AMS Advocacy Committee
Agenda of May 29, 2018

Attendance
Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Andy Wu (Councilor), Kate Burnham (Councilor), Dylan Braam (Councilor)
Regrets: Hannah Xiao (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large)
Guests: Roshni Pendse (AVP Academic), Kennedy Gagnon (AVP University Affairs), Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability)

Recording Secretary: Julia Burnham (Academic Campaigns and Outreach Commissioner)

Land Acknowledgement
The chair acknowledged that this meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hən̓q̓ə̨m̓ə̑m̓ speaking x̉wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.

Call to Order
6:07pm

Approval of Agenda
- Motion to amend the agenda from Max to add “Election of Vice Chair”, add discussion on student arrested in Saudi Arabia
- Seconded by Cristina
- The agenda was approved (Andy, Cristina)

Election of Vice Chair
- Max
  - Julia will be taking minutes during these meetings, so the Vice Chair will not have to do this
  - If I am not present, the chair will do so in my absence
  - Cristina is acclaimed as Vice Chair

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates
- Max
  - Hiring for department is done, all staff are present at this meeting
  - Recently decided to postpone hiring the two commissioners for department at the beginning of September. Recognized that there was not as much work being done in the summer, also to save money
o VPDAE committee search going well, should have someone in June or July.
o VPFinOps committee. Have just finished collecting candidates, will be done by end of June or July.
o Working with SVPRO to work on a campaign on consent and solidarity with survivors. AMS did a campaign two years ago for Policy 131 focused on statistics and why we needed a policy, this time it’s about solidarity with survivors and that we believe them.
o Been in conversations with VP Students and HR for a small review of Policy 131 over the summer to see the recommendations brought forward at April BoG.
o VP Students Louise Cowin recently resigned. Currently figuring out what the interim structure will be.
o Met with new secretary for BoG, Amandeep. Had a conversation about the AMS relationship with the BoG.
o Most likely going to Okanagan BoG meeting in September to give a presentation on the AMS.
o Went to Leadership Lunch dialogue with Dr. Alma Clayton-Pedersen to talk about diversity and inclusion at UBC.

Presented at Senate meeting about the cost of learning materials and guiding principles for the cost of learning materials. Went very well and moving forward.
o Working on the Arts Student Centre, moving forward quickly.
o Stadium Neighbourhood planning advisory committee meeting.
  ▪ Concerns from faculty about the increase in square footage, they wanted more faculty housing but less density.
  ▪ Hawthorne Place had a petition on this, I advocated on their lack of student representation in this.
o Academic policy committee meeting yesterday, there will not be a fall reading break next year.
  ▪ Jeanie and I are pushing for a commitment on this.
  ▪ Looking at a policy to protect students against midterms outside of class time and on weekends.

• Andy: Is there an estimated time for ASC start of construction?
• Max: I don’t have timelines in front of me, I could get them and come back to committee about them. Site has changed, instead of next to Brock Hall, it will be situated in the BOSC. The university has agreed to cover any additional costs that come with this space, also a more prime location.
• Dylan: In terms of the housing being built, is the university going to be the landlord or is it private development?
• Max: It will be private development, there will be market lease and rental in that area. We are hoping to push for more university market, similar to Central operated by Properties Trust. We will also work to push for more faculty housing in that area, which is also a concern for us.
• Dylan: Does no fall reading break apply to the law school?
• Max: Has to go through Senate, I haven’t seen any yet.

VP External Affairs Updates
• Cristina
  o I have hired my entire team
  o Lots of consultations have come up, especially for transit. Have had meetings about the Millennium line extension
  o Have sent in a bunch of submissions on the 41 B-Line. There’s a consultation right now for transit efficiency and priority
  o Submission right now for the fare review, distance based or zone based. Will send in the next few weeks
  o Someone from the community relations dept at Translink meet with us to start a committee with other student unions and stakeholders
  o Federal copyright act is being reviewed, AMS will be making a submission. Trying to create narrative about open access and open data
  o Municipal elections preparations, get out the vote campaign. Preparing briefs for what is happening the elections as of now. Environmental scan of what the landscape for elections looks like right now.
    • Will be meeting with all candidates to ensure student priorities are known to them. Need to have candidates stand behind the extension to UBC.
  o Meeting with electoral district A director, which resides over endowment lands.
  o Federal election, long ways away but already talks about setting up polling booths in Nest.
  o Started research in transit advocacy. Kevin (staff) does transit and research, creating a big report on the millennium line extension and the AMS position throughout the process. Trying to find out where we have been successful, where have we lacked. Looking to use this report to improve advocacy going forward.
  o Also researching in mental health, comparative to universities we aspire to. Talking to administrators at the university to discuss big ticket advocacy items regarding FTEs/base funding, OERs etc.
  o Went to UNA meeting, talked about where the UNA has gotten to so far about hiring staff members
• Dylan: Do we have anything in the works about the upcoming provincial referendum?
• Cristina: Not yet, but will be part of it soon. Will keep you updated.
• Michelle: Polling stations for federal, not municipal?
• Cristina: There’s one station on campus for municipal election, not with us, but for federal we are the only one.
• Andy: Any word if the government will be funding the line moving forward to UBC?
• Cristina: Currently it’s not going to UBC, there’s been no commitment to start the tangible planning. We finally have UBC on board, but there’s awhile to wait to see who is elected in Vancouver and if they will support.

Committee Goals Discussion
• Max:
  o I see advocacy committee goals as not mine or Cristina’s, these goals are what do we as a committee wanting to tackle. Have looked at a few things that we have to do as a committee this year
  o Student Issues and Equity caucus for two years have not met a lot or done a lot. One of things we want to do is review structures. Looking at combining into one and making it a subcommittee to be a consultative committee. People who sit on it can bring forward issues and liaise with their groups. Brought forward from Governance review, underrepresented groups feel they do not have a voice in the AMS.
  o Push for a sustainable structure for Indigenous student engagement within the AMS. This has been a major failing of the AMS and it must be improved. It should be left to Indigenous students to decide what that structure should be, not the AMS.
  o What else do we see as a committee being larger goals that we want to work on?
  o It’s alright if no one has any ideas right now, but I wanted to bring it up.
  o In the interest of time, everyone can think on that and we can talk about it later.

Discussion on Loujain al-Hathloul’s Detainment in Saudi Arabia
• Max
  o I don’t know if everyone heard, but there is an alum who has been detained in Saudi Arabia. Letter from faculty calling on the university to comment
  o CBC article with comment saying that the university cannot comment on an individual case of over 300,000 alumni
  o It would be a good move from this committee to move a motion from the AMS to write a letter in consultation with the other executives and the comms department to express that not only do we support the release of this alum, but also that we’d like to call on UBC to publicly support the release of this person as well.
  o It would be important for us to come out and support this person. One of the jobs of advocacy committee is to recognize things like this.
  o I don’t want us to word something now, but direct myself and Cristina to bring something to council meeting tomorrow and ask council for a motion to support that letter.
• Andy: Is she a Canadian citizen? The letter might change given the citizenship.
• Cristina: I think they were an international student. I received an email from one of their associates.
• Andy: To be clear, if the student is a Canadian citizen, the letter should encourage Canadian diplomats to support this student. If not, it’s really not their business.
• Dylan: Global Affairs Canada has given a statement.
• Kate: Might be appropriate to talk about how her activism aligns with the values of UBC as an institution
• Max: Absolutely.
• Andy: I move that the VPAUA and VPX create a letter supporting the alumni and their immediate release, calling on UBC to do the same.
• Dylan seconded
• Max: I am going to assume unanimous consent. Cristina and I will work on this and bring to council.

Other Business
• Andy: Is the VPX office currently researching proportional representation?
• Cristina: Not within my goals, but we can do that if that’s something you’re interested in

Adjournment
• Adjourned at 6:59pm.
• Next meeting June 5th from 6-7pm in the same location.