 1998-02

Title: Pacific Games 2001

Passed: April 8, 1998
Expired: April 8, 2001

Summary:
Before agreeing to host the Pacific Games 2001, calls on the UBC Board of Governors to:

- Guarantee the rights of students to raise issues of concern publicly; and
- Ensure that government funding for the games will not come from UBC’s core public funding and that academic activities and student life will actually be enriched by the games.

Whereas, should UBC host the Pacific Games 2001, increased security forces will be present on campus; and

Whereas students’ constitutional rights to peacefully and publicly express their thoughts, beliefs and opinions were allegedly violated by the RCMP during the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting in 1997;

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the UBC Board of Governors to ensure, before agreeing to host the Pacific Games 2001, that students’ rights to publicly raise issues of concern will be unhindered by UBC’s role as host of the Games; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the UBC Board of Governors to ensure, before agreeing to host the Pacific Games 2001 that:

a) Government funding for the Pacific Games, or for facilities used to house the Games, is not drawn from monies which would otherwise be directed toward the University’s core funding.

b) Academic and student activities using campus facilities are not curbed as a result of the Games; and

c) The unique opportunities afforded by the Games are used to facilitate and enrich academic and student activity.
Whereas 65% of the Cooperative Education Program fee is currently allocated to the General Purpose Operating Funds of the University; and

Whereas students in the Cooperative Education Program would be best served if the fees they paid were allocated directly to the program in which they are registered;

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to allocate all Cooperative Education Program fees directly to the program through which they are collected.
Policy Number:
1998-04

Title:
E-mail protocol

Passed:
April 29, 1998
Expired:
April 29, 2001

Summary:
Supports, in principle, the use of email as a means of communicating with the campus population, with the understanding that such communication shall 1) be for informational purposes only, 2) not be used for commercial advertising or for profit and 3) be subject to a usage protocol developed in consultation with the AMS, GSS and UBC’s administration.

Whereas the University is considering adopting policy and procedures regarding the use of e-mail in communicating with the campus community;

Whereas e-mail notices can be an effective and environmentally responsible means of notifying the campus community of important issues, events and information pertinent to them;

Whereas protocol is necessary to prevent e-mail notices being misused;

Whereas it would be inappropriate for e-mail to be used for commercial advertising or profit, either by the University, the AMS, or any other party;

Whereas, properly used, electronic mail notices could benefit the University, the AMS and the recipient;

Be it resolved that the AMS support in principle, the use of e-mail as a means of communicating with the campus population, with the understanding that such communication shall:

i. Be for informational purposes only;

ii. Not be used for commercial advertising or for profit; and

iii. Be subject to a usage protocol developed in consultation with the AMS, GSS and the University.

NOTE: For the purposes of this policy, “informational purposes” may include, but are not limited to, the following; health notices, campus safety information, election announcements, registration information and general meeting notices. The purpose of developing a “usage protocol” with the University shall be to address issues such as; appropriate composition, autonomy of AMS/GSS content, maximum number of messages per month/year, etc.
Whereas the Government of British Columbia has frozen tuition since March 1996;

Whereas the UBC Master of Science in Genetic Counselling Program, and fee structure, were implemented during the tuition freeze;

Whereas students currently pay $30,000 for the two-year program, making it the most expensive program at UBC;

Whereas the University, by claiming that the tuition freeze does not apply to programs created during the freeze, is trying to exploit a loop-hole in the Tax and Consumer Rate Freeze Act;

Whereas the new Tuition Freeze Act corrects this loop-hole in section 2(2), which states that, “The tuition fee charged by a postsecondary institution for a new program must not exceed the tuition fee charged by the institution for similar existing programs”; and

Whereas, according to the program coordinator, the new program is comparable to a master’s in social work or education; the fee for those programs is $2,315 a year;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the UBC Board of Governors, and the Government of British Columbia, with the purpose of reducing the tuition fee for the UBC Master of Science in Genetic Counselling Program to a level comparable to similar programs.

NOTE: That the motion be amended by the Executive Committee to include the Journalism and MBA Programs.
Whereas the Government of British Columbia appoints students to numerous committees and agencies concerning Postsecondary Education;

Whereas the vast majority of these appointments must occur through a Canadian Federation of Students’ nomination process;

Whereas this process unreasonably excludes the many student associations, including the AMS, who are not members of the Canadian Federation of Students;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the Government of British Columbia to replace its current appointment process with a more equitable, fair and unbiased procedure that will be open to all BC student associations.
Policy Number:
1998-07

Title:
Public funding for APEC complainants

Passed:
July 29, 1998
Expired:
July 29, 2001

Summary:
Supports the right to publicly-funded legal counsel for all individuals appearing before the RCMP Public Complaints Commission.

Whereas on December 3, 1997, AMS Council called for a Public Inquiry into the actions and decisions of the Federal Government, the University and the police that led to the violent actions of November 25, 1997;

Whereas on September 14, 1998, the RCMP Public Complaints Commission hearing is scheduled to begin regarding the events surrounding the 1997 APEC Summit at UBC;

Whereas those individuals filing complaints against the conduct of RCMP officers are without state funding for legal counsel while the RCMP officers have the benefit of eight (8) publicly funded lawyers; and

Whereas on July 20, 1998, Justice Reed of the Federal Court of Canada stated that, “There is considerable support for the proposition... that without state-funded legal representation the complainants/applicants will be at a great disadvantage...”;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the right to publicly-funded legal counsel for all individuals appearing before the RCMP Public Complaints Commission.
Whereas the Prime Minister, according to federal documents released surrounding the RCMP Public Complaints Commission Hearing, took a personal role in directing the RCMP to violate students’ constitutional rights during the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (AELM) held at UBC last November;

Whereas the RCMP PCC’s jurisdiction is to investigate the actions of the police and not the Prime Minister or the federal government; and

Whereas, on December 3, 1997, the AMS called for a public inquiry into the actions and decisions of the Federal Government, the University and the Police that led to the violent actions of November 25, 1997;

Be it resolved that the AMS call for a separate public inquiry into the actions and decisions of the Prime Minister that contributed to the violent actions of November 25, 1997.
Policy Number: 1998-09
Passed: September 16, 1998
Expired: September 16, 2001
Title: Bank mergers and student loan programs

Summary: Opposes proposed bank mergers in Canada, unless federal regulations or statutes ensure that the merged institutions participate in the federal and provincial student loan programs and disclose the costs and other statistics on default and administration of student loans.

Whereas student loan programs, both provincial and federal, are negotiated between banking institutions and the respective governments and a decrease in the number of banking institutions may adversely affect the governments’ bargaining position; and

Whereas in some provinces, such as Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, banks have withdrawn from student loan programs, leaving only one bank providing provincial student loans; and

Whereas reduced competition in the financial services sector may lead to increases in service fees which will cause economic hardship for many UBC students; and

Whereas Canadian banks have continually refused to release figures concerning student loan program administration costs and complete default statistics; and

Whereas many organizations, including the Government of British Columbia, are calling for the federal government to attach significant conditions to any approval of the bank mergers; and

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose bank mergers unless they are accompanied by strict federal regulations or statutes ensuring that the new merged institutions must:
1. Participate in the federal and provincial student loan programs; and
2. Disclose the real costs and statistics surrounding default and administration of student loans.
Whereas private auto insurers price discriminate based on age and sex (uncontrollable variables), while the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) only price discriminates based on an individual’s driving/claims record (controllable variables);

Whereas ICBC as a public insurer concentrates on saving lives and preventing injuries, where private insurers do not see the advantage of dedicating resources to these projects as they are solely motivated by profit;

Whereas ICBC returns over 90% of premiums to British Columbians in claims settlements and services as opposed to private insurers who return only 60 - 70%;

Whereas insurance rates for students could climb by as much as 1000%, and others may be refused insurance in a private system;

Be it resolved that the AMS urge the provincial government to continue the public operation of ICBC.
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<td>Title:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passed:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expired:</td>
<td>November 18, 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary:</td>
<td>Calls on UBC to implement an “Exam Hardship” policy that ensures that students are not required to write more than two exams within a 24 hour period.</td>
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Whereas AMS members should have every opportunity to excel in their studies at UBC; and

Whereas students will be hampered in achieving their academic potential if they have 3 or more exams scheduled within a 24 hour period; and

Whereas exam scheduling is solely within the authority of the university;

Be it resolved that the AMS call upon the university to implement an “Exam Hardship” policy wherein the university must ensure that students are not required to write 3 or more exams within a 24 hour period.
Support for striking nurses in B.C.

Whereas nurses in BC are presently taking strike action, primarily demanding that more nurses be hired;

Whereas if their demands are not met health care in British Columbia will severely suffer; and

Whereas the future employment of all students presently studying for employment in the public health sector is in jeopardy;

Be it resolved that the AMS publicly support British Columbia Nurses in their struggle to improve the province’s health care; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS strike an Ad-Hoc Committee, to provide picket line support to the striking nurses, and allocate $100 from the External and University Lobbying Fund to be spent on coffee and food for those walking the picket line.”
Whereas Four Corners Community Savings provides banking services to low income residents of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, a community traditionally under serviced by existing financial institutions; and

Whereas the AMS has supported student initiatives to forge links with the Downtown Eastside community through Humanities 101; and

Whereas Four Corners Community Savings is currently soliciting deposits from institutions including UBC and Student Associations;

Be it resolved that the AMS publicly support Four Corners Community Savings.
Whereas for many years UBC Sessional Instructors have endured low pay, few if any employment benefits, arbitrary layoffs and exclusion from the Faculty Association;

Whereas a world-class university ought to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all its faculty and staff; and

Whereas a supportive academic environment, fair pay and benefits will help attract and retain the highest quality instructors;

Be it resolved that the AMS support UBC Sessionals in their struggle to attain fair and equitable treatment from the University of British Columbia, both in regards to compensation and job status.
Policy Number: 1999-03
Title: The “Multilateral Agreement on Investment” and postsecondary education
Passed: February 24, 1999
Expired: February 24, 2002

Summary:
Regards public postsecondary education, training and research as necessary areas of Canadian autonomy and directs the AMS and CASA to lobby the appropriate levels of government to ensure that public postsecondary education, training and research be ‘carved out’ from the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and all similar international agreements.

Whereas federal and provincial governments, to varying degrees, administer and deliver public postsecondary education, training and research in Canada;

Whereas the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), in its current form, may allow international organizations and institutions to influence, through funding and competition, Canadian public postsecondary education, training and research; and

Whereas in order to protect Canadian autonomy in public postsecondary education, training and research, they must be ‘carved out’ of the MAI, which would have the effect of exempting such educational sectors in all signatory countries from MAI provisions;

Be it resolved the AMS regard public postsecondary education, training and research to be necessary areas of Canadian autonomy;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the appropriate level of government and request that CASA do the same to ensure that public postsecondary education, training and research be ‘carved out’ from the MAI and all similar international agreements.

NOTE: A large number of documents relating to the negotiations on a proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) between 1995 and 1998 may be found on the following website.
Whereas the contractual relationship between a tenant and a landlord is predictably slanted in favour of the landlord;

Whereas the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) is a legal shield for the tenant and serves, at least in part, to correct this inequality; and

Whereas students who live in UBC residence or illegal suites have few, if any, legal rights under the RTA, and are therefore at the mercy of their landlords;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby for changes to the Residential Tenancy Act, and/or the creation of a new Act, to ensure that all students have the right to safe, secure and affordable housing, including but not limited to:

i. Protection from unreasonable rent increases, eviction or entry by the landlord;
ii. Reasonable and written notice regarding rent increases, eviction or entry by the landlord;
iii. The protective legal measures available to all other tenants, including remedies currently available under the Residential Tenancy Act.
 Whereas all citizens should have a right to an equitable, democratically elected municipal governing body;

 Whereas, currently, there is no municipal government representing the interests of residents who live in the Point Grey region of Electoral Area ‘A’;

 Whereas due, in part, to UBC’s plan to develop much of its remaining endowment lands, the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs has convened a governance study for this region; and

 Whereas many of the proposed models of governance being considered would place students in an untenable position by marginalizing or limiting their democratic rights;

 Be it resolved that the AMS support the principle of a democratically elected municipal governing body for the residents who live in the Point Grey region of Electoral Area ‘A’, provided however that the structure of such a municipal governing body ensures that:

 1) All students who live in the region are considered full members of the municipality; and

 2) Students’ electoral rights are equal and identical in all ways to those of other members of the municipality if such students meet the requirements stipulated in the Municipal Act – BC.
Policy Number: 2000-01

Title: Increased provincial government funding for UBC

Passed: January 12, 2000
Expired: January 12, 2003

Summary: Supports UBC’s lobbying efforts for increased funding for postsecondary education in the B.C. Government’s 2000-2001 budget allocation and directs the AMS to lobby the provincial government with UBC in this regard.

Whereas there is a 5% shortfall in the Provincial Government’s operating grant for post-secondary education

Be it resolved that the AMS support the University’s lobbying efforts for increased funding from the Provincial Government’s 2000/01 budget allocations for Post Secondary Education, and

Be it further resolved that the AMS actively lobby the Provincial Government with the University to obtain budgetary increase for the Post Secondary Education system of BC.
Whereas any long-term plan for the campus region should directly serve the needs of students;

Whereas in July of 1997 the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) passed into law the Official Community Plan for Part of Electoral Area ‘A’ (OCP);

Whereas over 60% of the residents who live in this region are students;

Whereas the AMS played a significant role in the formation of the OCP, and was notably successful in guaranteeing that the University’s development of this region would include meaningful safeguards surrounding issues of the environment, transportation and housing as they related to the needs of students;

Whereas any amendments to the OCP may have the effect of weakening the meaningful safeguards the AMS helped secure; and

Whereas the University has already fallen behind in its obligations as stipulated in the OCP, most notably in the areas of transportation management and student housing;

Be it resolved that the AMS continue to support the Official Community Plan for Part of Electoral Area ‘A’ adopted by the Greater Vancouver Regional District in July of 1997;

Be it further resolved that the AMS actively take part in any public process involving the Official Community Plan for Part of Electoral Area ‘A’, particularly an amendment process, to ensure that the plan continues to directly serve the needs of students; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS actively lobby UBC and the GVRD to ensure that the meaningful safeguards surrounding issues of the environment, transportation and housing stipulated in the Official Community Plan for Part of Electoral Area ‘A’ are strictly adhered to by UBC.
Whereas University officials have developed a policy for the Board of Governors concerning the manner in which tuition fees are to be levied on students;

Whereas this proposal advocates institution-based tuition decisions, significant increases in tuition for some, if not all, students and program based tuition calculations;

Whereas the AMS currently has policies opposing institution-based tuition decisions and increases in tuition beyond the rate of inflation;

Whereas the consequences of a program-based tuition system are largely unknown and may lead to significant inequalities between students and may restrict access to some programs based upon a student’s ability to pay; and

Whereas the principles of program-based tuition systems contravene the principle of interdisciplinary emphasized in the UBC Academic Plan;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the implementation of any university policy advocating significant increases in tuition, institution-based tuition decisions, and/or program-based tuition calculations.
Supports a class time shift at UBC that might significantly improve the AMS’s bargaining position with TransLink regarding the implementation of a universal bus pass.

Whereas the implementation of an affordable and fairly negotiated universal bus pass would benefit a great number of AMS members; and

Whereas the AMS has been working towards that goal for the past 3 years;

Whereas the success of such a pass will require the purchase of approximately 30% more buses for UBC routes;

Whereas the proposed shift in class times would reduce the need for more buses at a cost savings of $1.5 million;

Whereas such savings would significantly improve our bargaining position with TransLink;

Be it resolved that the AMS support, in principle, the class time shift as follows: one third of 8:30 classes to shift to 8:00, the remaining two thirds of 8:30 classes to shift to 9:00; all remaining classes would change to start on the hour; if approved, this shift would be effective September 2001;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the University to consult with all parties affected by this change, and to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the negative effects of this shift (if any) are mitigated as thoroughly as possible.
Whereas student representation on the University’s Board of Governors (BoG) is an essential means to ensuring student input into the decision making process of the University;

Whereas student representatives on the BoG are only elected for a one year term, and the timing of that term ought to be structured in such a way as to allow them to be as effective as possible; and

Whereas the BoG adopts a budget for the University at its meeting in March, which is usually the first meeting for newly elected student representatives, making it very challenging for them to fully understand the process or implications involved with such a significant decision:

Be it resolved that the AMS supports a change in the current term of office for student BoG representatives so that the March meeting is the last meeting of their term, and not the first.
Policy Number: 2000-06

Passed:
September 27, 2000

Expired:
September 27, 2003

Title:
Funding for TransLink’s Strategic Transportation Plan

Summary:
Supports the “Variable vehicle levy based on pollution” and the “Transfer of federal fuel tax” to fund TransLink’s recently completed Strategic Transportation Plan and directs the VP External Affairs to inform TransLink of this position.

Whereas TransLink has recently completed its Strategic Transportation Plan and is now seeking public input on how to pay for the significant road and transit improvements the plan outlines;

Whereas several different funding options have been identified to produce the required funding;

Whereas certain options may better serve UBC students than others;

Whereas UBC is the number two commuter destination in the Lower Mainland; and

Whereas the AMS represents one of TransLink’s main user groups, that is, UBC students;

Be it resolved that the AMS support funding options “Variable vehicle levy based on pollution” and the “Transfer of federal fuel tax”;

Be it further resolved that the AMS VP External Affairs formally contact TransLink and inform them of this position.
Whereas TransLink recently completed its public consultation process regarding funding options for the Strategic Transportation Plan (STP);

Whereas TransLink staff recommended that the Board of Directors implement the “vehicle levy based on weight (pollution)” at its meeting of October 18;

Whereas TransLink has received widespread public criticism for seeking additional funds from the public and has deferred its decision until its meeting on November 9;

Whereas the Board may respond to public pressure and reject the levy altogether;

Whereas without a committed source of funding, TransLink would be unable to implement the STP, and would be forced to significantly reduce service;

Whereas the failure of the levy would make a U-Trek Program extremely unlikely, and greatly inconvenience many AMS members who use transit;

Be it resolved that Council reaffirm its support for increased TransLink funding, and actively lobby TransLink Board members to achieve this goal.
Whereas the AMS has been negotiating, in good faith, with the University for a U-Trek Program for two and a half years;

Whereas the AMS has made numerous proposals and concessions in an effort to see the program go forward, including:

- Endorsing the class time shift;
- Publicly supporting the TransLink vehicle levy (one of the few groups in the GVRD to do so);
- Proposing and considering a variety of different funding scenarios.

Whereas the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding between UBC and the GVRD commits UBC to the following goals:

- UBC will pursue the GVRD’s goal of reducing SOVs [single-occupancy vehicles] by 20%
- UBC will pursue goal of increasing transit ridership to UBC by 20% by fall 1999
- UBC shall be the lead agency in the implementation of a U-Pass system

Whereas TransLink is prepared to implement a U-Trek Program in September 2001, providing they remain revenue neutral;

Whereas little progress has been made with respect to an increased financial commitment from UBC;

Be it resolved that AMS Council direct the VP External Affairs to inform the GVRD Board of Directors of the status of the U-Trek negotiations and request that the GVRD work with the AMS to encourage UBC to commit meaningful financial resources to the U-Trek Program and thus fulfill its obligations under the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding.
Policy Number: 2000-09

Title: Academic policies (omnibus)

Passed: November 22, 2000
Expired: November 22, 2003

Summary:
Omnibus motion enacting academic policies in the following areas: academic concession, religious holidays, teaching evaluations, cancellation of classes, allocation of space for students in required courses, prohibiting the deregistration of students, flexible courses of study, information technology services, admissions, examination scheduling, senate appeals on academic standing, removing financial barriers to education and research grant applications.

Academic Concession

Whereas students may develop medical, emotional or other problems which may adversely affect their attendance or academic performance; and

Whereas the current University policy on academic concession states that students suffering from such problems may be granted certain concessions, but only as a privilege and not a right;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society support the right of students suffering from such problems not to be penalized academically for circumstances beyond their control; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to amend their policy on academic concession to guarantee students the right not to be penalized academically under such circumstances.

Religious Holidays

Whereas religious diversity exists in the University community and contributes to the university experience; and

Whereas it is not desirable that students be expected to attend classes or write examinations on their holy days;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society supports the University policy recognizing the right of students to absent themselves without penalty on their holy days.

Teaching Evaluations

Whereas high quality teaching is important for preparing students academically;

Whereas teaching evaluations are a widely recognized way of ensuring that teaching is of high quality;
Whereas the publication of summary results based on teaching evaluations provides a valuable resource to students, enabling them to make better informed choices of which courses to take;

Whereas the University, in the Calendar and in Senate resolutions, has recognized the importance of teaching evaluations, has ordered them to be conducted and their results published, and has directed that they be taken into consideration in decisions concerning hiring, tenure, and promotion; and

Whereas these University policies are not being carried out in all cases;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to enforce its policies on teaching evaluations by: (a) requiring that teaching evaluations be conducted in every course every year; (b) making the results from these evaluations available, annually and in a timely manner, to students and their representatives for viewing and publication; and (c) seriously considering the results of these evaluations in making decisions about hiring, tenure, and promotion; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to provide professional development opportunities for its faculty members to ensure high quality teaching.

Cancellation of Classes

Whereas the cancellation or interruption of classes may cause hardship to students; and

Whereas the University currently accepts no responsibility for such a cancellation or interruption;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to accept some responsibility in such cases by (a) providing advice on what options may be available to students unable to take a cancelled course; (b) making sure that no student is penalized academically because of an extended interruption of a course; and (c) providing refunds where appropriate.

Allocation of Space for Students in Required Courses

Whereas admission to the University does not guarantee space in any course;

Whereas students are being at least temporarily denied entrance to courses that are part of their program requirements, which could force them to delay completion of their programs; and

Whereas there is already a University policy requiring that space be created for graduating students in courses they must take to fulfill their degree program requirements;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to extend this policy in order to ensure that all students are admitted at the appropriate time into all courses that are part of
their program requirements, as long as they have met the required standards to remain in the program.

**Prohibiting the Deregistration of Students**

Whereas University policy requires that space be created for graduating students in courses they must take to fulfill their degree program requirements;

Whereas there is currently no University policy prohibiting the deregistration of non-graduating students when creating space for graduating students; and

Whereas there are reports that non-graduating students are being forced to withdraw from courses to make room for graduating students, even after instruction has begun;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to adopt a policy stating that no student should be forced out of a course to make room for another student.

**Flexible Courses of Study**

Whereas in an increasingly complex world it is desirable to provide students with flexible study options;

Whereas the University offers some such options, such as Co-operative Education programs, Exchange programs, Distance Education programs, inter-disciplinary study options in which students can design their own programs, and minor options in certain programs; and

Whereas minor options are rarely available in certain other programs;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to continue offering flexible study options and to increase the number of such options; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to offer more minor options to students in all programs.

**Information Technology Services**

Whereas the University’s increased reliance on Web-based learning means that students are required to access an increasing amount of course material on-line;

Whereas not all students have personal computers or Internet access;

Whereas students receive a limited number of free dial-in hours through Netinfo; and

Whereas students may encounter technical problems when accessing material on-line;
Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to increase the number of public access terminals in order to meet the needs of students who may not have their own computers or Internet access;

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to increase the number of free hours of Netinfo access so that students can fulfill their course requirements without having to purchase additional dial-in hours; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to ensure that sufficient resources are devoted to technical support in order to meet the needs of students who encounter technical problems with accessing course material.

Admissions

Whereas academic criteria currently form the basis of admission for the majority of applicants to the University; and

Whereas the mission statement of the Alma Mater Society requires the Society to improve the quality of students’ social and personal life, and not just their academic life; and

Whereas social and personal life on campus might be improved if students were admitted in part on the basis of non-academic criteria, as this might increase the diversity of experiences on campus;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to consider, in addition to academic criteria, which should remain paramount, non-academic criteria (including but not limited to community service, athletic activities, and work experience) in the admissions process.

Examination Scheduling

Whereas some programs with set schedules require students to take certain courses concurrently;

Whereas examinations in these courses are sometimes scheduled close in time to each other; and

Whereas if there were more time between such examinations, students would be better able to prepare for them;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to schedule examinations for concurrently required courses so that there is more time between those examinations.

Senate Appeals on Academic Standing
Whereas current University policy on academic appeals states that in case of a tie vote in the Senate Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing, the appeal of the student shall be dismissed; and

Whereas a tie vote would indicate a high level of doubt among the committee members; and

Whereas if there is such a high level of doubt, it would be unfair to penalize a student;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to amend its policy on academic appeals so that in the event of a tie, the decision is in favour of the student.

Removing Financial Barriers to Education

Whereas some students who qualify for admission to the University may not have sufficient funding to attend; and

Whereas it is unfair that such students may not be able to receive the benefits of a post-secondary education;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University and the relevant levels of government to ensure that sufficient funding is provided through scholarships, bursaries, and loans to enable such students to attend the University.

Research Grant Applications

Whereas research grants can make it possible for students to focus their energies on their research projects without having to diffuse their energies by seeking other sources of funding; and

Whereas students may not be aware of the existence of research grants, and may not be familiar with the procedures to follow in applying for them;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to a) provide information to students about relevant research grants, and b) assist them in the application process.
Whereas the AMS is committed to a campus that promotes the personal safety of all students and removes barriers to the full participation of all students regardless of disability;

Be it resolved that the AMS state its commitment to a safe and barrier-free campus and oppose any budgetary decisions by the University that sacrifice safety and/or accessibility.
Whereas the provincial government has previously forced the University to accept a mandated productivity increase, which meant an increase in enrollment without an increase in funding;

Whereas said action was similar to a cut in funding because the ratio of dollars to students declined;

Whereas said financial cutbacks would place the quality of education at the University of British Columbia at risk;

Whereas the effects of a government mandated productivity increase would be in contravention of the spirit of the University Act; and

Whereas the University would be forced into making decisions pertaining to enrollment based upon financial instead of legitimate academic pressures;

Be it resolved that the AMS consider both high-quality student learning and access to be essential qualities for any public educational institution; and that the AMS is opposed to sacrificing one for the other.
Title:
Third party negotiations by UBC

Summary:
Encourages UBC to include the AMS in all relevant negotiations with third parties where the outcome of said negotiations could, directly or indirectly, have a significant effect upon the AMS membership or its activities.

Whereas the Alma Mater Society is an autonomous entity in law, created under the authority of the Society Act;

Whereas the University of British Columbia is an autonomous entity in law, created under the authority of the University Act;

Whereas the University of British Columbia, from time to time, engages in discussions and negotiations with entities, other than the Alma Mater Society, with the intention of creating contractual agreements;

Whereas such negotiations are often closed to members of the public and the Alma Mater Society; and

Whereas such negotiations often, directly or indirectly, lead to consequences that have an effect upon the Alma Mater Society or its activities;

Be it resolved that the AMS encourage the University to include the AMS in all relevant negotiations with third parties where the outcome of said negotiations could, directly or indirectly, have a significant effect upon the AMS membership or its activities.
Whereas the Human Rights Code of BC prohibits discrimination against a person because of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, class, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, or age of that person;

Whereas it is the AMS’s mission to improve the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of the students of UBC;

Whereas discrimination and/or harassment based upon sexual orientation will impair the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of UBC students;

Whereas the AMS has constituted a Student Resource Group, PRIDE UBC, with a mandate, among other things, to work towards the elimination of discrimination against a person based upon sexual orientation; and

Whereas the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, does not specifically declare protection from discrimination and/or harassment based upon sexual orientation;

Be it resolved that the AMS strive to ensure that its members are free from discrimination and/or harassment based upon their sexual orientation.

NOTE: Council directs the President of the Society to inform the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations in writing of Council’s Decision.
Whereas a provincial election must be called by the end of June;

Whereas it is important that postsecondary education be included in party platforms and election debates;

Whereas it is important that a new Provincial Government understand postsecondary education and student issues; and

Whereas the External Commission is currently developing a strategy to inform and lobby all provincial political parties on tuition policy, core funding, research and student financial assistance;

Be it resolved that Council approve the following principles as a foundation for said strategy:

**Tuition Policy**

**Principle 1**
The Alma Mater Society should commit itself to working with the University, student societies and the appropriate levels of government in developing a long-term, cohesive tuition and funding strategy for post-secondary education. A multi-year strategy should provide guarantees of funding levels for universities, and tuition fee levels for students, in order to allow students to plan financially for their education.

**Principle 2**
The Alma Mater Society should oppose the implementation of any university policy advocating significant increases in tuition, institution-based tuition decisions, and/or program-based tuition calculations.

**Principle 3**
The Alma Mater Society should oppose any tuition and/or ancillary fee increases which do not maintain accessibility to and the quality of education offered at post-secondary institutions.
Principle 4
The Alma Mater Society should oppose the implementation of differential tuition fees for out-of-province students. Such fees are discriminatory and in opposition to the guarantee of portability of services as provided for in the Canadian Constitution.

Principle 5
The Alma Mater Society should continue to advocate tuition as a matter of public policy regulated by provincial legislation as opposed to a matter determined at the University’s discretion.

Principle 6
The Alma Mater Society should assist in the development of legislation which would introduce province-wide standards for tuition fee levels and funding levels. As such, the Alma Mater Society should support both student representation on the legislative committees concerning post-secondary education policy-making, and a fair and equitable appointment process to said committees.

Core Funding

Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society should support the University’s lobbying efforts for increased funding from the Provincial Government’s 2001/2002 budget allocations for post-secondary education. The Alma Mater Society should also actively lobby the Provincial Government with the University to obtain budgetary increases for the post-secondary education system of British Columbia.

Principle 2
The Alma Mater Society should actively lobby the Government of British Columbia with the University to provide additional funds for increasing the number of post secondary education spaces in BC. The creation of additional student access spaces should bring degree output to levels comparable to that of the average of the other provinces. These spaces must not compromise the existing quality of education in BC and must expand access to quality education.

And furthermore to increase degree outputs to levels that meet the demands of growth in the various sectors of BC and the needs of the population.

Research

Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society should call on the Government of British Columbia to position itself to secure a full and appropriate share of national research funding, as well as to contribute to the BC Knowledge Development Fund.
**Principle 2**
The Alma Mater Society should call on the Government of British Columbia to provide additional research funds in proportion to, or a percentage of, the amount of federal research grants received by BC researchers.

**Principle 3**
The Alma Mater Society should call on the Government of British Columbia to support funding measures which enhance the innovative capacity of BC’s research community, with the goal of making BC the leading research university sector in Canada.

**Student Financial Assistance**

**Principle 1**
The Alma Mater Society should lobby the University to ensure that any tuition increase is accompanied by a percentage of said increase being put into needs-based, financial assistance. This should be in addition to the base level of assistance currently in place based on existing tuition levels.

**Principle 2**
The Alma Mater Society should call on the University and the relevant levels of government to ensure that sufficient funding is available through scholarships, bursaries and loans to allow qualified students access to post-secondary education.
Policy Number: 2001-06

Title: Greek Letter Societies

Passed: February 7, 2001
Expired: February 7, 2004

Summary:
Supports the relocation of the Greek Letter Societies onto campus land so long as their residential facilities not be considered as new residential units under UBC’s OCP obligations. The same motion was passed by Council on January 21, 1998.

Whereas UBC student groups and associations, including non-AMS organizations, improve the quality of the social and personal lives of our members;

Whereas the University, within its East Campus Project, envisions moving all the Greek Letter Societies onto campus land; and

Whereas the Greek Letter Societies offer many UBC students affordable student housing and a social community away from home;

Be it resolved that the AMS strive to ensure that all UBC students, either individually or within groups or associations, are treated fairly and equitably by the UBC administration;

Be it further resolved that opportunities be made for other student organizations to develop alternative housing on campus; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS support the relocation of the Greek Letter Societies, pending their approval, onto campus land with the understanding that such relocation not constitute new residential units under UBC’s OCP obligations.
Whereas the Vancouver-Whistler Bid Corporation has won the Canadian bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics;

Whereas the Bid Corporation has invited the University to host an Olympic Athlete’s Village;

Whereas said village would create minimal disruptions to both residence life and the academic school year;

Whereas there are renovation and development opportunities for the Student Union Building associated with holding the games;

Whereas there are opportunities for adding and improving student residences and sporting venues on campus associated with hosting the games;

Whereas all renovations, additions, and improvements to student facilities will be funded without the use of AMS funds;

Whereas the 2010 Olympic bid is consistent with and supports the TREK 2000 Mission statement;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society support the 2010 Vancouver/Whistler Olympic Bid.
Whereas TransLink has announced a significant annual budgetary shortfall as a result of the failure to implement a variable vehicle levy;

Whereas said budgetary shortfall has prompted both a region-wide transportation review and a five (5) million dollar service reduction affecting several UBC routes and hours of operation;

Whereas both current and anticipated future service reductions will negatively affect the UBC student population;

Whereas the Alma Mater Society (AMS) currently has policies supporting the variable vehicle levy and an increase in TransLink funding;

Whereas participation in the region-wide transportation review affords the opportunity to shape the transportation structure in the Greater Vancouver Regional District;

Therefore, be it resolved that the AMS actively participate in the region-wide stakeholder consultations designed to provide viable alternatives to further service reductions and/or eliminations;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby TransLink to preserve existing levels of service on UBC routes in the face of a multi-year budgetary shortfall.
Policy Number: 2001-09

Passed: November 21, 2001
Expired: November 21, 2004

Title: First job/Training wage policy

Summary:
Asks the B.C. government to rescind the newly enacted “training wage” and restore a minimum wage applicable to all workers regardless of the number of hours already worked.

Whereas the Province introduced on November 15, 2001 a first job rate or “training wage” of $6 dollars per hour to be applied to the first 500 hours of an individual’s employment;

Whereas said wage is designed to reduce youth unemployment by giving employers an incentive to hire young, inexperienced workers;

Whereas the new “training wage” effectively creates a two-tiered minimum wage structure that contravenes the principle of equal pay for equal work;

Whereas the original rationale for the establishment of a provincial minimum wage was to guarantee an appropriate entry-level wage, the introduction of a reduced minimum “training wage” is therefore redundant.

Whereas the rules governing the new “training wage” are potentially subject to abuse by those employers who might take advantage of a cheap labour pool for the sole purpose of reducing operating costs;

Whereas the new “training wage” can negatively affect student workers by undermining job security, reducing earnings and savings, and potentially increasing student debt;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the AMS lobby both the Ministry of Skills Development and Labour and the Ministry of Advanced Education to rescind the “training wage” and restore a minimum wage applicable to all workers regardless of levels of experience.
Policy Number:
2002-01

Title:
Exam hardship

Passed:
January 9, 2002

Expired:
January 9, 2005

Summary:
Supports UBC’s examination hardship policy, which states that students are not expected to write more than two exams in a 24 hour period. A similar policy was passed in November 2001.

Whereas AMS members should be afforded every opportunity to achieve academic excellence in their studies at the University of British Columbia;

Whereas the scheduling of 3 or more exams within a 24-hour period hampers the ability of students to achieve their full academic potential, thereby constituting an “exam hardship”; 

Whereas the Alma Mater Society has policy calling upon the University to implement an “exam hardship policy;” and 

Whereas the University now maintains an examination hardship policy which accepts the aforementioned definition of “exam hardship” and provides rescheduling opportunities in the event of an “exam hardship”;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society support the University’s examination hardship policy to ensure that students are not required to write 3 or more exams within a 24-hour period.
Whereas the University is considering amendments to Policy #67 concerning measures to increase fines collection for parking violations;

Whereas the proposed amendments would deny access to registration and/or transcripts in the event a student has three or more outstanding parking fines;

Whereas the proposed amendments tie academic pursuits to a non-academic service and would allow an ancillary service to impose academic sanctions;

Whereas the implementation of the proposed amendments could have detrimental effects on students, such as hindering students’ graduate applications and their transition to the workforce, or prolonging degree completion; and

Whereas the proposed amendments would unfairly target students without penalizing faculty and staff, and fail to provide a transparent appeals process, a mechanism for student consultation, or communications provisions;

Therefore, be it resolved that the AMS oppose any University policy which allows UBC Parking Services, to impose academic sanctions; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the University to explore alternative means of maximizing enforcement revenue for UBC Parking Services, such means to contain the following provisions:

1. Universal application to all members of the UBC community;
2. Effective communication mechanisms;
3. A transparent appeals process;
4. Student consultation.
Policy Number:
2002-03

Title:
UBC revenue and fiscal responsibility policy

Passed:
February 6, 2002
Expired:
February 6, 2005

Summary:
Encourages UBC to demonstrate its accountability, its fiscal responsibility and its dedication to both the quality and accessibility of education by communicating with students in a timely and meaningful manner, in particular on questions related to tuition and fees, the budget and quality of education.

Whereas the Trek 2000 vision statement of the University of British Columbia states that the University is “committed to maintaining the highest standards of teaching, learning, research and service”; and

Whereas Trek 2000 also states that the University “recognizes that it must be accountable to those who use [its] services, participate in [its] processes, share in [its] governance, and provide [its] revenues”; and

Whereas students contribute a significant proportion of the University’s revenues through tuition fees;

Be it resolved that AMS Council encourage the University to demonstrate its accountability, its fiscal responsibility and its dedication to both the quality and accessibility of education, through the following means:

1. Timely and meaningful communication with students regarding developments in tuition and fee policy;
2. Providing full and unfettered access for the AMS to the University’s budgetary statements;
3. Exploring all possible sources of revenue and conducting University operations in as efficient and cost-effective manner as possible while simultaneously pursuing the goal of attracting and retaining the best faculty and staff;
4. Ensuring that any review of tuition fee levels is accompanied by demonstrable improvements in the quality of education and in the level of student financial assistance at UBC.
Whereas the University may regard ancillary fees as a means of increasing revenue from students without increasing tuition;

Whereas the University has increased ancillary fees in the past without prior student consultation, such as the 407% increase in the Athletics and Recreation Fee since the fee’s creation in 1985;

Whereas several Ontario universities have established ancillary fee protocols with student unions following the Ontario provincial government’s directive that University administrations gain student approval prior to levying compulsory, non-tuition fees;

Whereas ancillary fees currently do not share the same tax deduction status as tuition fees;

Whereas the University lacks official policy on introducing, increasing or altering ancillary fees;

Whereas the University should demonstrate the same respect for students in creating or increasing ancillary fees as the AMS does in creating or increasing AMS fees; and

Whereas Policy 71 approved by the Board of Governors in 1994 requires the Administration to meaningfully consult with students about tuition fee increases, setting a precedent for consulting with students about fees;

Be it resolved that the AMS encourage the University to demonstrate its accountability through the development of a protocol prescribing the procedure to be followed when creating, increasing, or altering ancillary fees; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS support, in principle, the concept that all compulsory ancillary fees paid by students to attend a post-secondary education institution share the same tax status as tuition fees and be deductible from students’ income tax.

**Definition:** For the purposes of this policy, compulsory ancillary fees shall mean fees imposed or administered by the university or one of its constituent parts or federated or affiliated institutions, in addition to regular tuition fees, which a student is required to pay in order to enrol in, or successfully complete, any credit course.
Whereas basic human rights (including but not limited to the freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of association) are important for the academic and social experience of students; and

Whereas members of the AMS represent a broad spectrum of cultures and backgrounds and have voiced concerns about the state of human rights around the world; and

Whereas Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the international standard of Human Rights as defined by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
Policy Number: 2002-06
Passed: June 5, 2002
Expired: June 5, 2005
Title: Enrolment policy

Summary: Calls on the University to develop a clear and comprehensive enrolment policy that adequately balances the financial needs of the University with the social and academic interests of students.

Whereas the University plans to increase total enrolment by an additional 591 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) spaces above the provincially funded levels for 2002-2003;

Whereas the University increased the total enrolment by 1510 FTE spaces above the provincially funded levels in 2001-2002;

Whereas last year’s increase resulted in overcrowding in student residences, increased pressure on University and AMS services, and a lack of space in University courses;

Whereas the University has no enrolment policy which adequately balances its financial needs with the social and academic needs of students;

Whereas the Trek 2000 vision statement of the University of British Columbia says that the University is “committed to maintaining the highest standards of teaching, learning, research and service”;

Whereas Trek 2000 also states that the University “recognizes that it must be accountable to those who use [its] services, participate in [its] processes, share in [its] governance, and provide [its] revenues”; and

Whereas recent enrolment practices place the quality of education at UBC at risk;

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to develop a clear and comprehensive enrolment policy that adequately balances the financial needs of the University with the social and academic interests of students.

Be it further resolved that said policy acknowledges that enrolment numbers should not exceed the number of provincially funded FTEs;

And be it further resolved that in the event that enrolment numbers increase beyond the amount of provincial funding available, the University must consult with the AMS on the best means of ensuring that the needs of students will be met in this situation. In particular, the University must ensure that:

a) Students are able to enrol in the courses required for their programs;
b) There is no overcrowding in student residences; and

c) There is sufficient funding for University services.
Policy Number:
2002-07

Title:
Millennium Scholarship Foundation research

Passed:
October 9, 2002
Expired:
October 9, 2005

Summary:
Questions one of the conclusions of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's publication The Price of Knowledge, namely that there is no observable relationship between tuition and overall participation rates in postsecondary institutions and calls upon the foundation to conduct further research using current data and survey results on factors affecting accessibility.

Whereas the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) currently distributes bursaries to thousands of Canadian students in financial need through a publicly funded endowment;

Whereas the MSF recently produced the report, The Price of Knowledge, which examines the factors affecting decisions to attend post-secondary education, the socio-economic profile of the student population, and the forms and levels of financial assistance available to students;

Whereas, although the report beneficially acknowledges the need for reform of student financial aid policies and increasing federal investment in post-secondary education, as well as the actual average student debt level, it also concludes that there is no readily observable relationship between tuition and overall participation rates, thereby misleadingly implying that tuition levels are not barriers to accessibility;

Whereas, this misleading conclusion is based on data arising from a 1991 survey of 18-20 year old school-leavers, thereby neglecting the true impact of tuition increases on accessibility during the last decade; and

Whereas, Statistics Canada has recently produced research demonstrating that tuition levels are barriers to access, since students from families in the highest income group are more than 2.5 times as likely to attend university than those from families in the lowest income group;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society condemn the Price of Knowledge conclusion that there is no observable relationship between tuition and overall participation rates;

Be it further resolved that the AMS Council call upon the Millennium Scholarship Foundation to conduct further research on factors affecting accessibility using current data and survey results.

NOTE (2012-05-29): Four editions of The Price of Knowledge were published before the Millennium Scholarship Foundation ceased its activities in 2009.
Policy Number:  
2002-08

Title:  
Accessibility and financial assistance

Passed:  
October 23, 2002
Expired:  
October 23, 2005

Summary:  
Calls on UBC to adopt a new Accessibility Policy stating that no qualified domestic student shall be denied the opportunity to attend the university solely for financial reasons and that at least 15% of the additional revenue derived from increases in tuition fees be directed towards student financial assistance.

Whereas the University formerly had a policy on tuition (Policy 72) which stated that qualified students would not be denied access to UBC solely for financial reasons;

Whereas Policy 72 also committed the University to spending a significant proportion of the revenue derived from increases in tuition fees on financial assistance to students in need;

Whereas the University repealed Policy 72 last July;

Whereas, as the University itself acknowledged in a principle endorsed by its Board of Governors in 1991, it is important to ensure accessibility to UBC for qualified domestic students;

Whereas the University is now refusing to incorporate a statement on accessibility into its Policy 71, the policy on tuition consultation; and

Whereas financial assistance is essential to ensure that students in need can attend UBC;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to adopt a new Accessibility Policy including the following two points:
   a) That no qualified domestic student shall be denied the opportunity to attend the University of British Columbia solely for financial reasons; and
   b) That the University shall ensure that at least 15 to 20 percent of any revenue derived from increases in tuition fees shall be directed towards student financial assistance.

NOTE (2012-06-13): A new version of Policy 72 was adopted by UBC's Board of Governors in July 2004 (and revised in June 2005). Point a) of the motion was placed in the first sentence of the first paragraph of Policy 72, but no mention was made about how the new policy would be financed.
Whereas all citizens should have a right to an equitable, democratically elected municipal governing body;

Whereas, currently, there is no municipal government representing the interests of residents who live in the Point Grey region of Electoral Area ‘A’;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the principle of a democratically elected municipal governing body for the residents who live in the Point Grey region of Electoral Area ‘A’, provided however that the structure of such a municipal governing body ensures that:

1) All students who live in the region are considered full members of the municipality; and

2) Students’ electoral rights are equal and identical in all ways to those of other members of the municipality if such students meet the requirements stipulated in the *Local Government Act -BC*. 
Summary:
Calls upon UBC to guarantee that any proposed tuition increase include demonstrable improvements in the quality of education and in the level of student financial assistance and ensure adequate review by students by presenting proposed tuition adjustments in a comprehensive and timely format.

Whereas the University Administration has developed a tuition proposal advocating significant tuition increases for the second time within the 2002/2003 academic year;

Whereas the University Administration’s tuition proposal neither contains a detailed justification for the tuition increase nor outlines specific allocations for any new tuition revenue;

Whereas the tuition proposal was devised prior to the completion of any reports outlining any of the following: savings from improvements in operational efficiencies; the impact of tuition on financial aid usage; and assessments of departmental improvements in learning;

Whereas such information would explain the actual need for a tuition increase; and

Whereas the AMS has called upon the University to provide a comprehensive and quantitative rationale for any tuition increases in a timely manner, which would permit adequate consultation and review by AMS Council and students at large;

Therefore, be it resolved that the AMS call upon the University to guarantee that any tuition adjustment proposal include demonstrable improvements in the quality of education and in the level of student financial assistance at UBC;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call upon the University to present any tuition adjustment proposal information in a comprehensive and timely format which ensures adequate review by the student community.
Summary:
Asks UBC to extend the consultation period on the University Boulevard Development plan to the end of 2003, to ensure a meaningful dialog with the student population. Directs the AMS to advocate for a plan that includes affordable student housing as a key component, creates a pedestrian focused entrance way to the campus and preserves or creates green and student spaces.

Whereas the University is planning to re-develop the University Boulevard entrance to the campus as part of the University’s Official Community Plan;

Whereas students, faculty and residential stakeholders have expressed grave reservations about the University’s plan;

Whereas the aspects of the University’s plan that have given rise to these concerns include, but are not limited to, the introduction of high-rise market housing on campus, the development of the University Boulevard as a through fare, the construction of an underground bus loop, and the general commercialization of the campus academic core; and

Whereas the University plans to submit its final draft of the University Boulevard Development Plan for consultation with stakeholders in June 2003, a time when few students are available for consultation, with approval by the Board of Governors scheduled for July 2003;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the Administration to postpone any decision on the plan and extend the consultation period for six (6) months to ensure meaningful consultation with the student population;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the University to address the stakeholders’ concerns about the plan by ensuring that the plan:

- Includes affordable student housing as a key component;
- Creates a pedestrian focused entrance way to the campus;
- Preserves and creates green and student space.
<table>
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<th>Summary:</th>
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<td>Endorses the UBC Farm as an educational and community focused asset of the University and commits the AMS to lobbying the university to ensure that the Farm remains an integral learning and community component of the South Campus neighbourhood.</td>
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Whereas the University of British Columbia (UBC) Farm currently provides a range of research and problem-based learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at UBC;

Whereas the UBC Farm is a model of sustainability and a key innovative educational tool for the only Agroecology degree program in Canada;

Whereas the UBC Farm is a component of the food supply chain at UBC, supplying local produce to the Alma Mater Society, UBC Food Services and several colleges on campus;

Whereas the Farm is a focal point of the South Campus community in which it provides local produce, volunteer opportunities, and activities for students, staff and residents, and retains the potential for expansion in these areas; and

Whereas the South Campus development plan according to the Official Community Plan currently excludes the Farm in its vision of future developments;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse the UBC Farm as an educational and community focused asset of the University;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the University to ensure that the Farm remains an integral learning and community component of the South Campus neighbourhood.
Policy Number: 2003-04

Title: Tuition consultation

Passed: October 29, 2003

Expired: October 29, 2006

Summary:
Calls on the University to further its commitment to tuition fee consultation and fee policy development by asking the Dean of each faculty to consult with the appropriate student association, provide a rationale and detailed description on how tuition dollars are allocated and, should tuition be raised, demonstrate improvements in the quality of education.

Whereas the TREK 2000 vision statement of the University of British Columbia states that the University “recognizes that it must be accountable to those who use [its] services, participate in [its] processes, share in [its] governance, and provide [its] revenues”;

Whereas students contribute a significant proportion of the University’s revenues through tuition fees;

Whereas the University’s Policy 71 on consultation acknowledges that the student leadership should be given the reasons for tuition fee adjustments;

Whereas the faculty deans play a significant role in shaping tuition proposals, levels and allocations; and

Whereas the faculty student associations communicate with, and represent the interests of students on tuition-based issues;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to further its commitment to tuition fee consultation and fee policy development by:

a) Mandating the Dean of each faculty to meaningfully consult with the student association of that faculty on tuition increases and allocations;

b) Mandating the Dean of each faculty to provide a rationale and detailed description to the respective student associations on how tuition dollars are allocated in their faculty;

c) Ensuring that the Dean of each faculty can demonstrate improvements in the quality of education should any review of tuition take place.
Whereas the Alma Mater Society (AMS) is an autonomous entity in law created under the authority of the Society Act; and

Whereas the University of British Columbia is an autonomous entity in law created under the authority of the University Act; and

Whereas the University of British Columbia engages in discussion and negotiations with third party entities, from time to time, with the intention of creating contractual negotiations;

Whereas such negotiations are often closed to members of the Society; and

Whereas such negotiations often lead to contracts or agreements that directly or indirectly impact the Alma Mater Society’s activities and its membership;

Therefore, be it resolved that the AMS encourage the University to include the AMS in all relevant negotiations with third parties where the outcome of said negotiations could directly or indirectly have a significant impact on the activities or membership of the Society.”
Policy Number: 2004-02

Title:
Mandated productivity increases

Summary:
Opposes government mandated enrolment increases at UBC unless they are fully funded by the Province and mandates the AMS to join UBC in actively lobbying the Province to ensure that the quality and accessibility of education is maintained by increasing the province’s core operating grant.

Whereas the provincial government has previously mandated increases in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment at British Columbia universities without increases in core operating grants;

Whereas mandated productivity increases are the equivalent of cuts in core funding as they reduce the level of funding dollars available per student;

Whereas the provincial government has mandated an increase of 751 FTEs at the University of British Columbia for the 2004/05 year while simultaneously reducing the University’s operating grant by $10.6 million for the same year;

Whereas the operating shortfall and the mandated productivity increase at UBC will force the University to make decisions pertaining to enrolment based on financial pressures instead of for legitimate academic reasons; and

Whereas the operating shortfall and the mandated productivity increase will place pressure on the University to increase tuition levels to maintain the quality of education at UBC;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose any mandated increases in enrolment at UBC unless they are fully funded by the Province; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS join the University in actively lobbying the Province to ensure that the quality and accessibility of education at UBC is maintained through provincial increases to the core operating grant.
Whereas exams often constitute up to 50% or more of a student’s final course grade;

Whereas there are increasing pressures on students to achieve higher grades to compete for future opportunities;

Whereas densely clustered exams can be an impediment to student achievement, especially when required course exams are grouped together; and

Whereas amending the definition of ‘exam hardship’ to be three or more examinations scheduled within a 36-hour period and moving to a system of program influenced exam scheduling will alleviate some of the aforementioned impediments to student success;

Be it resolved that AMS Council support (in principle) the Student Senate Caucus in its initiatives for exam schedule and policy reform as proposed in the Proposal For Academic Policy Reform on Exam Hardships recently submitted to Senate.
Summary:
Calls on UBC to use tuition increases to improve financial aid, bursaries and employment-based learning options supporting the unmet need for post-baccalaureate students, but opposes the use of commercial and institutionally negotiated loans to do so. Directs the AMS to lobby the provincial government with UBC to develop additional bursary programs to support this group of students.

Whereas the Alma Mater Society has a policy calling on the University to develop a new accessibility policy that enshrines the principle that no qualified domestic student shall be denied the opportunity to attend the University solely for financial reasons;

Whereas University officials have developed a policy for the UBC Board of Governors regarding accessibility and student financial aid;

Whereas the policy contains provisions which place an onerous responsibility on post-baccalaureate students to primarily fund their education through commercial and University-subsidized loans prior to receiving UBC financial aid;

Whereas said provisions may force students to incur massive debt loads, thereby dissuading potentially qualified individuals from pursuing post-baccalaureate studies; and

Whereas the policy does not universally promote accessibility amongst all University programs and potentially precludes post-baccalaureate students from accessing bursaries and employment-based learning;

Be it resolved that the AMS call upon the university to allocate a greater percentage of any above base tuition increase than is currently allocated for post-baccalaureate programs to program-based financial aid; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS call upon the University to fund unmet need for all students through the provision of bursaries and employment-based learning options, and oppose the use of commercial and institutionally negotiated loans to meet unmet need.

Be it further resolved that the AMS actively lobby the provincial government with the University to develop additional bursary programs that target unmet need for post-baccalaureate students.
Academic Concession
Whereas students may develop medical, emotional or other problems that may adversely affect their attendance or academic performance; and

Whereas the current University policy on academic concession states that students suffering from such problems may be granted certain concessions, but only as a privilege and not a right;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society support the right of students suffering from such problems not to be penalized academically for circumstances beyond their control; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the University to amend its policy on academic concession so as to guarantee students the right not to be penalized academically for circumstances beyond their control.

Information about Instructors
Whereas the publication of information about instructors would provide a valuable resource to students, enabling them to make better informed choices of which courses to take;

Whereas it would be useful for such information to include information on instructors’ academic credentials, research interests, publications, and teaching philosophy as well as information drawn from teaching evaluations; and

Whereas the University Administration and the University Senate have formally and informally supported the release of such information about instructors,

Be it resolved that the AMS call upon the University to move forward with establishing a system of centralized access to information on instructors.

Cancellation of Classes
Whereas the cancellation or interruption of classes may cause hardship to students; and

Whereas the University currently has no formal guidelines in place for dealing with such cancellations or interruptions;
Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to develop guidelines to follow in case of course cancellations or interruptions, such guidelines to include requiring the University to (a) provide advice on what options may be available to students unable to take a cancelled course; (b) make sure no student is penalized academically because of an extended interruption of a course; and (c) provide refunds where appropriate.

**Allocation of Space for Students in Required Courses**
Whereas admission to the University does not guarantee space in any course; and

Whereas students have at times been at least temporarily denied entrance to courses that are part of their program requirements, thus delaying completion of their programs; and

Whereas there is already a University policy requiring that space be created for graduating students in courses they must take to fulfill their degree program requirements;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to extend this policy in order to ensure that students are admitted at the appropriate time into any prerequisite for a course they must take to fulfill their degree program requirements, while also committing to reduce class sizes.

**Flexible Courses of Study**
Whereas it is desirable to provide students with flexible study options; and

Whereas the University offers some such options, such as Co-operative Education programs, Exchange programs, Distance Education programs, inter-disciplinary study options in which students can design their own programs, and minor options in certain faculties; and

Whereas minor options are not available in all faculties;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to continue offering flexible study options and to increase the number of such options; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society lobby the University to offer more minor options to students.

**Innovative Learning**
Whereas the AMS supports the right of students to learn through innovative teaching techniques such as community service learning as advocated by the UBC Learning Exchange,

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to accept these new learning techniques as a positive addition to many existing courses and that students be granted equivalent UBC credit for them.
Admissions
Whereas academic criteria currently form the basis of admission for the majority of applicants to the University; and

Whereas additional criteria beyond academic ones may be valuable in evaluating applicants for admission; and

Whereas the Faculties of Commerce and Science have implemented Broader Based Admission policies that incorporate additional criteria beyond the academic,

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to monitor the success of the Broader Based Admission policies and to evaluate whether the University should implement such policies more generally.

Research Grant Applications
Whereas research grants can make it possible for students to focus their energies on their research projects without having to diffuse their energies by seeking other sources of funding; and

Whereas students may not be aware of the existence of research grants, and may not be familiar with the procedures to follow in applying for them;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to publish online grant directories as part of UBC Career Services.
Policy Number: 2004-06

Title: Funding for new student spaces

Passed: September 15, 2004
Expired: September 15, 2007

Summary: Directs the AMS to join forces with UBC to lobby the B.C. government to ensure that increased student enrolment be fully funded through increases in the province’s core operating grant to the university.

Whereas the provincial government has previously mandated increases in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment at British Columbia universities without increases in core operating grants;

Whereas mandated productivity increases are the equivalent of cuts in core funding as they reduce the level of funding dollars available per student;

Whereas the Alma Mater Society has policies opposing any mandated increases in enrolment at UBC unless they are fully funded by the Province;

Whereas the Province plans to add 25,000 new post-secondary spaces by 2010, with the University of British Columbia receiving 2200 new spaces; and

Whereas the Province has not given any indication that it will fully fund the additional spaces, thereby placing potential pressure on the University to increase tuition levels to maintain the quality of education at UBC;

Be it resolved that the AMS join the University in actively lobbying the Province to ensure that the new access spaces are fully funded through provincial increases to the University’s core operating grant.
Policy Number: 2004-07

Title: Improving transit service

Summary:
Directs the AMS to advocate for affordable, well-funded and improved public transportation choices to UBC and in the lower mainland and collaborate with other stakeholders to promote a more environmentally friendly and economically efficient transportation network in the lower mainland.

Whereas transit service levels and area coverage significantly impact the University of British Columbia (UBC) student population;

Whereas previous TransLink budgetary shortfalls and service reductions have negatively affected UBC students;

Whereas the implementation of the Universal Bus Pass program places considerable pressure on the service capacity of TransLink;

Whereas TransLink has indicated that people living in an urban area should have less than 450 metres walking distance to a bus stop; and

Whereas the AMS Strategic Plan calls for the adoption of a transportation policy to support regional lobbying efforts for maintaining and enhancing transit service levels;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby TransLink, Coast Mountain Bus Company, the Province and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) to:

1) Target transit fares that are affordable and continue improvements in services and service levels;
2) Provide stable and predictable funding levels that ensure long-term planning;
3) Preserve and enhance existing levels of service on UBC routes;
4) Ensure the AMS is actively consulted in regional transportation reviews and planning frameworks;
5) Introduce campus community shuttle service for campus security residents within the 2004 - 2005 year.

Be it further resolved that the AMS collaborate with other transportation stakeholders in working towards a more environmentally friendly and economically efficient transportation network in the lower mainland.
Whereas skateboarding is not a crime;

Be it resolved that the AMS officially oppose the installation of anti-skateboarding stops and knobs on benches and curbs around SUB.
Whereas the University is currently engaging in a tuition consultation process for the 2005/2006 academic year;

Whereas the Alma Mater Society and the University are engaged in joint lobbying efforts of the provincial and federal governments;

Whereas the next provincial election has been set for May 17, 2005;

Be it resolved that the AMS approve and work towards the implementation of the principles herein

Be it resolved that the AMS approve the following principles as a foundation for the Society’s provincial, federal and University lobbying efforts.

**Postsecondary Education Policy:**

**Principle 1**
Recognizing that tuition is one of the many costs incurred by students when attending university, the Alma Mater Society should commit itself to working with the University, student societies and the appropriate levels of government in developing a long-term, cohesive tuition and funding strategy for post-secondary education. A multi-year strategy should provide guarantees of minimum funding levels for universities, and maximum tuition fee levels for students, in order to allow students to plan financially for their education.

**Principle 2**
The Alma Mater Society acknowledges the financial pressures of inflation on the cost of education and tuition levels. Therefore, Alma Mater Society will oppose any tuition increase that is above the British Columbia Consumer Price Index (CPI).

**Principle 3**
The Alma Mater Society will oppose the implementation of any university policy advocating institution-based tuition decisions, and/or program-based tuition calculations.
Principle 4
The Alma Mater Society will oppose any tuition and/or ancillary fee increases which do not maintain accessibility to and the quality of education offered at post-secondary institutions.

Principle 5
The Alma Mater Society will oppose the implementation of differential tuition fees for out-of-province students.

Principle 6
The Alma Mater Society will continue to advocate tuition as a matter of public policy regulated by provincial legislation as opposed to a matter determined at the University’s discretion.

Principle 7
The AMS will lobby the University to demonstrate its accountability and fiscal responsibility by providing full and unfettered access for the AMS to the University’s annual budget and financial statements.

Core Funding:

Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society will support the University’s lobbying efforts for increased funding from the Provincial Government for the University’s 2005/2006 operating grant. The Alma Mater Society will work in collaboration with the University to actively lobby the Provincial Government to obtain budgetary increases for the post-secondary education system of British Columbia.

Principle 2
The Alma Mater Society will work in collaboration with the University to actively lobby the provincial government to fully fund the mandated increase in the number of post-secondary education spaces at UBC. These spaces must not compromise the existing quality of education at UBC and must expand access to quality education.

Student Financial Assistance:

Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society should lobby the Provincial Government to reinstate the Provincial Grant Program to address the current unmet need that students in British Columbia face.

Principle 2
The Alma Mater Society will call on the University and the relevant levels of government to ensure that sufficient funding is available through scholarships, bursaries, loans and employment options to allow qualified students access to post-secondary education.
Principle 3
Should a tuition increase arise, the Alma Mater Society will lobby the University and the appropriate levels of government to index all other forms of financial assistance to CPI; this should be in addition to the base level of assistance currently in place based on existing tuition levels.

Principle 4
The Alma Mater Society will lobby for the creation of provincial and federal loan remission programs, as well as, broaden the scope and duration of the existing BC Loan Reduction Program.

Research:

Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society will call on the Provincial Government to position itself to secure a full and appropriate share of national research funding.

Principle 2
The Alma Mater Society will call on the Provincial Government to provide additional research funds as a percentage of, the amount of federal research grants received by UBC researchers.
Policy Number: 2004-10
Title: Campus development policies (omnibus)

Summary:
This omnibus motion on campus development addresses four major topics: 1) Sustainability and Environmental Compliance; 2) Industrial Development, 3) Accountability and 4) Passive Open Space.

I) Sustainability & Environmental Compliance
Whereas the University of British Columbia has official policy committing the University to sustainable development;

Whereas the University should assume a leadership role promoting sustainable development principles and practicing sustainable development as an educational and research institution; and

Whereas campus development should integrate ecological, social and economic considerations at all levels of strategic planning and operations in campus development;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the University to incorporate sustainability principles and practices into all phases of University planning and development in accordance with Lead standards or an equivalent; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS call upon the University to submit all developmental Environmental Protection Assessments to the UBC Sustainability Office for review and auditing.

II) Institutional Development
Whereas the University of British Columbia’s new strategic plan, Trek 2010, commits the University to providing the best possible resources and conditions for learning;

Whereas the primary focus of campus development should be the development of institutional facilities and spaces that support the core academic mission of the University and enhance the learning environment; and

Whereas the University and GVRD currently lack a process on how consultation that addresses such issues as institutional development, consultation timelines and participants, levels of consultation and the nature of shared information is to be conducted;

Be it resolved that the AMS call upon the University to place priority on institutional development which provides adequate learning facilities and social space for students;
Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the University and the GVRD to include in the revised Memorandum of Understanding between them a comprehensive consultation framework with students for campus development.

**III) Accountability**

Whereas *Trek 2000* states that the University “recognizes that it must be accountable to those who use [its] services, participate in [its] processes, share in [its] governance, and provide [its] revenues”; and

Whereas students are key stakeholders in the campus development process as the end-users of the University’s facilities and services; and

Whereas the student population requires on-going information on development in order to be effective participants in shaping the campus community;

Therefore, be it resolved that the AMS encourage the University to demonstrate its accountability by making publicly available all financial information pertaining to campus development, including funding sources and disbursement.

**IV) Passive Open Space**

Whereas current University development plans propose to eliminate existing social green spaces, including the ‘grassy knoll’ and MacInnes Field;

Whereas public social spaces are intrinsic to the academic experience as they encourage the free exchange of ideas and promote social interaction amongst diverse groups;

Be it resolved that the AMS call upon the University to make social space a priority in all development plans, and provide equal if not greater green social space to replace the ‘grassy knoll’ and MacInnes Field. This space should be located near the core of campus and close to the Student Union Building.”
Whereas international students, unlike domestic students, are only permitted by law to work on campus; and

Whereas it is important to provide as many employment opportunities as possible for international students;

Be it resolved that the AMS make concerted efforts to advertise jobs more effectively to international students;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the university to make concerted efforts to advertise jobs more effectively to international students;

Be it further resolved that the AMS with the University and its external lobbying organization CASA work to lobby the government to enable international students to work off campus.
Whereas the University’s Course Management System (WebCT) is a core academic resource and a mission critical system, used by 30,000 students yearly in 900 courses;

Whereas CMS usage has shown massive increases and will likely increase in this trend;

Whereas the current version being utilized is inadequate and overloaded, and vendor support will be significantly scaled back in the near future;

Whereas both students and faculty rely upon the CMS but, while supportive of the system, are frustrated by its current limitations;

Whereas an implementation project for an improved CMS has been piloted and is in the budgetary proposal phase; and

Whereas action on the part of the university to implement the project is necessary, and delays will lead to increased costs and service disruptions;

Be it resolved that Council lobby the university to swiftly implement the project, as long as the following conditions are met: that the CMS be used to augment rather than replace face-to-face learning; and that implementation funding be derived from sources other than tuition increases.
Policy Number: 2005-03
Title: Same sex marriage
Passed: February 2, 2005
Expired: February 2, 2008

Summary:
Supports the right of same sex couples to marry and the work of student groups on campus advocating for this right and calls upon the Canadian parliament to vote in favour of Bill C-38.

Whereas Courts across Canada have ruled that the right to marry a person of the same sex is a right enshrined in Canada’s constitution that does not infringe on the religious freedom enshrined in the same document;

Whereas the Government of Canada has proposed legislation that confirms these rights; and

Whereas many members of the University Community have come together to celebrate the LGBTQTI community, as represented by the AMS resource group Pride UBC, and the 25th anniversary of Out week;

Be it resolved that the AMS supports the right of same sex couples to marry;

Be it further resolved that the AMS supports the work of students groups on campus advocating for this right; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society of UBC calls upon the Honourable Members of Parliament to vote in favour of Bill C-38.

NOTE:
Bill C-38, An Act respecting certain aspects of legal capacity for marriage for civil purposes, or the Civil Marriage Act, received first reading in the House of Commons on 1 February 2005. The bill codifies a definition of marriage for the first time in Canadian law, expanding on the traditional common-law understanding of civil marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution. Bill C-38 defines civil marriage as “the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others,” thus extending civil marriage to conjugal couples of the same sex.

Second reading debate on Bill C-38 occurred between 16 February and 4 May 2005, followed by Legislative Committee hearings from 11 May through 14 June. The Committee heard fundamentally divided testimony on the merits of the legislation from witnesses representing various religious institutions and affiliated organizations or groups, advocacy groups for lesbians and gay men, spokespersons for traditional marriage, academics and legal experts.

The bill was reported back to the House of Commons on 16 June, with one substantive government amendment and one opposition amendment to the bill’s preamble. Bill C-38 was adopted at report stage on 27 June with one additional substantive opposition amendment, and passed the House of Commons on 28 June by a vote of 158-133, with 32 government Members opposing.
Introduced in the Senate on 29 June, Bill C-38 underwent second reading debate from 4 through 6 July. In hearings before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs from 11 through 14 July, supportive and opposing witness testimony essentially echoed that given before the House Committee. Bill C-38 was reported back to the Senate on 18 July with no further amendments, and passed the Senate on 19 July by a vote of 47-21.

The Civil Marriage Act came into effect with Royal Assent on 20 July as Chapter 33 of the Statutes of Canada for 2005. With its enactment, Canada became the fourth country to legislate same-sex marriage, the others being the Netherlands (2001), Belgium (2003) and Spain (2005).

Whereas there currently exists no official late night study space on Campus;

Whereas extended library hours would provide a safe and quiet place for students to study; and

Whereas a proposed pilot project to be implemented during the April and December exam periods would cost $18,226.73;

Be it resolved that Council support the extension of library hours during exam periods as presented by the Senate Library Committee;

Be it further resolved that Council lobby the University to fund this initiative.
Whereas the Student Caucus of the University of British Columbia Senate wants to provide guidance to student senators on the Senate Ad Hoc Committee to Study the UBC Council of Senates;

Whereas the Student Caucus is seeking the support of the AMS Council with respect to the following principles; and

Whereas these principles will allow the Council of Senate to better uphold its mandate, “to harmonize policies and establish common UBC positions on important matters”:

Be it resolved that Council officially endorse the following principles as a guideline for student senators on the Senate Ad Hoc Committee to Study the UBC Council of Senates:

1. The Council of Senates’ composition should mirror the composition of the UBC Senate in order to ensure representation from all parties currently involved in Senate decision-making;

2. In changing the composition of the Council of Senates, there should be designated specific student seats with a one year term of office to ensure student representation.
Policy Number: 2005-06
Passed: March 23, 2005
Expired: March 23, 2008

Title: International student participation on Board of Governors

Summary:
Asks the provincial government to exclude students from the section of the University Act that forbids a person who is not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident under the Canadian Immigration Act from sitting on a university’s Board of Governors and encourages B.C.’s other student societies to do likewise.

Whereas Section 23(1)(c) of the University Act forbids “a person who is not a Canadian citizen or is not a permanent resident under the Immigration Act (Canada)” from sitting on a university’s Board of Governors,

Whereas international students, by holding student visas, are thus ineligible from serving on the Board;

Whereas the Charter of Rights and Freedoms forbids discrimination by “national or ethnic origin”, calling into question the constitutionality of this section of the University Act; and

Whereas 11% of UBC’s students are international students giving them a significant stake in how the university is run;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the provincial government to exclude students from Section 23(1)(c) of the University Act, and

Be it further resolved that the AMS encourage BC’s other student societies to do likewise.
Policy Number: 2005-07  
Passed: April 6, 2005  
Expired: April 6, 2008  

Title: Student financial responsibility  

Summary: Calls upon the B.C. government to cap at 30% the portion of student financial responsibility for their education and requests that this proposed cap be dropped to 25% by 2007 and 20% by 2010.

Whereas the Alma Mater Society believes that any academically qualified student with the desire to pursue post-secondary education should not face a barrier – financial, social, political, physical, cultural, or otherwise;

Whereas tuition rates have increased 84% over the past 4 years;

Whereas University enrolment has continued to outpace available courses, leading to longer average degree completion times;

Whereas government run student financial assistance and grants have been capped and in some cases, such as with the BC Grant, eliminated resulting in growth in the number of students applying for government loans and grants who will not receive assistance;

Whereas the average government investment per student has dropped by 20% over the last 10 years;

Whereas students in British Columbia believe that their share of financial responsibility for their education should be 13%, with family responsible for 8% and government responsible for the other 79%;

Whereas the share of student responsibility for funding their education has grown from approximately 20% in 1995 to approximately 30% in 2005; and

Whereas this greater burden of responsibility has pressured students to spend more time in non-learning based employment and less time on their education;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the Provincial Government to cap the percentage of student financial responsibility for their education at 30%;

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society request the Provincial Government to reduce this proposed cap on student financial responsibility to 25% by 2007 and 20% by 2010.
Policy Number:
2005-08

Passed:
April 6, 2005
Expired:
April 6, 2008

Title:
BC SAP grant reinstatement

Summary:
Calls upon the B.C. government to reinstate the Provincial Grant Program to address students’ unmet financial need and support, thus increasing accessibility of postsecondary education.

Whereas the provincial government cancelled the BC Grant program in 2004, removing $80 Million in non-repayable financial assistance from the provincial system;

Whereas tuition rates have increased 84% over the past 4 years;

Whereas University enrolment in British Columbia has increased by 33% in the last 5 years;

Whereas University participation, amongst 18-21 year-olds in British Columbia, remains the lowest in the country at 13.5%;

Whereas degree completion times have increased because of over enrolment in existing capacity;

Whereas the Provincial government cancelled the funding of the University work-study programs;

Whereas the percentage real increase in average student debt among university students holding public loans over the past 20 years has been more than 200%; and

Whereas said provisions may force students to incur massive debt loads, thereby dissuading potentially qualified individuals from pursuing post-baccalaureate studies

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the Provincial Government to reinstate the Provincial Grant Program to address the current unmet need that students in British Columbia face.
Whereas the Alma Mater Society believes that any academically qualified student with the desire to pursue post-secondary education should not face a barrier – financial, social, political, physical, cultural, or otherwise;

Whereas parental income stipulations have limited accessibility to public financial assistance for students whose parents have assets and income above a pre-determined threshold;

Whereas many families have assets that are indispensable and/or integral to their livelihood, such as families dependent upon agricultural production;

Whereas 36% of students aged 18-19 and 48% of students aged 20-21 expect no support from parents;

Whereas the absence of adequate financial loan and grant resources has pressured students to work more and study less, resulting in longer degree completion times and less eligibility to benefit from the Loan Remission Program; and

Whereas the province of British Columbia has the lowest University participation rate amongst 18-21 year-olds at 13.5% as compared to a National average of 23.8%

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the Provincial Government to reduce or eliminate parental income stipulations, and grant Financial Assistance solely on the basis of student financial need, rather than on parental income levels; and

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society request that the Provincial Government extend eligibility to the loan remission program to all students who have completed their degree within 5 years.
Title: Provincial loan forgiveness program

Summary:
Calls upon the Provincial Government to expand the Provincial Loan Forgiveness program to include graduates of all undergraduate and graduate programs who are employed in underserved areas of British Columbia.

Whereas a widespread labour shortage is projected for British Columbia by 2010 across a broad spectrum of industry sectors and occupational positions, including post-secondary faculty; and
Whereas there has been a net migration from British Columbia to other provinces in Canada for 8 of the last 10 years;

Whereas the percentage real increase in average student debt amongst university students holding public loans over the past 20 years has been more than 200%;

Whereas provincial spending on all student financial assistance decreased by 47% relative to federal spending between 1997 and 2002;

Whereas investing in post-secondary graduates produces a 160% return on investment in terms of tax revenues, and a 22% lower unemployment rate, relative to high-school graduates;

Whereas the Provincial Government pioneered the Loan Forgiveness program for select professions in British Columbia in 2004, such as medicine and pharmacy;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the Provincial Government to expand the Provincial Loan Forgiveness program to include graduates of all undergraduate and graduate programs who are employed in underserved areas of British Columbia.
Advocates that phase 2 of UBC’s Marine Drive Student Residences not be visible from any area of Wreck beach where phase 1 is not already visible and, in the future, urges UBC to engage in improved and timelier consultation with the campus and surrounding community.

Whereas the UBC Point Grey campus is renowned for its intrinsic natural beauty and proximity to extensive parklands, both of which are central to the experience of its community members;

Whereas the AMS recognizes that the UBC Point Grey campus is located on unceded Musqueam traditional territory;

Whereas the Wreck Beach Preservation Society, Pacific Spirit Park Society and the GVRD’s Parks and Communities Committees have expressed significant concerns with designs for Marine Drive Student Residences as regards bird strikes, cliff stability, drainage, and views;

Whereas UBC has retained consultants who feel the bird strike, cliff stability and drainage issues have been satisfactorily addressed;

Whereas UBC’s Official Community Plan (Section 4.1.1) mandates protecting park values in planning and development of areas adjacent to Pacific Spirit Regional Park;

Whereas the UBC Main Campus Plan (Strategy 8) indicates that “proposed project locations should be evaluated to ensure that they will not compromise the health, comfort, or effectiveness of neighbours, or the quality of adjacent landscapes and other public areas;”

Whereas the UBC Main Campus Plan (Strategy 15) indicates that “campus buildings should not rise much higher than the trees. They should be an average of about four storeys and be limited to a maximum of six storeys, except where special gateway or ‘landmark’ buildings will help to reinforce the spatial structure of campus;”

Whereas consultation for Phase One of the Marine Drive Student Residences project was generally perceived as inadequate;

Whereas on February 25th 2005 the GVRD Board of Directors requested that UBC “undertake a comprehensive consultation program for subsequent phases of the Marine Drive Student Residences;
Whereas the AMS affirms the need and desire for more affordable and accessible student housing on campus, as confirmed by large waiting lists and additional unregistered unmet need;

Whereas the AMS believes that student housing should be designed, located, and financially planned to meet the interests and needs of current and future students;

Whereas UBC’s Official Community Plan (4.1.14.a) states that “any increase in the fulltime undergraduate student population at UBC should be met with an increase in housing provided specifically for students ... to maintain not less than a 25% ratio of housing specifically for undergraduate students in full-time undergraduate studies;”

Whereas UBC’s Comprehensive Community Plan (3.4.1) states that UBC should “determine the timing of development in the context of the needs of the academic mission, whether it be faculty, student, or market housing” and should “provide rental housing for university users as a priority;”

Whereas the construction of student residences is financed through rent;

Whereas reductions in initially-proposed building heights in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Marine Drive Student Residences project will result in the loss of economies of scale, increasing the construction cost per unit and thus costs to students;

Whereas past and further postponement of the project will both further increase costs to students and delay availability of needed housing spaces;

Whereas on February 25th, 2005, the GVRD Board recommended that “the GVRD/UBC Joint Committee consider the angular plane [line of sight analysis] ... as the basis for determining the building height in subsequent phases of the Marine Drive Student Residences development;”

Whereas on February 23rd, 2005, AMS Council passed a policy endorsing the “line of sight” recommendations made by the GVRD Parks and Communities Committees in a report dated February 2nd, 2005 for determining maximum building heights for the Marine Drive Student Residences project; and

Whereas that policy was passed without full examination and consideration of the “line of sight” recommendations in question, and does not specify a stance on preferred implementation of the “line of sight” structure (i.e. whether said analysis should be considered from low, low tide, from an intertidal area, etc.);

Be it resolved that Council advocate that phase 2 not be visible from any area of the beach (up to low-low tide as of June 2005) where phase 1 is not already visible, as determined by an independent study;
Be it further resolved that Council advocate for the completion of Phase 2 of the Marine Drive Student Residences in time for occupation as early as possible; and

Be it further resolved that Council, while supporting forward movement on this project due to the economic factors and student interests at play, urge the University and its developmental affiliates to engage in improved consultation with the campus and surrounding community in a timelier manner for other development processes and undertake a system-wide communications audit to ensure that information both reaches stakeholders and interest groups and does so in timely manner.
Policy Number: 2005-12

Title: Enrolment policy at UBC

Passed: August 10, 2005
Expired: August 10, 2008

Summary:
Calls on UBC to develop an enrolment policy balancing the university’s financial needs with students’ social and academic interests and accessibility. Requests UBC to respect the number of provincially funded FTEs or consult the AMS on the best means to meet the needs of students.

Whereas the University plans to increase total enrolment by an additional 1659 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) spaces above the provincially funded levels for 2005-2006;

Whereas the University increased the total enrolment by 1865 FTE spaces above the provincially funded levels in 2004-2005;

Whereas the increases of the past few years have resulted in overcrowding in student residences, increased pressure on University and AMS services, and a lack of space in University courses;

Whereas the Trek 2010 vision statement of the University of British Columbia says that the University aspires “to be one of the world’s best universities;”

Whereas Trek 2010 also states that “we are accountable to the society that supports us, and must seek ways of responding to its needs and concerns through research, through educational outreach, and through partnerships that bring mutual benefit;”

Whereas the University has an important role to play in ensuring sufficient university access in the province; and

Whereas recent enrolment practices place the quality of education at UBC at risk;

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to develop a clear and comprehensive enrolment policy that adequately balances the financial needs of the University with the social and academic interests of students and province – wide accessibility issue;

Be it further resolved that said policy acknowledges that enrolment numbers should not exceed the number of provincially funded FTEs; and

Be it further resolved that in the event that enrolment numbers increase beyond the amount of provincial funding available, the University must consult with the AMS on the best means of ensuring that the needs of students will be met in this situation. In particular, the University must ensure that:

- Students are able to enrol in the courses required for their programs;
• There is no overcrowding in student residences; and
• There is sufficient funding for University services.
Whereas the University may regard ancillary fees as a means of increasing revenue from students without increasing tuition; and

Whereas the University has increased ancillary fees in the past without broad student consultation, such as the 453% increase in the Athletics and Recreation Fee since the fee’s creation in 1985; and

Whereas several Ontario universities have established ancillary fee protocols with student unions following the Ontario provincial government’s directive that University administrations gain student approval prior to levying compulsory, non-tuition fees; and

Whereas the University lacks official policy on introducing, increasing or altering ancillary fees; and

Whereas the University should demonstrate the same respect for students in creating or increasing ancillary fees as the AMS does in creating or increasing AMS fees; and

Whereas Policy 71 approved by the Board of Governors in 1994 (and revised in 2005) requires the Administration to meaningfully consult with students about tuition fee increases, setting a precedent for consulting with students about fees.

Be it resolved that the AMS encourage the University to demonstrate its accountability through the development of a protocol prescribing the procedure to be followed when creating, increasing, or altering ancillary fees.

Definition:
For the purposes of this policy, compulsory ancillary fees shall mean fees imposed or administered by the University, or one of its constituent parts or federated or affiliated institutions, in addition to regular tuition fees, which a student is required to pay in order to enrol in, or successfully complete, any credit course.
Whereas the University has a policy on tuition (Policy 72) which states that qualified students will not be denied access to UBC solely for financial reasons;

Whereas the University defines eligibility to be when an eligible student and his or her family exhaust the financial resources available to them;

Whereas in practice the University seems to be defining eligibility to exclude students who are no longer eligible to apply to the British Columbia Student Assistance Program (BCSAP) because they have already received the 80-month maximum for student financial assistance;

Whereas many students enrolled in graduate and professional programs can reasonably expect to exceed 80 months in school;

Whereas as the University itself acknowledged in a principle endorsed by its Board of Governors in 1991, it is important to ensure accessibility to UBC for qualified domestic students; and

Whereas financial assistance is essential to ensure that students in need can attend UBC;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to amend Policy 72 to include the following points under the definition of eligibility so that it indicates that an “Eligible Student” includes:

   a) A student who is not eligible to apply to BCSAP because they have reached the Lifetime Funding limits (80 months) for accessing financial assistance monies through BCSAP; and
   b) A student who is not eligible to apply to BCSAP pending a review and/or appeal of an overaward or an audit by BCSAP.

Be it further resolved that the AMS work with the University to lobby the Province to amend BCSAP to extend the Lifetime Funding limits for BCSAP eligibility to reflect the increasing post-secondary educational requirements for students.
Policy Number: 2005-15
Title: Campus planning and development (omnibus)
Passed: November 9, 2005
Expired: November 9, 2008

Summary:
Omnibus motion on campus planning and development policies affirming the AMS’s ideal of strengthening the link between policy, potential, and reality in campus planning and development by emphasizing a holistic, integrated, and balanced approach.

Building on the ideals set forth in existing UBC Policy Documents, including Trek 2010: A Global Journey and Principles for Physical Planning at UBC: A Legacy and A Promise, our aim is to improve the congruence amongst policy, potential, and reality – emphasizing a holistic, integrated, and balanced approach to campus planning and development. The students of UBC value responsive, public consultation and effective communication. We desire a development ethos that truly ensures that the UBC university community is by UBC, for UBC. We emphasize the importance of a clear focus on academic priorities, and physical design inspired by use. We believe that global citizenship starts here, with local civic engagement and campus sustainability practices, and that the UBC community and UBC as an institution must be prepared to “walk the talk.”

As an institution with a strong social responsibility to model best practices in planning and land-use and as an economic driver of the region, UBC must ensure that it demonstrates accountability, innovative, vision, and self-reflexivity in its decision-making, democratic inclusion in its processes, and balance in its approach to social, ecological, and economic planning. Processes of campus planning and development have the potential to support and exemplify the actualization of UBC’s Trek 2010 goals through constructive civic engagement, sustainability, and the promotion of a localized sense of global citizenship. As it strives to be a global leader, we urge the University to rise to the challenge and to reify the considerable potential of its present and future development as both an end in itself and as a means to greater ends.
1) **Consultation and Feedback Throughout**

Initiating well-advertised and responsive consultative processes with stakeholders at the beginning and throughout all stages of projects will ultimately foster a culture of constructive engagement and help to prevent costly delays, unexpected surprises, uninformed opposition, and apathy.

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<tr>
<td>a) Clarify expectations by offering sound and comprehensible information regarding decision-making processes.</td>
<td>• Ensure that details and intentions of development projects are readily accessible to laypersons (i.e. via websites and written in clear language).</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Proactively notify, engage, and address all potential stakeholders early in the decision-making process.</td>
<td>• Create and make available informational flow charts outlining processes and opportunities for consultation.</td>
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<td>c) Develop realistic working timelines that can accommodate and respond to the outcomes of consultative processes.</td>
<td>• Conduct targeted consultations with specific identifiable stakeholder groups in conjunction with broad-based consultative processes.</td>
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<td>d) Clarify how consultation feedback fits into the overall planning process.</td>
<td>• Ensure that messaging around consultation includes reasons/incentives to participate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Ensure that participatory planning processes are conducted and demonstrate that the information collected and concerns raised during these processes are actively considered.</td>
<td>• Publicly “track changes” in projects as they occur, illustrating how proposals and plans have been negotiated and changed as a result of consultation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>f) Seek “customer retention” to keep those interested and engaged in the process involved on an ongoing basis.</td>
<td>• Provide opportunities for attendees at consultative events to sign up for further information and notification of opportunities for involvement.</td>
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2) **Communication Strategies**

Developing and using effective communication strategies will help to improve the spread of information, clarify misunderstandings, and enhance consultative processes.

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<td>a) Increase efforts to heighten the profile of campus planning issues, projects, and units.</td>
<td>• Establish and offer a Campus and Community Planning “listserv” newsletter to inform recipients of new initiatives, project progress, and relevant events.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Simplify communication and ensure that feedback systems between campus departments and units are in place.</td>
<td>• Use existing resources such as WebCT to provide information and solicit feedback.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Ensure that information is communicated to and received by stakeholders in a timely and effective manner.</td>
<td>• Use “MyUBC” U-Portal streaming functionality to create a campus planning information “channel.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Actively extend communication to those not already involved in the dialogue.</td>
<td>• Develop and maintain a campus planning/University Town “wiki” online interface with explanations of planning terms, contexts, processes, and projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Use a communication language that is universally comprehensible to the public and those outside of the campus planning and development community.</td>
<td>• Create a digital simulation project illustrating how the UBC physical campus has evolved over time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Improve signage at development sites and completed projects (including existing buildings) to highlight</td>
<td>• Create and update “Information Sheets” to explain planning processes and decision-making bodies, similar to the Fact Sheets presently used to relay</td>
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relevant/historic information.

- Make campus development case studies available online, illustrating how specific projects have developed in order to inform readers about planning and development processes at UBC.
- Use improved descriptive signage and orientation materials on development sites and completed projects to describe the project, purpose, points of interest, financial aspects, etc.

3) Using and Growing Local Talent – “by UBC for UBC”

*Cultivating local talent and incorporating UBC faculty/students into planning and design processes is an effective, worthwhile, and potentially cost-efficient way to manage projects.*

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<td>a) Actively seek out and capitalize on the talent, skills, and creativity of UBC faculty, students, and staff.</td>
<td>• Foster educational opportunities (e.g. projects, classes) for students to become actively involved in planning and design process, as well as having student work reflected in the final output (i.e. student design competitions).</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Pursue re-engagement of ambivalent groups: avoid “stakeholder burnout” through symmetry of information and expectations.</td>
<td>• Implement a program of credits/incentives for civic engagement comparable to the Global City Navigators involved with the Living the Global City series.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Provide ongoing learning and, where possible, employment opportunities to students.</td>
<td>• Incorporate student work in building, landscape and open space design through student design competitions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Include tangible global citizenship and civic engagement goals in the academic curriculum, further incorporating campus planning processes into applied learning.</td>
<td>• Actively seek involvement of academic units with relevant knowledge and capacities (i.e. SCARP, SALA).</td>
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<td>e) Learning.</td>
<td>• Actively use and showcase groundbreaking and innovative research by the students, faculty, and staff of UBC.</td>
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<td>• Concretely link campus planning to Trek 2010 civic engagement goals and alumni retention strategies.</td>
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4) Academic Priorities

*Ensuring that the academic requirements of students, faculty, and staff are always the core priority will allow UBC to better achieve its academic mission.*

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<tr>
<td>a) Place UBC’s academic mission at the forefront of all planning and development decisions.</td>
<td>• Require that the consistency of projects with the University’s academic mission and overall strategic direction is demonstrated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Recognize the diversity of academic/institutional concerns (such as housing, student study space,</td>
<td>• Apply research findings generated at UBC relating to</td>
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classrooms, faculty office space, amenities, etc). Proactively demonstrate that campus sustainability and community engagement are integral parts of the UBC academic mission.

sustainability issues and other areas when forming policy and processes.
- Actively explore synergies between academic activities and campus planning processes.

5) Balancing Objectives

Balancing economic, aesthetic, environmental, and long-term community values will ensure that cost-revenue factors do not subordinate the importance of appealing, useful, sustainable, and long-lasting campus qualities.

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<tr>
<td>a) Recognize and consider long term economic and social factors that go beyond initial capital outlay and endowment ‘return’.</td>
<td>• Apply integrated and holistic “ecosystem based management” to UBC campus planning and development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Provide evidence for the long term utility of each project developed on campus.</td>
<td>• Increase awareness of and adherence to transparent “triple bottom line” accounting for all planning and development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Support and develop projects that are profitable, attractive, useful, and sustainable for students, faculty, staff, and the institution.</td>
<td>• Vastly improve communications relating to the Endowment Fund, its operations, administration and purposes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Adopt a development philosophy that aims for a qualitative, net improvement of the campus and campus life over time.</td>
<td>• Commission and use productivity studies (preferably using local talent) to ensure productivity-maximizing design of campus workspaces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Ensure consistency in leadership relating to sustainability, planning processes, etc.</td>
<td>• Work to ensure that high levels of quality and sustainability are traits common to all developments rather than simply to a handful of “showcase” projects.</td>
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6) Sustainability and Best Practices

Promoting and better articulating UBC’s sustainability objectives will steer campus planning practices towards an ethos of “best practices” and will discourage development that compromises UBC’s image as a campus in harmony with the natural environment.

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<td>a) Investigate the suitability of locating new development projects within underutilized core campus land before locations on the edge or outlying areas are considered or selected.</td>
<td>• Further develop and apply “Sustainability Indicators” across the UBC campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Develop new projects such that they minimize any negative impacts on already existing functional spaces.</td>
<td>• Commission and widely advertise high profile sustainability demonstration projects such as Sustainability Street.</td>
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<td>c) Preserve natural areas and ecosystems in and around main campus to the fullest extent possible.</td>
<td>• Adopt further development boundaries and restrictions with the goal of strategically increasing core campus density/intensity of use.</td>
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| d) Ensure energy saving technologies, water harvesters, renewable sources of energy, and “green...
building” strategies are used in all new developments and retrofits. development projects: demonstrate commitment to sustainability by having new and existing buildings LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified at the highest level possible. • Ensure consistency of messaging by partnering with other campus units to foster sustainable practices.

7) Design Informed By Use

*Actively considering the use of spaces, buildings, and facilities, as well as campus circulation and accessibility issues will help to ensure a usable, pedestrian-friendly, accessible, pleasant, and sustainable campus.*

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<td>a) Identify how spaces and facilities on campus are used in order to maximize their utility and allow current use to inform new design.</td>
<td>• Conduct and apply the findings of campus studies relating to use of and circulation through the “public realm.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Ensure current patterns of circulation and movement inform development decisions.</td>
<td>• Improve all signage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Promote development that will support non-motorized transportation on and off campus.</td>
<td>• Implement widespread weather strategies that incorporate landscape design, drainage, public open spaces, activity, circulation, and shelter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Respond to climate, illumination, safety, and accessibility requirements throughout the campus.</td>
<td>• Increase investment in maintaining and upgrading public spaces and circulation corridors.</td>
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• Continue to reduce motorized vehicular movement through campus and increase dedicated bicycle routes.
• Continue to improve lighting in ways that minimize power consumption.
Summary:

Calls upon UBC to: 1) create an institutional policy regulating the use of third party organizations in the recruitment, selection, admission or enrolment for new and existing academic programs; 2) consult representative student bodies, staff, and faculty when developing this policy; 3) refrain from entering into any third party agreements until this policy is in place.

Whereas the University of British Columbia has stated in its Trek 2010 policy statement that it seeks to increase international undergraduate student enrolment by 10%; and

Whereas there are proposals for graduate and undergraduate degree programs now under active consideration that utilize third party consulting agencies to select and recruit students for these programs,

Be it resolved that the AMS calls upon this university to create a university-wide policy regulating the use of 3rd party recruiting agencies in the recruitment, selection, admission/enrolment of new and existing graduate and undergraduate programs; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the university to fully consult with representative student bodies, staff, and faculty in the process of creating the aforementioned policy.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call upon the university to refrain from entering into any such third party agreements until such a relevant policy is in place.
Whereas an unacceptable number of the global poor lack access to essential medicines;

Whereas ensuring the affordability of these medicines and medical procedures is an essential step in ensuring that all countries have access to them;

Whereas a decrease in the price of medicines typically correlates with greater access for individuals in lower and middle income countries, and that generic competition is a means to achieve low prices for patented medicines;

Whereas university scientists are major contributors in the drug development pipeline, and are responsible for important health technologies;

Whereas universities have the power to help make medicines and health technologies more accessible for the world’s poor through their licensing policies;

Whereas a policy that promotes global health and well-being and working in partnership with groups in emerging countries to address local problems in health is consistent with the University of British Columbia’s Trek 2010 Vision; and

Whereas Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) is a student advocacy group with chapters at over twenty-five major research universities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, with a two-fold mission to (1) promote greater access to biomedical end products in low- and middle-income countries and (2) increase research conducted on neglected diseases;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society of UBC recognize essential medical treatment should be a right, not a privilege;

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society endorse Universities Allied for Essential Medicines and its mission,

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the University of British Columbia to enact policy on health related innovations that is guided by the UAEM Statement on University Policies for Health Related Innovations, and
Be it further resolved that AMS Council direct the President of the Society to write a letter to the appropriate University administrators and the Student Representatives to the Board of Governors, informing them of this action.
Policy Number: 2006-03

Title: U-Pass handling fee policy

Passed: May 17, 2006
Expired: May 17, 2009

Summary: Opposes the U-Pass fee assessed by UBC on the AMS and mandates the ANS executives to negotiate a Friendly Addendum to the U-Pass Administration Fee Agreement contract to ease the financial burden placed on the AMS for the operation of the U-Pass program.

Whereas the AMS acknowledges having signed a contract obligating it to pay a handling fee for the processing of the U-Pass that amounts to $65,000 per year; but

Whereas the University is obligated by the GVRD under the Official Community Plan to pursue a U-Pass program; and

Whereas under its Memorandum of Understanding with the GVRD the University stated that it is prepared to be the lead agent in creating a U-Pass program; and

Whereas the AMS has been and continues to be cooperative and supportive of such a program and assists in fostering student support, providing staff resources to maintain the program as well as having held two U-Pass referendums in order to legitimize the fee; and

Whereas the AMS is already paying approximately $62,000 a year to the University in handling fees; and

Whereas the $65,000 U-Pass fee amounts to a small percentage (0.005%) of University revenues but a substantial percentage of AMS revenues (1%) or 22% of the AMS student services budget; and

Whereas it was the previous prerogative of the AMS Council not to pay this fee or charge it to students, but to negotiate with the University;

Be it resolved that the AMS, notwithstanding a contract signed to the contrary, not recognize the U-Pass fee assessed to students to be a standard AMS fee;

Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose the University charging the Student Society a fee for a program that the Society promotes and provides resources to maintain in kind, but is legally the responsibility of the University to uphold; and

Be it further resolved that Council request the Executive to seek an understanding with the University for a Friendly Addendum to the U-Pass Administration Fee Agreement contract that eases the financial burden placed on the AMS for the operation of the U-Pass program, pending
final approval from Council on the terms and conditions of any understanding that may be reached.
Whereas students are an essential component of the University and should therefore be well represented within the governance of the University, and particularly at its highest level, the Board of Governors;

Whereas student tuition at UBC accounts for almost 30% of the University’s operating revenue but student representatives constitute less than 15% of the members on the Board of Governors;

Whereas there are more than 8,000 graduate students attending the University, with many needs that are different from those of undergraduate students, including roles in University research and teaching;

Whereas in the 30-some years of student representation on the Board of Governors, graduate students have only rarely been represented; and

Whereas several other universities throughout Canada have recognized the importance of graduate representation through the creation of a dedicated Board of Governors seat for graduate students, including the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and McGill University;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the provincial government to amend the University Act to add an additional Board of Governors seat that would be restricted to an elected graduate student representative from UBC Vancouver;

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the provincial government to further amend the University Act to restrict the two existing Board of Governors seats allocated to UBC Vancouver students to undergraduates, including students in the various professional programs.
Whereas the Alma Mater Society is a not-for-profit organization charged with serving the needs of the 43,000 students attending the University of British Columbia;

Whereas it is the responsibility of the AMS Executive and Council, elected by the student body, to discharge this obligation through the allocation of organizational resources for the purposes of providing services and support to students;

Whereas the services and support provided by the AMS have included advocating on behalf of student interests to the University and all applicable levels of government;

Whereas the Alma Mater Society is a small organization (with less than 100 permanent staff) that must provide a diverse range of services to meet the needs of 43,000 students at the UBC Vancouver campus;

Whereas in many cases small organizations lack the internal resources to efficiently and effectively meet the diverse needs and priorities of their membership;

Whereas many small and medium-sized organizations choose to outsource the delivery of a number of functions in order to most effectively and efficiently meet the needs of their membership within a limited resource environment;

Whereas this outsourcing of service may take many different forms, including the engagement of third party organizations;

Whereas recently a member of the provincial legislature has raised the idea of restricting the ability of student organizations to engage third party organizations such as the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), a body that lobbies on behalf of students at the federal level;

Whereas legislation that would restrict access to organizations such as CASA would hamper the AMS in carrying out its advocacy responsibilities on behalf of its student members; and
Whereas the relationship between the AMS and CASA is a standard business or professional relationship and not a means to enrol AMS members in another organization as is suggested in the proposed private member’s bill;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the provincial government to oppose any legislation that would restrict the ability of student organizations to marshal their discretionary financial resources in a way that can best meet the needs of their members, including engaging third parties such as CASA for outsourced services, including government relations, research, and networking.
Summary: 
Calls on UBC to integrate student input into the community planning process and for a new governance study for UBC and the surrounding neighbourhoods that includes AMS representation.

Whereas large-scale planning and development is underway or projected at UBC, including the addition of thousands of new residents in and around the campus; and

Whereas students should have a greater say in decisions concerning campus development and concerning the development of a new governance structure to deal with the increasing population in the area;

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to take the following steps to ensure a larger role for students:

a) Creation of a seat on the UBC Properties Trust Board of Directors, and/or the creation of a Community Advisory Board, with AMS representation on it, to ensure that UBC Properties Trust, the body that develops University real estate, adheres to the consultation guidelines put in place by the GVRD through its Official Community Plan for UBC;

b) Creation of a seat for the AMS on the Development Permits Board, the UBC body that considers applications for non-institutional projects on campus; and

c) Development of a process that will involve the AMS in consultations at early stages of projects and provide sufficient information early enough for meaningful consultation to take place;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the appropriate authorities to launch a new governance study for UBC and the surrounding neighbourhoods, and that this governance study recommend a model for implementation; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS have representation on the body carrying out this study.
Endorses the UBC Farm as an educational and community focused asset of the university and mandates the AMS to lobby UBC to ensure that the Farm remains an integral learning and community component of the South Campus.

Whereas the University of British Columbia (UBC) Farm currently provides a range of research, academic and community outreach opportunities and activities for undergraduate and graduate students at UBC, and for the University community;

Whereas the UBC Farm is a model of sustainability and a key innovative educational tool for the only Agroecology degree program in Canada and for the University’s efforts in community service learning;

Whereas approximately 38 for credit courses made use of the Farm in the 2005-06 academic year, meaning 1,100 different students and faculty were engaged directly in academic pursuits;

Whereas 750 students volunteered at the Farm last year, representing a cross-section of faculties, and over 10,000 people visited it;

Whereas the UBC Farm is a component of the food supply chain at UBC, supplying local produce to the Alma Mater Society, Sprouts, UBC Food Services and several colleges on campus, as well as restaurants off campus;

Whereas the Farm is a focal point of the South Campus community that provides local produce, volunteer opportunities, and activities for students, staff and residents, and retains the potential for expansion in these areas;

Whereas the South Campus development plan according to the Official Community Plan currently excludes the Farm in its vision of future developments; and

Whereas the University has development plans for a University Town that could threaten the future of the Farm;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse the UBC Farm as an educational and community focused asset of the University;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby the University to ensure that the Farm remains an integral learning and community component of the South Campus.
Whereas UBC is negotiating a new exclusivity agreement with a cold beverage supplier;

Whereas prior to the current exclusivity agreement, the availability of more than one brand of cold beverage was widespread across campus;

Whereas a new exclusivity agreement would restrict the vast majority of campus to one brand of cold beverage;

Whereas through such an agreement the University, in order to create a financial benefit for itself, will therefore be depriving students of the opportunity for greater choice of beverages;

Whereas an exclusive cold beverage agreement may prevent Constituencies from exercising choice over beverages available in student spaces;

Whereas product sold under an exclusive agreement would not be subject to market competition, and may therefore provide no guarantee of competitive pricing;

Whereas there are concerns that an exclusivity agreement would impinge on the right of UBC’s resident population to exercise ethical and responsible consumption;

Whereas there are concerns that corporate partnerships can create undue dependency on corporate funding and may negatively affect the academic environment;

Whereas there are concerns that the pursuit of corporate funding may lead the provincial government to expect the University to rely on such funding and decrease the possibility of the province providing funding;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University not to enter into an exclusive cold beverage agreement.
Policy Number: 2006-09

Title: U-Pass coalition policy

Passed: October 11, 2006
Expired: October 11, 2009

Summary:
Supports the U-Pass coalition in their goal of expanding the U-Pass to other postsecondary institutions in the Lower Mainland at the same price as the UBC U-Pass and mandates the AMS to lobby all appropriate levels of government to support the expansion of this important program for students.

Whereas there is a need for our society to promote the use of sustainable transit;

Whereas the AMS U-Pass program makes us a leader in this respect in the lower mainland;

Whereas students at other publicly funded postsecondary institutions in the lower mainland face a considerable financial burden in choosing public transit;

Whereas the goal of a better public transit system would be more effectively served by a united student lobby;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the U-Pass coalition* in their goal of expanding the U-Pass to the colleges at the same price as the UBC U-Pass;

Be it further resolved that the AMS lobby all appropriate levels of government to support the expansion of this important program for students.

*NOTE: As of October 11, 2006, the U-Pass coalition included the Student Associations of Langara College, Capilano College, Vancouver Community College, Kwantlen College, Emily Carr, Douglas College, the Native Education Centre and Simon Fraser University.
Policy Number: 2006-10

Title: Interdisciplinarity – Pass/D/Fail

Passed: November 29, 2006
Expired: November 29, 2009

Summary:
Supports expanding Pass/Fail course offerings to improve undergraduate education at UBC and calls on the university to support the UBC Pass/Fail System Reform Proposal as the basis for expanding Pass/D/Fail course opportunities across the undergraduate spectrum.

Whereas the AMS supports the movement towards greater interdisciplinarity within the undergraduate experience at UBC;

Whereas students do not always seek out new opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and inquiry because their reward or incentive system is organized principally around grades;

Whereas in the last two surveys from NSSE (2004 & 2006) UBC consistently underperforms relative to their peer universities in Canada in the areas of “Enriching Educational Experience,” “Active & Collaborative Learning” and “Level of Academic Challenge;”

Whereas the quality and flexibility of the academic programs at UBC is the most significant reason for not recommending the university, generating a larger than average dissatisfaction rate over the last several years;

Whereas the AMS supports efforts to improve undergraduate education at UBC;

Whereas pass/fail systems have been a successful and popular option at a number of internationally renowned universities in the United States for over a decade;

Be it resolved that the AMS supports the expansion of Pass/Fail course offerings as a component of a strategy to improve undergraduate education at UBC;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the University to endorse/support the UBC Pass/Fail System Reform Proposal as the basis for expanding Pass/D/Fail course opportunities across the undergraduate spectrum.
Policy Number: 2007-01
Title: National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
Passed: January 24, 2007
Expired: January 24, 2010

Summary:
Calls on UBC to form a committee including representatives for the AMS that will take action on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) at the University and Provincial levels.

Whereas, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), UBC trails the large research universities across Canada in all five major categories of the survey, including Level of Academic Challenge, Supportive Campus Environment, Enriching Educational Experience, Active and Collaborative Learning, and Student-Faculty Interaction;

Whereas UBC’s performance in this survey has actually declined or remained static over the two years in which the survey has included Canadian schools;

Whereas UBC now scores as much as 20-30% lower than the American research universities that UBC has on occasion identified as peer institutions in the areas of Enriching Educational Experience and Student-Faculty Interaction;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University Administration to form a committee, including AMS representation, that will take action on NSSE at the University and Provincial levels.

NOTE: For the full survey, see http://www.pair.ubc.ca/studies/nsse.htm [UPDATE – March 2013: This link is no longer functional and has been replaced by: http://www.pair.ubc.ca/surveys/nsse/nssevancouver.htm]
Policy Number:  
2007-02

Title:  
Human rights policy

Summary:  
Supports the international standard of human rights as defined by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Whereas the Alma Mater Society has as its Mission “to improve the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of the students of UBC”; to “cultivate unity and goodwill among [its] members” and to “advocate student interests;”

Whereas the purpose of a university is to provide individuals with the necessary tools to be responsible, committed, self-reflexive, and aware citizens of the world;

Whereas the AMS has numerous members and several student groups including Oxfam UBC, Amnesty International UBC, Pride UBC and Colour Connected Against Racism that can use this policy when advocating for issues regarding human rights;

Whereas it is our responsibility as the student society to foster a climate of inclusion, respect and safety on campus;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the standard of Human Rights as defined by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

NOTE: For the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, see: http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html.

NOTE [2012-09-15]: Policies numbers 1997-04 and 2002-05 are similar and were passed by Council on April 9, 1997 and April 24, 2002, respectively.
Policy Number:
2007-03

Title:
University participation

Passed:
February 7, 2007
Expired:
February 7, 2010

Summary:
Mandates the AMS to lobby UBC and the provincial government to implement policies that will ensure increased university participation in lower income brackets, with the goal of equalizing access to university education in British Columbia across income quartiles.

Whereas the province of British Columbia has the lowest university participation rate in Canada amongst 18-21 year-olds at 13.5% as compared to a national average of 23.8%;

Whereas young people in British Columbia consistently cite financial barriers as the primary reason they choose not to pursue a post-secondary education;

Whereas students coming from the top economic quartile are 2.5 times more likely to attend university than those coming from the bottom economic quartile; and

Whereas the AMS already has a policy stating that ‘any academically qualified student with the desire to pursue post-secondary education should not face a barrier – financial, social, political, physical, cultural, or otherwise;

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the University and the Government to implement policies that will ensure increased university participation in lower income brackets, with the goal of equalizing access to university education in British Columbia across income quartiles.
Summary:
Calls on UBC to exclude most vehicular traffic and parking from University Boulevard and recommends the creation of a drop-off zone for Aquatic Centre.

Whereas Section 4.1.2 of the Official Community Plan calls for University Boulevard to be a greenway and 4.1.10 calls for it to “emphasize transit, pedestrians, and cyclists;” and

Whereas Section 4.2.3 and Schedule B of the Official Community Plan designate University Boulevard from Wesbrook to East Malls, and all of East Mall, as collector roadways;

Whereas several sections of the University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan allow or require cars and parking;

Whereas patrons of any commercial establishments in the area should not require customer parking;

Whereas the UBC Bookstore is within a 300m walk of two parkades and has metered parking in front of it on East Mall; and

Whereas the Aquatic Centre feels it requires drop-off access;

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to seek amendments to Schedule B of the Official Community Plan and to the University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan to exclude vehicular traffic and parking from University Boulevard between Wesbrook and Main Malls and East Mall from University Boulevard to Memorial Road;*

Be it further resolved that AMS inform the University of their intent to request additional amendments in future; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS recommend the creation of a drop-off zone for Aquatic Centre patrons to the north or north-east of War Memorial Gym, accessed off Wesbrook Mall.

*NOTE: The exclusion of vehicular traffic will not apply to emergency vehicles, buses operated by TransLink, vehicles making deliveries where the relevant loading access is from these roads, or for the purposes of a limited number of disabled-accessible parking spaces.
Summary:
Calls on TransLink to place a moratorium on the retirement of working buses until the reliability of the new buses can be confirmed, as long as this does not compromise the safety of transit users. Asks TransLink to communicate with UBC and the AMS in advance of major service adjustments and develop contingency plans to minimize service disruptions to clients.

Whereas UBC students are major users of TransLink buses and, through the AMS, partners with TransLink in the U-Pass program;

Whereas ridership levels have increased in the years since the introduction of the U-Pass;

Whereas TransLink’s policy of replacing older working buses with new buses has caused a problem because of safety issues in the new buses;

Whereas this problem has meant the temporary withdrawal of the new buses, reducing capacity on several bus routes used by students, resulting in pass-ups and scheduling irregularities; and

Whereas TransLink has not communicated these service issues to partners such as UBC and the AMS in a manner allowing them to effectively inform their membership;

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on TransLink to place a moratorium on the retirement of working buses until such time as the reliability of the replacement buses is confirmed, and providing such moratorium does not compromise the safety of the transit users;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call upon TransLink to communicate with UBC and the AMS in advance of major service adjustments; further, to develop a contingency plan to minimize service disruptions to clients.
Policy Number:
2007-06

Title:
Exam hardship

Passed:
March 14, 2007
Expired:
March 14, 2010

Summary:
Supports initiatives for exam schedule and policy reform at UBC, including amending the exam hardship definition from “3 or more exams in a 24 hour period” to “3 or more exams in a 36 hour period.”

Whereas exams often constitute up to 50% or more of a student’s final course grade;

Whereas there are increasing pressures on students to achieve higher grades to compete for future opportunities;

Whereas densely clustered exams can be an impediment to student achievement, especially when required course exams are grouped together;

Whereas amending the definition of ‘exam hardship’ to be three or more examinations scheduled within a 36-hour period and moving to a system of program influenced exam scheduling will alleviate some of the aforementioned impediments to student success;

Be it resolved that AMS Council support initiatives for exam schedule and policy reform, including amending the exam hardship definition “3 or more exams in a 24-hour period” to “3 or more exams in a 36-hour period.”
Summary:
Urges UBC to include the AMS in all relevant negotiations with third parties when these may have a significant direct or indirect impact on its activities or members.

Whereas the Alma Mater Society (AMS) is an autonomous entity in law created under the authority of the Society Act;

Whereas the University of British Columbia is an autonomous entity in law created under the authority of the University Act;

Whereas the University of British Columbia engages in discussion and negotiations with third party entities, from time to time, with the intention of creating contractual negotiations;

Whereas such negotiations are often closed to members of the Society;

Whereas such negotiations often lead to contracts or agreements that directly or indirectly impact the Alma Mater Society’s activities and its membership;

Be it resolved that the AMS urge the University to include the AMS in all relevant negotiations with third parties where the outcome of said negotiations could directly or indirectly have a significant impact on the activities or membership of the Society.
Policy Number: 2007-08

Title: University Boulevard consultation

Summary:
Calls on the University to formally present all University Boulevard plans and other pertinent information to AMS Council and the University Town Committee before any decisions are made on this matter by the Board of Governors.

Whereas pursuant to its already existing policies calling for meaningful consultation on campus development projects, the AMS has been requesting a presentation to AMS Council to see the latest University Boulevard design plans since November 2006;

Whereas no such presentation has been made to AMS Council;

Whereas the plans have also not been presented to the University Town Committee, the official body through which stakeholders, including the AMS, can provide input on the University Boulevard project; and

Whereas the latest plans are going forward to the Board of Governors for partial Board II approval despite this lack of meaningful consultation;

Be it resolved that Council call on the University to make formal presentations of all University Boulevard plans and other pertinent information to AMS Council and the University Town Committee before any University Boulevard decisions are made by the Board of Governors.
Endorses the petition opposed to the current University Boulevard development plan. Calls for the development of a new plan that revisits land-use options, embodies the will of students (through meaningful consultation), reflects their educational and social needs and provides a true heart for UBC. Asks UBC’s Board of Governors to reject any motions regarding this project until this has been done.

Whereas University Boulevard, a space located at the heart of UBC campus and used by students for social and learning needs, should not be developed on a cost-recovery model if this model detracts from a positive student experience, and should prioritize student needs for learning and social spaces over retail space, particularly at a time when studies, such as NSSE, are showing a decrease in the quality of our education;

Whereas there has been vastly inadequate consultation with students, the AMS Student Council, and the University Town Committee throughout the entire process of the University Boulevard development project;

Whereas students are dismayed by the proposed elimination of the grassy knoll, the lack of green space in the project, and project’s plan to allow car traffic along University Boulevard from Wesbrook Mall to East Mall, which will disrupt the atmosphere and decrease the safety of the area;

Whereas the unexpandable underground bus loop would not physically be able to accommodate future increases to transit service to campus, and would not serve the needs of students or University Town residents;

Whereas the more than $30 million funding for the underground bus loop through infrastructure impact charges would be more appropriately spent on more cost-effective transit models and on improving greatly needed services such as daycare, for which there is currently a waiting list of 1300;

Whereas the University Boulevard plan does not physically integrate the SUB into the proposed community space, nor does it work in cooperation with the SUB’s current renewal process;

Whereas at least 2600 constituents have signed a petition calling on the AMS to adopt a policy addressing these concerns,

Be it resolved that the AMS support and endorse the petition against the current University Boulevard development plan;
Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose the current University Boulevard Neighbourhood plan and design;

Be it further resolved that the AMS support the development of a new plan that shall revisit land-use options, embody the will of students, reflect their educational and social needs, and provide a true heart for the University of British Columbia;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the UBC Board of Governors to defeat any further motions on the advancement of the University Boulevard project until such a new plan has been developed through an inclusive and meaningful consultation process engaging students in the planning and design process;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on Campus and Community Planning to develop and follow policies that implement students’ ideas and feedback arrived at through consultation into the design plans of all proposed campus development projects.
Summary:

Calls on UBC to extend the deadline for tuition payment until one month after the commencement of classes in September and consider reinstating credit card payment or developing some other tuition payment policy that could alleviate students’ financial burden at the beginning of September.

Whereas the University requires that tuition be paid during the first week of classes in September;

Whereas until the 1988-89 school year, the University did not require the payment of tuition until the end of the third week of classes in September;

Whereas the availability of a credit card payment option for paying tuition, commencing in the 2003-04 school year as the preferred method of paying, enabled students to effectively defer the actual payment of tuition until the end of September;

Whereas the University Administration has recently decided to discontinue the option of paying tuition via credit card;

Whereas the AMS recognizes that it is impractical to rescind the decision to discontinue credit card payment for this year,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the University to extend the deadline for tuition payment until one month after the commencement of classes in September;

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to look into reinstating credit card payment in future years or look into developing some other policy on tuition payment that would alleviate the financial burden undergone by students at the beginning of September.
Whereas the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation was established by the Government of Canada in order to broaden access to post-secondary education, through the endowment (in 1998) of $2.5 billion that was to be spent on bursaries and scholarships over a 10-year lifespan;

Whereas 95% of the bursaries and scholarships allotted are based on need, while the remaining 5% are granted based on merit;

Whereas the Foundation has requested a $4 Billion re-endowment in order to reflect the lower amount of capital investment income that can be generated currently;

Whereas the Foundation, or some successor organization, in its capacity as an independent governmental organization with parliamentary oversight through the Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, fills, and would continue to fill, a very important role within the Canadian student financial system; and

Whereas in 2009 the Foundation is legislated to exhaust its $2.5 billion endowment fund and cease to exist, unless the federal government decides to reendow the Foundation;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the renewal of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation;

Be it further resolved that the AMS support the endowment of a $4 billion base to be made to the Foundation.
Whereas the University has recently shut down the MacMillan Library;

Whereas the MacMillan Library was a major resource used by students and faculty in the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Land and Food Systems;

Whereas the closure of the MacMillan Library was never reviewed or approved by the Senate Library Committee;

Whereas there was a lack of consultation with students concerning the closure of the library,

Be it resolved that AMS Council state its opposition to the closure of the MacMillan Library and to the lack of consultation concerning the closure;

Be it further resolved that AMS Council call on Senate to convene the Senate Library Committee to discuss the closure;

Be it further resolved that AMS Council call on the University to provide more library resources to support the students in the Faculty of Land and Food System and the Faculty of Forestry during this transition period;

Be it further resolved that AMS Council urge the University to conduct proper consultation with students to decide how, if vacated, the library space will be used;

Be it further resolved that AMS Council direct the Executive to write a letter to the Chair of Senate and the Chair of the Senate Library Committee conveying the sentiments contained in this motion.
Whereas UBC is the second most popular transit destination in the lower mainland after downtown Vancouver;

Whereas UBC is second in the lower mainland in boardings and unboardings after Broadway at Commercial;

Whereas legislation originally proposed in the spring of 2007 and expected to pass in the fall of 2007 would vest authority for the region’s transportation planning in a Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation, consisting exclusively of the region’s mayors;

Whereas UBC, falling within GVRD [Greater Vancouver Regional District] Electoral Area A, does not have a mayor and would thus be unrepresented,

Be it resolved that the AMS lobby the Province to make a provision in the legislation for accountable UBC representation on TransLink’s governing body;

Be it further resolved that the AMS request that UBC do likewise.
Whereas the AMS endorsed the University Boulevard petition on May 2, 2007 calling for a revisitation of land-use options on University Boulevard;

Whereas TREC Park has been established to raise awareness about the options for development on University Boulevard;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the existence of TREC Park for the purposes of raising awareness about University Boulevard Development and of embodying the proactive spirit necessary for the creation of a student-centred campus core.
Whereas the Senate Academic Policy Committee is currently making amendments to the University’s policy on academic concession;

Whereas the current University policy on academic concession already includes extensive provisions to ensure that abuse of academic concession does not occur;

Whereas students may develop medical, emotional or other problems that may adversely affect their attendance or academic performance;

Whereas there is still considerable debate around the degree to which the University is responsible to accommodate students experiencing certain mental, emotional or other psychological difficulties;

Whereas language which makes academic concession a privilege, places the onus on students to prove their need for concession as opposed to requiring the University to disprove the student’s need,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society support the right of students to not be penalized academically for circumstances beyond their control;

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call upon the University to amend its policy on academic concession so as to guarantee students the right not to be penalized academically for circumstances beyond their control.
Whereas the publication of students’ evaluations of instructors would provide a valuable resource to students, enabling them to make more informed choices of which courses to take;

Whereas it would be useful for such information to include information on instructors’ academic credentials, research interests, publications, and teaching philosophy as well as information drawn from teaching evaluations;

Whereas students have been leading the lobbying efforts to change the University’s current system of Student Evaluations of Teaching for many years;

Whereas Senate approved the policy on Student Evaluations of Teaching on the recommendation of the ad-hoc Senate Committee;

Whereas the Alma Mater Society believes that the proposed University-wide questions correlate to current research on best teaching practices and consulted with students on these questions,

Be it resolved that the AMS strongly supports the Senate policy on Student Evaluations of Teaching and the proposed University-wide questions;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call upon the University to move forward on implementing the current Senate Policy on Student Evaluations of Teaching.
Whereas the UBC Ocean Engineering Centre (OEC) is the hub of all Marine Engineering Research in Western Canada, and is a very valuable resource for the marine industry and is used for commercial testing, advanced research, and education;

Whereas the OEC contains one of two tow tank facilities in Canada, with the other being located at Memorial University in Newfoundland;

Whereas the marine and engineering industries in BC are opposed to its demolition and are petitioning the University and the BC government to delay the demolition in order to properly assess how the facility can be renewed or replaced and have written to the office of the Premier and the Ministry of Advanced Education to have UBC review this course of action;

Whereas UBC has planned the demolition of the OEC with extremely limited industry and faculty consultation and no student consultation;

Whereas UBC hopes to build market housing where the OEC currently stands, which is designated future housing reserve;

Whereas demolishing the OEC will severely hinder the education of Mechanical Engineering students studying Naval Architecture;

Whereas if a replacement facility is planned, there will be a several-year gap in access to tow-tank facilities;

Be it resolved that the AMS Executive lobby the University and Provincial Government to stop the planned demolition of the Ocean Engineering Centre and to undertake a full consultation with industry, faculty, and students to determine the future of the Ocean Engineering Centre.
Housing Targets and Comprehensive Review
Whereas the Official Community Plan commits UBC to maintaining housing for not less than 25 per cent of the full-time undergraduate students;

Whereas this target was an arbitrary number established almost 20 years ago that does not take into account the more than 10,000 graduate students currently attending UBC Vancouver;

Whereas the University has not conducted a census of housing to discover where students currently live and what their housing needs are;

Whereas the University is currently producing a new campus plan,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to create housing targets for full-time undergraduate and graduate students that are informed by a comprehensive review of the demand for non-institutional and institutional housing.

Be it further resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to include in the new Vancouver Campus Plan a commitment to conduct the comprehensive review.

Student Consultation Regarding Housing Rates
Whereas, after tuition, housing is the greatest student expense;

Whereas the University has a policy of consultation with the students when altering tuition fees,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to introduce a policy of consultation with students on changes to rental rates in University residences similar to its policy on tuition consultation.

Diversification of Student Housing
Whereas there is a limited amount of family housing for students at the University;

Whereas part-time students are not permitted to apply for University housing;
Whereas the increasingly diverse student population has diverse housing needs,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to increase the number of family housing units without sacrificing spaces available to other students.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the University to allow part-time students with a sufficient credit load to apply for on-campus housing.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the University to provide more non-traditional residences offering students a cultural experience, in the manner of the Ritsumeikan-UBC House.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the University to develop more mature housing units prioritized for graduate students.

**Housing Advisory Committee**
Whereas in the Memorandum of Understanding between the GVRD and UBC in 2000, UBC agreed to create a Housing Advisory Committee (HAC);

Whereas this committee has been inactive for the last two years;

Whereas students in non-institutional housing do not have the same protections as students in residences,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to ensure that the HAC meet regularly and include an undergraduate student seat and a graduate student seat.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the University to expand the role of the HAC to function as a dispute resolution body for students in non-institutional housing.

**Non Institutional Student Housing**
Whereas there is a student housing crisis facing UBC students;

Whereas the targets set in the Official Community Plan (OCP) for non-institutional housing on campus do not ensure that this crisis will be resolved, because it sets targets that are not specific to students, it sets too low a target for rental housing, it includes unnecessary restrictions;

Whereas the University is in danger of selling off its land to the highest bidder rather than to those who will provide affordable student housing,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society call on the University to work for an amendment to the OCP to set an informed and aggressive target of the percentage of new rental housing units designated specifically for students.
Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the University to affordable rental housing constitutes more than the current 20 per cent requirement outlined in the OCP.

Be it further resolved that the AMS support an amendment to the OCP to remove the cap of 100 housing units per net hectare.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the University to lease land to developers at substantial discounts on the condition that this land be used for affordable student housing for the duration of the lease.
Whereas the next federal election is likely less than 12 months away; and

Whereas the Vancouver Quadra Federal by-election must be called in the next 2 months;

Be it resolved that the AMS approve the following priorities as a foundation for the Society’s federal lobbying efforts:

**Tuition and Fees**

**Principle 1**
Recognizing that tuition is one of the many costs incurred by students when attending university, the Alma Mater Society shall commit itself to working with the University, student societies and the appropriate levels of government in developing a long-term, cohesive tuition and funding strategy for post-secondary education.

**Principle 2**
The Alma Mater Society shall support the development of a provincial, multi-year strategy that provides guarantees of minimum funding levels for universities, and maximum tuition proportion levels for students.

**Principle 3**
The Alma Mater Society acknowledges the financial pressures of inflation on the cost of education and tuition levels. The Alma Mater Society shall therefore oppose any tuition increase that is in excess of the British Columbia Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), whichever is lesser.

**Principle 4**
The Alma Mater Society shall oppose any tuition increase or portion of a tuition increase that is stated to exist to raise funds for costs that have been covered by provincial transfers, such as teacher salaries.

**Principle 5**
The Alma Mater Society recognizes tuition and provincial higher education as a matter of public concern and as a public priority, and thus shall support provincial regulation of tuition fees, and opposes institutionally determined tuition decisions.

**Principle 6**
The Alma Mater Society shall oppose any tuition or ancillary fee increases which do not maintain accessibility and quality of education offered at post-secondary institutions.

**Principle 7**
The Alma Mater Society shall oppose the implementation of differential tuition fees for out-of-province students.
Principle 8
The Alma Mater Society shall lobby the University to demonstrate its accountability and fiscal responsibility by providing full and unfettered access for the AMS to the annual budget and financial statements of the University and any subsidiary organizations.

Core Funding
Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society shall work in collaboration with the University to actively lobby the Provincial Government to obtain budgetary increases for the post-secondary education system of British Columbia.
Principle 2
The Alma Mater Society shall work in collaboration with the University to actively lobby the provincial government to fully fund the mandated increase in the number of post-secondary education spaces at UBC. These spaces must not compromise the existing quality of education at UBC and must expand access to quality education.
Principle 3
The Alma Mater Society shall also work independently to secure higher core funding for postsecondary education from the province.

Student Financial Assistance
Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society shall lobby the Provincial Government to reinstate the Provincial Grant Program to address the current unmet need that students in British Columbia face.
Principle 2
The Alma Mater Society shall call on the University and the relevant levels of government to ensure that sufficient funding is available through scholarships, bursaries, loans and employment options to allow qualified students access to post-secondary education.
Principle 3
Should a tuition increase arise, the Alma Mater Society shall lobby the University and the appropriate levels of government to increase all forms of student financial assistance at a level equivalent to or greater than the level of the tuition increase.
Principle 4
The Alma Mater Society shall lobby for the creation and expansion of provincial and federal loan remission programs.

Research
Principle 1
The Alma Mater Society shall call on the Provincial Government to position itself to secure a full and appropriate share of national research funding, and shall assist the provincial government in any appropriate way of achieving the aforementioned goal.
Principle 2
The Alma Mater Society shall call on the Provincial Government to adhere to Campus 2020 commitments to direct research funding towards the Georgia Strait Research Cluster.
Whereas in the last three years the University has been – on a trial basis – extending library hours for students during exam periods;

Whereas extended library hours allow students to study in a safe and quiet place;

Be it resolved that Council support the continued extension of library hours during exam periods.
Whereas the relationship between the UBC Vancouver Senate and the Alma Mater Society is a very important one;

Whereas a united student movement between the students currently elected to Senate and the AMS is essential for maximizing effectiveness in representing students’ interests;

Whereas the current student senators function somewhat separately from the AMS, making it difficult for the AMS and the student senators to coordinate efforts or keep each other informed regarding academic issues, initiatives and policies on campus,

Be it resolved that Council call on the UBC Vancouver Senate to add the AMS Vice-President Academic & University Affairs to the Senate membership.

NOTE: To comply with the University Act, the Senate will either have to increase the number of faculty members on the Vancouver Senate by two or decrease the number of at large student senators from five to four.
Whereas the academic year runs from September to August;

Whereas summer session is viewed by most students as an extension of the preceding winter session;

Whereas UBC proposes to increase tuition by 2% in May, 2008;

Whereas UBC’s extra revenue from this increase in the May to September 2008 period would be $224,000, while annual student fee revenues exceed $175 million,

Be it resolved that the AMS call on the University to ensure that any changes to tuition fees take effect in September, rather than May.
Whereas the Chancellor of the University is a member of the university Senates, the Board of Governors, and serves in an academic role as conferrer of degrees and chair of the convocation;

Whereas the Office of the Chancellor and its election by the convocation is an institution dating back to the founding of UBC;

Whereas the election of the Chancellor is enshrined in the *Universities Act*;

Whereas the BC Provincial government recently introduced Bill 34: *The University Amendment Act 2008*, which includes the provision that the Chancellor will no longer be elected by and from the Convocation, but rather appointed by the Board of Governors on nomination of the alumni association; with no requirement that such an appointee even be a member of the convocation they are to chair;

Whereas the autonomy of the University to govern its affairs should be respected and its internal governance should not be adjusted externally without thorough study, broad consultation, and consideration;

Whereas this legislation was drafted without consulting the UBC Senates and convocation, or other stakeholders,

Be it resolved that the Alma Mater Society oppose the changes to the manner in which the Chancellor is selected from an elected to an appointed position, and that the Alma Mater Society communicate this position to the Minister of Advanced Education and to other provincial and local stakeholders.
Whereas the majority of UBC students live off campus and take public transit to school;

Whereas the proposed bus route #33 would connect commuters from 29th Avenue Skytrain Station to UBC;

Whereas a group of neighbours living on West 16th Avenue is organizing to thwart the concept of the proposed bus route;

Be it resolved that Council support the proposed bus route #33 by TransLink.
Summary: Urges the government of British Columbia to continue to support Vancouver’s Supervised Injection Site (InSite) and calls on the government of Canada to allow it to continue operating as part of a comprehensive plan to address the social and health consequences of drug addiction.

Whereas InSite, Vancouver’s Supervised Injection Site has been in operation since September 21, 2003;

Whereas InSite nurses and staff have now supervised more than 1 million injections, each of which would have otherwise occurred in the public view, and with high risk of drug overdose death, and contracting or spreading diseases including HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C;

Whereas the medical supervision available at InSite has prevented almost 1000 overdose deaths;

Whereas scientific evidence compiled by UBC researchers at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS has concluded that InSite has been successful at preventing drug overdose deaths, limiting the spread of HIV/AIDS, reducing public disorder, and moving more people into detox and addiction treatment;

Whereas research proving InSite’s benefits for individual users and the surrounding community has been published in independently peer-reviewed medical science journals including the Lancet, the New England Journal of Medicine, the British Medical Journal, and the Canadian Medical Association Journal;

Whereas InSite is supported entirely by the Province of British Columbia, and has proven to be a vital component of BC’s Health Care system, providing a vital link in the continuum of care necessary to address the tragic consequences of drug addiction;

Whereas on May 27, 2008 BC Supreme Court Justice Ian Pitfield ruled that Canada’s Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) is inconsistent with treating addiction as health care issue stating that “instead of being rationally connected to a reasonable apprehension of harm, the blanket prohibition contributes to the very harm it seeks to prevent. It is inconsistent with the state’s interest in fostering individual and community health, and preventing death and disease;” and

Whereas Justice Pitfield ruled that the CDSA, when applied to the InSite, threatens a person’s constitutional right to life and security under section 7 of Canada’s Charter of Rights and
Freedoms because “it denies the addict access to a health-care facility where the risk of morbidity associated with infectious disease is diminished, if not eliminated;” and

Whereas the University of British Columbia’s commitment to community and the Downtown Eastside is expressed in the TREK 2010 document, and through UBC’s Learning Exchange, the Humanities 101 program and others;

Whereas a wide variety AMS members, clubs and constituencies are directly and indirectly involved in this initiative through academic and community work; Whereas if InSite closes, people will die;

Be it resolved that the UBC Alma Mater Society urge the Government of British Columbia to continue its support for InSite and call on the Government of Canada to allow InSite’s continued operation as part of comprehensive plan to address the tragic consequences of drug addiction.
Policy Number: 2008-07
Passed:
October 8, 2008
Expired:
October 8, 2011
Title:
UBC Farm

Summary:
Supports the continued existence and current size, location and vocation of the UBC Farm, while affirming its interdisciplinary use and the need to secure long term funding for its operations. Also disagrees that there needs to be trade-off between housing for students and the UBC Farm.

Whereas the AMS carries an existing policy, passed September 13 2006, outlining the academic and community value of the UBC Farm and resolving ‘that the AMS lobby the University to ensure that the Farm remains an integral learning and community component of the South Campus’;

Whereas the UBC Farm soils have been improved over decades to make them readily available for cultivation, and any re-location effort would set the Farm back decades;

Whereas a plurality of ecological niches and services are required for the diversity of the UBC Farm’s research and community programs;

Whereas the uncertain future of the UBC Farm has impeded internal and external fund-raising initiatives and has hampered the expansion of onsite research and community programs;

Whereas efforts to secure the future of the UBC Farm exhaust its resources and limit its ability to organize programs or engage in long-term planning;

Whereas a temporary moratorium on development would only continue this state of uncertainty;

Whereas the AMS believes that Student Housing and the UBC Farm are mutually reinforcing pillars of the University’s sustainability strategy;

Be it resolved that the UBC Farm land-base, 12 hectares cleared land and surrounding forest buffer, be secured at no less than its current size.

Be it further resolved that the UBC Farm be secured in its current location on South Campus.

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on UBC to immediately secure the future of the UBC Farm by taking the following actions:

a) commit to preserving the Farm in its current location at no less than its current size of 12 hectares cleared land and surrounding forest buffer through the Main Campus Plan;
b) commit to changing the Farm’s Official Community Plan (OCP) designation from ‘Future Housing Reserve’ to ‘Academic Field Facility’;

c) facilitate interdisciplinary use of the Farm, as well as dedicating funding, through UBC’s Strategic and Academic Planning processes and through UBC’s budget process.

Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose in general the concept of trade-off between Student Housing and the UBC Farm as presented in the Vancouver Campus Plan (VCP) process, and oppose in particular housing developments on the UBC Farm as presented in VCP options.
**Policy Number:**
2008-08

**Passed:**
October 8, 2008

**Expired:**
See note below

**Title:**
UBC and National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II

**Summary:**
Opposes UBC joining Division II of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and directs the AMS to inform students about the ongoing consultation on the subject, as well as the potential benefits and challenges of joining the NCAA.

Whereas students at UBC on the whole, have the highest cost for access to recreation facilities among major Canadian universities;

Whereas we do not have accurate information on how the increased cost of joining the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] will affect the already expensive recreation on campus;

Whereas the consultation process has not adequately addressed our membership; and

Whereas there are significant challenges in joining the NCAA,

Be it resolved that AMS Council does not support the University’s move to NCAA Division II;

Be it further resolved that the AMS inform its members of the ongoing consultation, the potential benefits and potential challenges of joining the NCAA.

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**NOTE:** Policy rescinded by Council at its April 6, 2011 meeting and replaced by policy no. 2011-01.
Policy Number: 2008-09

Title: Civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Passed: November 5, 2008
Expired: November 5, 2011

Summary: Supports the Africa Canada Accountability Coalition’s message and call to action, especially as it applies to the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Whereas the AMS should show solidarity for the UBC African student community during this time of crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC);

Whereas the AMS strongly denounces the use of rape as a weapon of war;

Whereas the Africa Canada Accountability Coalition’s current mission statement is to ‘promote accountable Canadian Leadership in Africa’ and their current focus is on the conflict in the DRC,

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse the ACAC’s message and embrace their call to action.
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<tr>
<th>Policy Number:</th>
<th>2008-10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td><em>Imagine (undergraduate orientation day)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passed:</td>
<td>November 5, 2008</td>
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<td>Expired:</td>
<td>November 5, 2011</td>
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**Summary:**

*Supports replacing the first day of Term 1 undergraduate classes with orientation and transition programs.*

Be it resolved that the AMS support the replacing of the first day of Term 1 undergraduate classes with orientation and transition programs.
Policy Number: 2009-01

Title: 2010 Olympic Games

Summary:
Expresses dissatisfaction with UBC’s lack of student consultation and transparency regarding the 2010 Olympic Games and asks UBC to consult students on these matters. Directs the AMS to conduct an awareness campaign and support other initiatives informing UBC students of the Olympics’ impact on UBC and the Vancouver area.

Whereas the AMS Council referred the question of the Olympics to the External Policy Committee;

Whereas the External Policy committee conducted a review which resulted in the report The 2010 Winter Olympics: Community, Student and Campus Impacts;

Whereas the report makes no value judgment about the Games;

Whereas the External Policy Committee recommends:
- That Council adopt a policy stating the AMS’s dissatisfaction with UBC’s lack of consultation with students, as well as the lack of transparency of the decision making process, regarding the Olympics;
- That the AMS strongly pressure UBC to consult with students meaningfully on all Olympics-related decisions that cause wide scale impacts on the campus;
- That the AMS undertake an awareness campaign and support other UBC student initiatives, as approved by Council, that inform students of the impacts that the Olympics will have on the campus and the Vancouver area before, during, and after the Games.

Be it resolved that the AMS adopt the recommendations of the External Policy Committee, as amended, as policy of the Society.
Whereas the post-secondary education system has been underfunded;

Whereas the budget for StudentAid BC was frozen as per the 2009/2010 BC Government Budget; and

Whereas the BC Government recently cut $16 million in student aid programs;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the $16 million cut in student aid programs;

Be it further resolved that the AMS call on the BC Government to reverse the $16 million cut;

Be it further resolved that the AMS work towards adequate funding for student aid; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS Council authorize an awareness campaign in regards to the cuts without additional budget allocations.

NOTE: The final version of this document was approved by the university on October 17, 2009, four days before this motion was passed.
That the AMS endorse the recommendations of the Draft Sustainability Academic Strategy Discussion Paper as presented below.

**Sustainability Academic Strategy – Anthony Smith**

Anthony Smith, AMS’s representative on the University’s Sustainability Academic Strategy Working Group, started with the following overarching comments:

- **Key priority areas:**
  - teaching and learning
  - research and partnerships
  - operations and administration (UBC already a world leader in this)
  - implementation

- **Three priority points:**
  - South Campus Academic Plan (Farm, developments)
  - Centre for International Research on Sustainability (CIRS)
  - Okanagan campus

- **Two overarching themes:**
  - campus as living laboratory
  - agent of change

Smith explained that the discussion paper will be presented to UBC’s executives for a final review in November and that he is looking for a motion of support from Council to show that students care and to give an additional reason for UBC to adopt the proposal. He also provided more details about the proposal:

- **Teaching and Learning:**
  - Aims to improve access to sustainability learning for all students;
  - Introducing a Sustainability minor;
  - Going to hire staff who are leaders in sustainability teaching;
  - Co-curricular opportunities, recognizing sustainability experience;
  - Outside the classroom, on transcripts.

- **Research and Partnerships:**
  - Five fellows in Sustainability research;
  - Using campus as laboratory, e.g., work at the farm;
  - Work in partnership with one or more B.C. communities;
- Develop events, especially high level conferences with international figures.

- Operations and Administration:
  - UBC a leader, received a B+, but still room for improvement;
  - Aiming to be a net positive energy and water campus;
  - Create a fund to be able to invest in green technology;
  - Create a Sustainability campus plan;
  - Ethics/sustainable investment;
  - Campaign to motivate people to change behaviour.

- Implementation:
  - University Sustainability Centre as hub for all these changes (CIRS building);
  - November 10 ground-breaking ceremony for CIRS building;
  - Telling story to world, showcasing accomplishments;
  - Rewards for professors for interdisciplinary work on Sustainability.
Whereas TransLink has proposed a Canada Line YVR Add Fare which would require a passenger, travelling between Bridgeport and Templeton Canada Line stations in either direction, to pay $2.50 in addition to the applicable zone fare for travel to Richmond;

Whereas TransLink has indicated that, if implemented, U-Pass holders would be required to pay the YVR Add Fare; and

Whereas TransLink has agreed to provide U-Pass holders unlimited use of TransLink funded bus (including Community Shuttles), SkyTrain, and SeaBus transportation services within the GVRD;

Be it resolved that the AMS oppose the inclusion of U-Pass holders in the scope of the YVR Add Fare;

Be it further resolved that the AMS President submit comments to the TransLink Commissioner.
Policy Number:
2009-05

Title:
University governance, land use and student engagement

Passed:
December 2, 2009
Expired:
December 2, 2012

Summary:
Requests that the Governance Committee of UBC’s Board of Governors meet with the external committees of the AMS and the GSS to discuss institutional student engagement in the university’s governance and land use framework.

Whereas the enhancement of student engagement in the governance and land use framework of UBC is an AMS goal;

Be it resolved that the AMS recognize that local control over institutional lands and buildings is necessary for the preservation of academic freedom, the enhancement of the student experience, and the development of UBC as a globally significant university that is able to provide a high quality of education; and

Be it further resolved that the AMS request that the Governance Committee of the UBC Board of Governors meet with the AMS University and External Relations Committee and the GSS External Committee to discuss institutional student engagement in the governance and land use framework of UBC.
Whereas disseminating research findings openly is beneficial to researchers, professionals, students and the public;

Whereas the public has a right to access publicly funded research;

Whereas the current subscriptions to academic journals are fiscally unsustainable and impede research findings from being openly accessible;

Whereas a large international collective that includes faculty, researchers, students, taxpayers, professionals, librarians as well as journals, funding institutions and universities are moving towards an open access model of journal publishing; and

Whereas open access publishing is defined as digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the establishment of an open access publishing policy at UBC;

Be it further resolved that the AMS communicate this position by writing a letter in support of a UBC open access policy, addressed to the President, VP of Research, Provost and Vice President of Students.
Whereas the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is a registered voluntary society which promotes the development of comprehensive quality child care, women’s equality and social justice, and the rights of children and child care workers;

Whereas the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is a local sister organization of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, such that membership in the former by default includes membership in the latter, and which through shared membership, and the Child Care Council, works closely with organizations such as Building Blocks for Child Care, the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF), the Child Care Resource and Research Unit, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA);

Whereas the AMS shares the same values of inclusiveness, equality, women’s rights, and the rights of children, promotes and advocates for these values, and would find these advocacy resources and networks invaluable; and

Whereas the AMS has made a commitment to Childcare by committing $100,000 per year for ten years to fund much needed expansion of the UBC Childcare services;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse and join the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC.
Whereas the need for child care is essential for many UBC students, as well as for students across Canada, and in many cases, including that of UBC, is growing;

Whereas the It Takes a University: Child Care and Postsecondary Institutions conference is an AMS and GSS collaboration that will bring diverse individuals with different academic and life perspectives together in a national discussion of child care on campus;

Whereas this cooperative spirit will improve AMS and GSS lobbying efforts on campus and nationally; and

Whereas this national discussion will raise the profile of the needs of student parents, and contribute policy ideas for improving child care on campus;

Be it resolved that the AMS officially endorse and support the It Takes a University: Child Care and Postsecondary Institutions Conference.
Whereas Colin Simkus presented the following eight recommendations AMS Society Act Review Subcommittee’s report to Council:

- Calling for a separate Student Society Act;
- That mandatory membership be retained;
- That paying Executives continue to be allowed;
- That minors continue to be allowed to be members and directors of societies;
- That electing directors by Constituencies continue to be allowed;
- That Council be allowed to remove Executives/directors;
- That referendums be recognized in the act as equivalent to general meetings, so that the AMS does not have to depend anymore on a special dispensation from the Registrar of Companies;
- That we be allowed to obtain our register of members;

Be it resolved that the AMS Council adopt the Society Act Review Subcommittee’s submission and send it to the legislative committee that is reviewing the act.
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<tr>
<th>Policy Number:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Passed:</td>
<td>July 14, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expired:</td>
<td>July 14, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Land use at UBC (omnibus)</td>
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</table>
| Summary:      | Omnibus land use policy requesting that: the UBC Farm be designated as an integrated academic use area, the Gage South and University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plans be rescinded, unit density of on campus student housing be increased and the overall target for student housing be raised to 50%.

Whereas UBC is embarking on a consultative process to review and amend the Land Use Plan;

Whereas the designation of areas within this plan has the potential to affect the members of the AMS;

Whereas the AMS has previously lobbied for changes to this document, formerly known as the Official Community Plan;

Whereas the AMS endorsed the University Boulevard petition on May 2, 2007 calling for a revisitation of land-use options on University Boulevard; and

Whereas the AMS has passed motions on September 13, 2006 and October 8, 2008 in support of the UBC Farm;

Be it resolved that, consistent with recommendation APP7 of the South Campus Academic Plan: Cultivating Place, the AMS support formalizing the land designation for the 24-ha contiguous area on South Campus as an integrated academic use area, named ‘UBC Farm;’

Be it further resolved that the AMS support rescinding the Gage South Neighbourhood Plan, and re-zoning the area for transit and/or student housing uses;

Be it further resolved that the AMS support the rescinding of the University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan;

Be it further resolved that the AMS support increasing the unit density in the housing on campus;

Be it further resolved that the AMS support changing the target for student housing percentages to 50%, consistent with UBC’s stated goal of housing 50% of the student population on campus;

Be it further resolved that the University and External Relations Committee work to develop specific policies related to the above clauses, and report back to Council at the August 11th meeting; and
Be it further resolved that Council direct the Vice-President Academic & University Affairs and the University and External Relations Committee to work on a further official AMS submission for the Land Use Plan consultation process.
Policy Number: 2010-06

Title: Land use at UBC: Student representation on the consultation committee

Passed: August 25, 2010
Expired: August 25, 2013

Summary:
Requests that a student representative be added to the UBC Land Use Plan public consultation committee and asks the Minister of Community and Rural Development to modify the committee composition accordingly.

Whereas the British Columbia Minister of Community and Rural Development has announced the structure of a committee responsible for the facilitation of public consultation regarding the UBC Land Use Plan;

Whereas the AMS External and University Relations Committee has endorsed the principle that students should be guaranteed a representative on this committee, and has directed the President, VP Academic, and VP External to lobby on behalf of this principle; and

Whereas the committee structure as currently announced does not include student representation

Be it resolved that the AMS officially request a student representative on the committee responsible for the facilitation of public consultation regarding the UBC Land Use Plan;

Be it further resolved that Council direct the VP External to lobby the Minister of Community and Rural Development to issue an updated committee structure featuring guaranteed student representation.
Policy Number:  
2011-02  

Title: 
Rapid rail transit and UBC  

Passed:  
April 11, 2011  
Expired:  
See note below  

Summary:  
Supports rail rapid transit (RRT) on the Broadway Corridor, from Commercial Drive to UBC. Endorses “RRT Alternative Option B” of the UBC Line Rapid Transit Study published by TransLink in April 2011. Requests that TransLink and all levels of government make the creation of RRT Alternative Option B a top priority.

Whereas Phase two of TransLink’s consultation is coming to a close;

Be it resolved that the AMS supports Rail Rapid Transit [RRT];

Be it further resolved that the AMS endorses [RRT Alternative] Option B along the Broadway Corridor all the way to UBC;

Be it further resolved that TransLink, the City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, the Provincial and the Federal governments make the creation of RRT [Alternative] Option B a top priority.