



Student Society
of UBC Vancouver

Office of the President

July 2015 Ternary Report

May 2015-July 2015
(Submitted on July 21, 2015)

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1 Introduction

As the President ushering in a new era of the AMS with our centennial celebration and the opening of the long-awaited Student Nest, this year is a pivotal opportunity to reengage our members and improve our operations. The first few months of my term have been dedicated to resolving residual issues from the previous term, creating orientation opportunities for the Executive, Council, and student staff; as well as strategically developing goals for the year.

2 Progress Thus Far

Since the end of elections last year, I have dived head-first into the role of President in an effort to capitalize on my short tenure in office. In particular, the month of April was spent working with the AMS Human Resources department and our Executive Director, Daniel Levangie, to design a comprehensive orientation program for both Executives and Councillors that covered basic fiduciary duty, roles and responsibilities; board training with the Vantage Point group; and an understanding of the internal structure of the Society. During this time I met with a number of AMS permanent staff members to learn about their goals for the upcoming year, introduce myself, and gain a better understanding of the diversity of working styles in the office. I also worked diligently to design a three-day strategic planning retreat for the Executives that occurred during the first weekend in May, and included a team-building exercise facilitated by Brad Gretzinger Consulting, the proprietorship of a recent AMS Alumnus.

During the month of May, most of my time was spent meeting with various members of the UBC Administration to better understand their relationship to the AMS, and identify individuals who could be of assistance in achieving the goals of the Society moving forward. Time was also spent developing systems and procedures for both Executive Committee and Council to improve efficiency, hiring the staff in the President's Office, and engaging continuously with team-building initiatives to strengthen the core of the AMS Student Government.

June was decidedly focused on initial goal-setting and project planning following the orientation of my staff, as well as planning and executing the Councillor retreat in conjunction with the UBCSUO, hosted in Kelowna. The retreat was a success as it offered a low-key opportunity for Councillors and Executives to bond with each other, and engage with our peers at UBC Okanagan. During this month, time was also spent revamping the AMS Governance Review project with the assistance of Steven Pannoosamy, the AMS Executive Special Projects Assistant, Governance, and establishing the Engagement Commission/Orientations Committee in conjunction with the VP Administration to facilitate better communication with constituencies.

This month has been one of progress on goals outlined in near-completeness further along in this report. In particular, redrafts of the Governance Review proposal and RFP have been completed, consent agendas have been incorporated in Agenda Committee Code, a draft Student Social Enterprise proposal has been created, a boardroom software RFP has been drafted, the AMS Farm Microbrewery has been developed nearly to completion, and significant progress has been made on working with the 13th Man Foundation to create plans for supporting Varsity Football in exchange for assistance in expanding the 2016 Block Party. It is safe to say that the summer has been a productive one, and my office is looking forward to welcoming students to the Nest upon their return in September.

3 Vision Statements and Sub-goals

The vision for the Office of the President is two-fold: the first is to work towards reuniting the AMS through a long overdue governance review, and the second is to expand our support and programming of events and initiatives on campus that contribute to a fun and vibrant atmosphere for UBC students.

3.1 Reunite the AMS

The last comprehensive governance review of the AMS occurred in 1993, which led to the familiar organizational structure that we see today. This structure has served us exceptionally well over the course of the past two decades, culminating most prominently in our largest undertaking ever: the AMS Student Nest. However, with the rapidly changing dynamics of our campus community, expansion of AMS business and operations, and advent of novel communication channels, it is evident that a re-examining of the societal framework is overdue.

A blue-skies imagining of the AMS in fifteen years would be a comprehensive student-led organization whose activities are completely directed by its members. In particular, the AMS would be recognized and consulted as a respected stakeholder regarding any action or decisions made by UBC Administration or all levels of Canadian government affecting the lives of students. The AMS Student Nest would be a true home away from home, where students would seek to spend their time outside of classes socializing, eating, partying, studying, exercising, and being together. We would be the recognizable provider of all necessary student services on campus, and would have the resources to expand or modify services at the whim of our membership. Our decision-making bodies would be horizontally organized, with all students aware and able to access the opportunity of contributing to the decisions made that direct the organization according to their unique interests and perspectives. We would be an incubator for students to discover their passions, develop their skills, and become better versions of themselves during their time at UBC. In doing so, both AMS Business & Operations, and the AMS Student Government would communicate openly and work together towards a unified vision of offering low-cost, fantastic products and services – the revenue from which would transparently and evidently benefit students in a direct way. Lastly, the AMS would be the body that successfully brings together all of the fantastic organizations, groups, and movements on campus that improve the lives of UBC students, raising their profile and making them easier to engage with for those who wish to do so.

3.1.1 Complete the BuildAMS Governance Review

In my tenure, progress towards reaching the vision outlined above will consist of executing the BuildAMS governance review, a project that has been in the planning stages for a number of years. Following the completion of the external review, my intention is to have Council ratify a report outlining recommendations to the next Executive for implementation.

The necessary steps and timelines for completion are as follows:

Steps Taken	Date of Completion
Redraft BuildAMS proposals	July 21 st , 2015
Council consultation	July 29 th , 2015
Council approval	August 19 th , 2015
Request for Proposal opens	August 20 th , 2015
Request for Proposal closes	August 31 st , 2015
Consulting contract approved by Council	September 9 th , 2015
Consultation and review period	September 2015 – February 2016, inclusive
Final report and recommendations drafted	March 2016
Recommendations approved by Council	April 2016

3.2 Fight for Fun

Since the beginning of my five years on campus, I have heard students bemoan a perceived lack of culture or engaging social activity happening during the school year. Whether there truly is a secret “war on fun” being waged at UBC, it is troubling that students struggle to find social outlets on a campus as beautiful and expansive as this. As such, my second position statement involves working to build a culture of fun and vibrancy on campus that directly improves the social lives of all AMS Members. My vision for the AMS’ role in this is to serve as a mentoring body that provides event organizers with the skills and resources they need to develop and implement quality programming across campus on a regular basis. The ideal AMS would use its size and infrastructure to focus efforts on expanding and improving our two bookend flagship events, Welcome Back BBQ and Block Party, while limiting overlap and competition with other on campus groups. We would help avoid event redundancy and fatigue by coordinating the scheduling of events on campus, ensuring that students have choices on all days of the week. In addition, the AMS would form a strong partnership with Varsity Athletics and Thunderbird Football that would create a focal point for community building and social programming that offers something to every member of our diverse community throughout the year, while demonstrating to UBC that our campus values the efforts of our athletes.

3.2.1 Develop a SAC classification system for Student Social Enterprises in conjunction with the VP Administration and Operations offices

Currently the SAC classification system only provides benefits to student groups that follow the fairly rigid guidelines that define and distinguish clubs. These stipulations do not include non-profit and entrepreneurial student groups that provide benefit to campus, but are unable to operate within the current SAC policy

framework. The Student Social Enterprise system would offer benefits to these groups to ensure they can maintain sustainability in offering value to the UBC student experience.

The necessary steps and timelines for completion are as follows:

Steps Taken	Date of Completion
Draft SSE Proposal	July 10 th , 2015
Consult stakeholders on SSE proposal	July 31 st , 2015
Draft SAC Policy Handbook amendments	August 31 th , 2015
Approve SAC Policy amendments	September 15 th , 2015

3.2.2 Find a large-scale, sustainable home for Block Party

Block Party is far and beyond the largest and most recognized AMS Event. It is the only large-scale celebration of our entire campus community, and is arguably the one event that only the AMS is capable of hosting. However, due to construction on campus, the event currently only serves about 10% of the total student population, and does not do justice to the size and scope of our membership. My goal this year is to strive for a long-term home for Block Party at Thunderbird Stadium with an aim to host at least 10,000 students this year on the last day of classes.

Steps Taken	Date of Completion
Draft agreement with UBC Facilities and Athletics for purchase and financing of Thunderbird Stadium field covering	August 31 st , 2015
Develop financing proposal for covering	October 2015
Council approval of turf expenditure	January 2015

3.2.3 Establish a contractual partnership between Athletics, AMS Events, and the 13th Man Foundation for raising the profile of Varsity Athletics on campus

UBC is home to a strong and successful varsity athletics program spanning numerous sports and benefiting a large number of student athletes. As noted above, however, our athletes go unrecognized due to poor marketing of sporting events and a lack of centrality for the varsity program. Starting with Thunderbird Football, the AMS will strive to bring athletics to the centre of our social programming on campus to create a unifying atmosphere of school spirit.

Steps Taken	Date of Completion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft agreement between AMS Events and The 13th Man Foundation for programming at Football games • Work with Imagine UBC to organize Blue Wave • Establish partnership between the Pit and Thunderbird Football for after game programming 	August 31 st , 2015

4 Short-Term Goals for the Year

4.1 Improve Council Efficiency

4.1.1 Implement Consent Agendas within Agenda Committee – July 2015

4.1.2 Codify Project Consultation Process (PCP) – August 2015

4.1.3 Develop an effective system for Constituency, Executive, and Committee updates – September 2015

4.1.4 Hire, implement, and codify AMS Secretariat position – September 2015

4.1.5 Acquire and implement council boardroom software solution – January 2015

4.2 Begin Fee Collection for AMS Microbrewery Project

4.2.1 Sign MOU with UBC Farm Centre – July 2015

4.2.2 Strike Farm Microbrewery Steering Committee (FMBSC) – August 2015

4.2.3 Acquire Executive 1&2 approval for project – September 2015

4.2.4 Develop Microbrewery operational model and acquire Council approval – January 2016

4.2.5 Draft, acquire Council approval, and sign on financing, partnership, and lease agreements with UBCPT, UBC Treasury, and others – May 2016

5 Hiring

5.1 Assistant to the President

Hassan Packir is serving as the Assistant to the President and has been diligently working to create organizational systems for the office, handling correspondence, and representing the President at meetings when requested to do so.

5.2 Executive Special Projects Assistant, Governance

Steven Pannoosamy is working this year as one of two Executive Special Projects Assistants, and will be focusing most of his attention on the AMS Governance Review Project, helping to support the Governance Review Committee.

5.3 Executive Special Projects Assistant, Student Life

Alex Remtulla is joining the office as one of two Executive Special Projects Assistants. His projects include working to coordinate and expand constituency orientation events, helping to raise the profile of Varsity athletics among members, aiding AMS Events in expanding programming, and liaising with UBC REC to connect the AMS with flagship events such as Storm the Wall.

6 Committees

6.1 AMS Committees

6.1.1 Legislative Procedures Committee

6.1.2 Student Life and Communications Committee

6.1.3 Innovative Projects Fund Committee

6.1.4 AMS Microbrewery Committee

6.2 University Committees (Standing and Ad Hoc)

Below are the current University Committees that the President holds a seat at on behalf of the AMS.

6.2.1 UBC Centennial Committee

6.2.2 Aquatic Centre Management Committee

6.2.3 Alumni Association

6.2.4 AMS Health and Dental Plan Committee

6.2.5 Mental Health Steering Committee

6.2.6 Property & Planning Advisory Committee

6.2.7 VP Students Executive Committee

6.2.8 Public Realm Steering Committee

7 Conferences

7.1 StudentCare Annual Stakeholder Meeting

In the beginning of May, Mateusz and I travelled to Montreal for the annual meeting held by StudentCare, the provider of our AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan. Here we had the opportunity to connect with other student leaders from across the country and discuss issues of student health facing our campus. We were also provided with updates on new features being designed by StudentCare, such as a user-friendly new website and teleconferencing help stations to be installed in Student Union Buildings across the nation, and critically discussed trends in student health such as the rising rates of mental health conditions and troubling abuse of prescription AD/HD medication within academic environments.

7.2 International Young Governance Professionals Summit

June 18th-20th I attended the IYGP Summit held in downtown Vancouver along with the VP Finance and student executives from Capilano University and Simon Fraser University. The summit was an opportunity to gather valuable insight into efficient board management and operations, and provided a glimpse at the complexity and diversity of board operations across sectors and around the world. In particular, knowledge gained about the Policy Governance model (also known as the Carver model) will lend itself to my work on the Governance Review Project over the course of the coming year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or visit me during office hours in NEST 3518.

Sincerely,



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