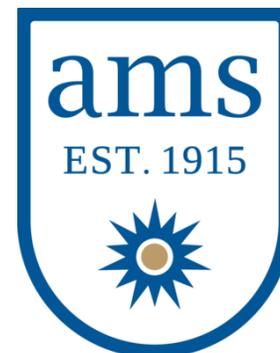


Office of the Vice-President
External Affairs

July Ternary



Sally Lin

Vice-President External Affairs

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FOREWORD

Dearest councillors, fellow executives, AMS members,

I am delighted and thankful for this opportunity formally provide insight into the day to day work of the External Affairs Office.

It has been an honour thus far, to serve in such a position, in such an exciting time for the political climate of our provincial government. With quickly changing political landscapes and a timeline that often is not ours to decide, the External office is committed to being adaptable and to deliver the results of goals that were set out. The majority of our time in the last months was dedicated to goal setting, planning for the upcoming year, and engaging key stakeholders to assess the climate of the issue. Many of which will be elaborated upon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my diligent staff team of 4, and acknowledge the hard work they have put in so far. As well as the numerous permanent staff members that have been part of the transition process and the support system.

Before I go into detail, if there are any questions, comments or concerns about this ternary report, please email me at vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca or drop by the AMS offices, room 3524.

All the best,



Sally Lin

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Hiring & Staff Management

The VP External oversees 4 director reports during the summer, and 3 direct reports in September. I am pleased to share that Ms. Isabella Picui is the Associate Vice-President External Affairs. Ms. Brooklyn Rocco will be our Campaigns and Engagement Commissioner. Ms. Maria Albitar as the U-Pass and Research Commissioner. Last but not least, Mr. Evan Aluyen joined us as the Student Union Development Summit Coordinator.

Although 2 staff members are away for the summer due to other employment, both have been fulfilling their hours during off hours or on the weekends. I have also been conducting weekly one-on-one meetings. Prior to this ternary, I have also conducted a staff engagement survey to assess productivity and support of the team, which will help me make informed decisions to optimize the operations of day to day work.

Budget

The budgeting process for the External portfolio was straightforward. The outgoing executives had consensus to provide a pre-preliminary budget for the in-coming executives. I had worked through the process with Kathleen Simpson. When time came for preliminary budgets, I was familiar with the set up and only had to make minor alterations.

I firmly believe in under-budgeting any projected revenue, in order to be cautious about the final balance. Thus far, the Student Union Development Summit is the best example of how costs may be incurred, and I am positive that we will be able to strike a balance, if not create a surplus.

2017/ 2018 Goals

Engagement Map

An engagement map for outreach in the upcoming year has been compiled and in the final stages of making it aesthetically pleasing. It will be used for campaigns and outreach purposes during the school year. The map consists of the contact



information of most if not all student-led organizations on campus, organized by type (i.e. sustainability, social, charity, special interest). This will be useful for not only the External office but the Academic and University Affairs Office as well. Parts of this map/list will be shared with the Sexual Assault Prevention Team - a group of educators and individuals with expertise in the area of sexual violence education and awareness - in order to aid the process of critical awareness on campus raising via various workshops. In addition, the External office now has an account on Campus Vibe for club interactions.

Caucus Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the working group of Advocacy Committee is now in its final form, with details such as representation for the Equity Caucus still being tweaked and worked on with councillors. The timeline following the completion of the terms of reference will be to engage or re-engage with the members of the Caucus, and to prepare the group for the start of school.

Rent with Rights

The AMS had introductory conversations with administration of Student Housing and Hospitality Services regarding the tenant rights on campus; and there was positive feedback to having further collaboration on amendments to contracts at UBC. I also had the pleasure of meeting our Point Grey MLA, David Eby, to highlight that Rent with Rights remains a top priority for the AMS. Moving forward, this will continue to be a key ask for us.

Academic Affordability

In the last few months, the External office has commissioned 2 SEEDS projects. One of which is for Textbook Price Parity to assess the financial impact of potential legislation change affecting the education text industry, and individual buyers. Background research for open education resources has been completed, and moving forward we will be formulating our asks. In the meantime, metrics for statistical analysis on the effect of OER on student performance are in development, and will be employed in the Academic Office's listening tour.



Transportation & U-Pass

In regards to transit advocacy, the external office has begun research on transit routes that require further attention. The other SEEDS project commissioned is to assess public transit journey patterns of UBC students in order to help to AMS make more informed decisions.

Since May, the AMS made a submission to Translink in response to the proposed cancellation of the #480 bus, and called for student input into the Translink survey as well. The cancellation issue was very contentious on social media, and translated into a couple of students emailing, providing context into their commuting experience. The AMS will continue to press for the changes that we have submitted.

Day to day tasks are also covered a lot with U-Pass inquiries from students. The External Office is the point of contact for students at the AMS and between enrollment services. We will be revisiting the way information of U-Pass as a service is conveyed to students, in hopes of improving for a streamlined process to relieve students of the onus of searching through websites and emailing numerous AMS staff and UBC staff to learn about the eligibility requirements, exemption, or grants available.

The Student Association Caucus (SAC) from the U-Pass Advisory Committee (UAC) has met once to start the conversation regarding U-Pass Program extension. I have since then been elected to the working group of the UAC, mandated to move forward with conversations with stakeholders about the program extension.

ADVOCAN & Provincial Coalitions

The External Office saw a successful year last year when the VP Externals of Simon Fraser Student Society, University of Victoria Student Society, and the AMS collaborated on lobby asks. I have had several meetings with my counterparts to discuss and share our priority for the upcoming year, and to foster collaboration wherever appropriate. It is clear that both the SFSS and UVSS are keen to continue this collaboration with us as well, and keen to support Rent with Rights.

For federal alliances, the AMS has been a part ADVOCAN. Unique in that they are the student unions at the U15 or top research universities in Canada. We have met several times to elect a new chair, Mr. Antonia Brieva, from the University of Waterloo



Students Association, and are in the processes to set priorities for the year and determining lobby dates. The AMS is also playing host for ADVOCAN where a meeting in August is also set to take place at the Nest prior to the Student Union Development Summit.

Student Union Development Summit (SUDS)

The Student Union Development Summit is a symposium for student union executives and staff to share best practices, experiences, and ideas for running a successful student society. The key focus of the UBC AMS is to improve and enhance the learning experience of students at the University. The value of SUDS is that we are provided with the opportunity to coordinate with other student unions for lobby efforts, share lessons learned and learn from their challenges to provide more comprehensive operation and governance concepts to better serve our students.

From a logistical point of view, SUDS is progressing really well. SUDS planning set out with the goal this year of not only providing workshops that benefit the student union, but personal development workshops to enhance executive teams over all and introduce skills that delegates can carry with them for a lifetime. Planning is moving faster than originally planned, meaning that there will be much less of a rush prior to when the event takes place.

But perhaps the biggest news of all - SUDS is *sold out!* With the SUDS Coordinator as the incredible lead, and the assistance from the rest of the team, we have sold out of all 102 accommodations, a total of 123 delegates passes, and surpassed our KPI of 100 registrations.