

Advocacy Committee Report - August 2017

Cameron England (Chair)

August 27, 2017

Below is a summary of the meetings of the AMS Advocacy Committee for June 2017, which met on July 31st and August 14th, and will meet on August 28th and September 11th.

July 31st - The agenda and previous meeting's minutes were approved. Next, interim VP Academic Jakob Gattinger provided his updates, including outlining his meeting with the new Provost and VP Academic for UBC Andrew Szeri and resolving HR issues with the VP AUA office. Next, Sally Lin updated the committee on Rent with rights, the UBC Municipalities Conference, a potential new bike share program, UPass, Freshdesk, SUDS, and the AdvoCan advocacy partnership. Afterwards, the committee was consulted on a draft of a tuition consultation policy. Next, consultation continued on the terms of reference for the new Caucuses, at the end of which a hiring rubric working group was suggested. Finally, the committee expressed support for three initiatives: a Good Samaritan Policy to prevent repercussions for calling authorities during an overdose, and two sexual assault prevention initiatives (one in conjunction with UVic, one national).

August 14th - The agenda and previous meeting's minutes were approved. Next, Jakob Gattinger updated on meetings with Andrew Szeri, the Excellence Fund, two internal policies (tuitions consultations and Academic Experience Survey (AES)), the steps following the resignation of the Indigenous Students Commissioner, and that he would be attending a conference on career services. Next, Sally Lin reported that a letter would be crafted to help address noise around residences and the Greek Village. Also, she provided updates on AdvoCan, coordination with other student societies, and the UPass extension letter. The tuition consultation policy was passed with a motion to bring it to Council, and the bike share policy draft was moved forward. Suggestions were sought for the AES policy. Another discussion on Caucus hiring was had, where it was decided that the rubric would be used as a guideline and that applications would be handled on a case-by-case basis. Finally, Gattinger previewed a future discussion on the Excellence Fund and the role of the the AMS in it.

In terms of suggested goals, I recommend that the Advocacy Committee push UBC for the review of several policies (73 - Academic Accommodations, 71 - Tuition consultations, 3 - Discrimination and Harassment etc.), and efficiently continue the Caucus hiring and implementation process. Otherwise, agenda requests from the Executives should be handled accordingly.

The next scheduled Advocacy Committee meeting is on August 28, 2017.