



Office of the VP Academic & University
Affairs

Ternary Report: August 2015-October 2015
(Submitted on November 2, 2015)

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1 Introduction

The last three months have been busy. As you will see below, we have made huge strides to achieving all our goals and are on track for their completion in the very near future. Our office has also hired two new staff members, and increased the number of campus stakeholders we liaise with.

The following document outlines where the VP Academic & University Affairs team is at in goal achievement for the year, as well as new developments in the portfolio, and major events of the past month. You will see that minimal changes were made to the goals outlined (a few for clarification of initiatives and updating of committee names/titles), but all goals are still in line with the vision of the office and the mandate of the office. Have a pleasant read and thank you for another wonderful 3 months at the AMS.

2 Vision (completed goals in red, in progress in blue)

The vision for the VP Academic & University Affairs office this year has remained as Student Engagement. This is overarching in that if we cannot effectively engage students in university decisions, we cannot properly advocate on their behalf. The goals that follow all tie into the idea of engagement, in that without proper engagement of students, the work of this office cannot be done.

- o June 2015-April 2016
- o The AMS and the UBC Administration have struggled to engage the right groups in consultation in the past, especially last year. The VP Academic & University Affairs office will work throughout the summer to engage students in how they would like to be involved and engaged, to ensure a more equitable practice of student involvement in large university conversations.
- o Sub-goals
 - Involve students more generally, without surveying or using traditional methods of communications with our constituents
 - Develop 'best practices' for engagement with students for use by the AMS, student groups based in advocacy, the UBC Administration and other groups on campus

3 Progress on Goals (completed goals in red, in progress in blue)

3.1 Tuition Consultation

International Undergraduate Tuition Increases 2015/2016

- o June 2015- January 2016
- o Pursuant to the Board of Governors resolution passed on June 9, 2015, UBC will be seeing programs review their tuition for international students, looking to raise tuition to solve budget constraints currently being experienced

- o Sub-goals
 - Create a process to navigate the program by program reviews
 - Support undergraduate societies, the ISA, Dean's Offices and the UBC Administration to navigate this process
 - Ensure that consultation/involvement measures determined in the summer are used in September to properly engage students

3.2 Undergraduate Research Opportunities

- Provost office initiatives
 - o June 2015
 - o The Provost office was tasked by Senate to engage in programming and consolidation of many efforts in terms of undergraduate research, with their work being able to inform our own project
 - o Sub-goals
 - Contact the Provost's office for information on where the initiative is at
 - Develop partnership with initiatives happening in the provosts office
- Consolidation of campus initiatives
 - o July 2015
 - o Undergraduate research involvement opportunities exist on campus, especially amongst student groups, but have not been consolidated yet by any main body.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Develop list of all student initiated research opportunities
 - Develop list of other campus undergraduate research opportunities on campus
- Platform for student access
 - o August 2015
 - o Beyond just a consolidated list, there lacks a centralized place for students to look into possible undergraduate research that they can engage in, or creative ways to do so. Developing a platform, through already existing communications channels, could provide ease of access to students looking for research experience.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Work with communications to develop a platform
 - Ensure that this platform is updated when new information is found

3.3 Accessibility & Affordability

- Open Educational Resources (OERs)
 - o Open Access and Open Education are gaining recognition and momentum in the international scholastic community, and the VP Academic & University Affairs office is partnering with UBC units and BC Campus in order to bring a focus on OERs and Open Textbooks on the UBC campus.
 - o May-August 2015 Sub-goals
 - Produce report on landscape at UBC and beyond, with a look to actions for this year
 - Attend the Open Textbook Summit and prepare presentation for the Open Education Conference
 - Bring together UBC campus stakeholders to develop steps forward for advocacy, as well as with BC Campus and external supports for open access
 - Bring issue of OERs to SUDS, working to ensure that OERs become an important part of accessibility and affordability around the country
 - o August-April 2015 Sub-goals
 - Implement and execute advocacy campaigns for Open Textbooks/OERs
 - Work with the Senate Library Committee to push for discussions surrounding open source material
 - Continue working with CTLT to implement professional development surrounding open access to faculty
 - Work with BC Campus and faculty/staff from other universities
- Accessibility & Affordability Policies
 - o June 2015
 - o Previously the University & External Relations Committee has tried to develop a tuition policy to respond to the referendum question surrounding tuition passed in 2014. However, this policy did not consider the large context of affordability and accessibility, including housing costs, educational resources and barriers in service in the university. This set of policies, on for the VP Academic & University Affairs Office and one for the VP External's office, place tuition in the larger context of accessibility and affordability.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Creation of policies
 - Implementation of policy in the VP Academic & University Affairs office focusing on all efforts relating to affordability & accessibility, not just tuition
- Exam Prep Database (EPD)
 - o May 2015-April 2016

- o The EPD was funded by a TLEF grant a number of years ago and went through Senate, gaining approval for next steps. Now that it has finally been finished and had a few initial users, the VP Academic & University Affairs office will begin to push for adoption of the resource and uploading of content by faculty. This resource contributes to the overall goal of affordability and accessibility in leveling the playing field for all students, whereas current resources for exam preparation favor those who can afford online databases.
- o Sub-goals
 - Present to Senate about the EPD
 - Find faculty champions in a number of departments across faculties to use the database, through faculty group meetings and strategic follow-up
 - Create awareness amongst students about this resource

3.4 Academic Experience Survey

- Timely Data Release and Report
 - o June 2015
 - o Last year, due to many factors, the release of the report and information about the 2014 Academic Experience Survey took very long to be released. Having worked with Insights West on the survey this year, data should be released mid-June with a report finished at the end of June.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Have data released for specific question requests in mid-June
 - Timely report to be finished by the end of June, with tailored reports to be prepared by mid-July
 - Ensure that recommendations from past years are looked over and that new recommendations hold clear steps forward
- Revamp of questions and constituency supplement
 - o October 2015-January 2016
 - o The AES has remained largely the same in questions for the last few years, without intentionality to questions asked and tracking trends over time. In using the services of Insights West, the VP academic & University Affairs office now has the ability to track questions over time and be more intentional about the length and use of the survey.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Reduce the number of questions for the 2016 survey to under 100 questions, working with Insights West to be intentional about question selection
 - Work with constituencies to support the development of their questions, ensuring intentional questions and outcomes

- Review outcomes of survey to ensure selection of questions fits with the values of the survey

3.5 Flexible Learning

- Mid-Course Feedback
 - August 2015-April 2016
 - Mid-course feedback is an ongoing project that allows faculty to seek feedback from their students 5-7 weeks into their terms, with a dialogue surrounding changes to be made in the course as a result of the feedback. Recent surveying has shown that this feedback could lead to better satisfaction of students in the course, as well as a larger percentage of participation in Student Evaluations of Teaching at the end of the semester.
 - Sub-goals
 - Work on database of faculty member names to reach out to in order to gain broader support and adoption for mid-course feedback
 - Determine if there are any ways to integrate mid-course feedback messaging into other programs, such as Student Directed Seminars and service provision.
- Enhanced Learning Record
 - September 2015-April 2016
 - The Enhanced Learning Record is a project that the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Flexible Learning is working on. This would provide a record and possible credit for programming outside of the academic sphere. Though this project has not launched yet, there are many other universities across North America who have similar records.
 - Sub-goals
 - Provide support to the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Flexible Learning in the creation of an Enhanced Learning Record

3.6 Sexual Assault Policy

- Sexual Assault Policy at UBC
 - May 2015-April 2016
 - Following the series of sexual assaults on the UBC campus in 2013, as well as calls from many groups for a more robust policy surrounding campus safety and sexual assault, UBC is looking to either develop a stand-alone sexual assault policy or incorporate it properly into current non-academic misconduct.
 - Sub-goals
 - Work with UBC to represent the student voice in discussions surrounding a sexual assault policy

- Work with the SASC to develop ~~internal~~ **external** AMS policy, to be in line with work being done at UBC
 - Stay actively engaged in discussions about Campus Safety, including the ~~Campus Safety Working Group~~ **Campus Safety & Security Steering Committee** and the Policy Committee on Safety & Security Cameras
 - Continue to work with the SASC and AMS Student Services on a Safe Party Plan and a COR
- Consent Campaigns
 - o June-August 2015
 - o Though the SASC currently has a consent campaign called, “Got Consent?” it has not been effective in mobilizing students to learn about consent without boundaries or judgment. The VP Academic & University Affairs office has developed a need to work with the SASC in order to ensure that their consent campaigning is approachable and can be engaging for those students not already involved in the conversation surrounding consent, especially in the first six weeks of their time at UBC.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Work with ~~the SASC~~ **UBC** to re-vamp their consent campaign
 - Advocate for consent to be a feature of orientation activities, especially the Imagine Day Pep Rally
 - Work to facilitate support for the campaign and integration into club and constituency programming

3.7 Musqueam Relations

- Creating lasting connections with Musqueam
 - o July-September 2015
 - o Since the creation of the Aboriginal Students’ Commissioner position, the AMS’ relationship with the Musqueam has solidified, though there were a few incidents that clouded this. With the Musqueam weaving project, the AMS will have an amazing opportunity to work with the Musqueam and create a lasting relationship.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Meet with Musqueam to initiate weaving project and follow throughout to ensure that the project is complete and respectable placed in the Nest
 - Ensure that a permanent staff member of the AMS (Executive Director) is involved in meetings with the Musqueam to ensure that there is a lasting connection
- Supporting the initiatives of the FNHL & Aboriginal Student Groups
 - o September-December 2015

- o The VP Academic & University Affairs office has been working to create a stronger bond with Aboriginal students, however that is difficult to do when there is not cohesion amongst these students. The Aboriginal Students' Commissioner will be working to create stronger connections between Aboriginal students and will be supporting the initiatives of FNHL & Aboriginal Student groups.
- o Sub-goals
 - Plan a welcome/welcome-back event for Aboriginal students
 - Support the FNHL in their initiatives to support Aboriginal students
 - Ensure that student groups have the support of the Aboriginal Affairs Commissioner, especially those helping to plan the pow-wow

3.8 Equity Overhaul

- Evaluating systematic internal issues, including the meaning of equity within the AMS
 - o January-April 2016
 - o Equity has been approached in a negative way within the AMS, with the Inclusion Office that was proposed being a move towards outsourcing equity and a review of the AMS. However, the approach that the Academic & University Affairs Office would like to take this year is a positive look at equity, integrating equity into the society in creative ways.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Having the Equity Commissioner help to program the open space in the office, using methods used in other office settings
 - Ensuring that equity is a large part of the governance review
 - Working with HR to ensure that student staff are promoting an equitable workplace, with students feeling represented properly
- Connection with ombudsperson and services (speakeasy, advocacy, SASC...)
 - o July 2015
 - o The many services advocating on behalf of students at the AMS currently do not have a strong connection. The Academic & University Affairs Office will work to ensure that all those advocating on behalf of equity coordinate to ensure that there is cohesion within the AMS.
 - o Sub-goals
 - Create an initial meeting of the equity commissioner, the SASC, the AMS Ombudsperson, Speakeasy Coordinator and Advocacy Coordinator
 - Ensure that groups are working together throughout the year and touching base

3.9 Mental Health & Wellbeing Investment

- \$2.5 million investment in Mental Health & Wellbeing, review of system
 - June-December 2015
 - With the housing increases last year, the university has committed an extra \$2.5 million into mental health services. With this commitment, a portion has been put towards short-term fixes, with the rest being spent after an external consultant.
 - Sub-goals
 - Work with Keeling & Associates to ensure the best long-term solutions are reached for mental health and wellbeing spending
 - The Mental Health & Wellbeing Commissioner will work to ensure that priorities set are done properly
- Withdrawal with Extenuating Circumstances (WE) **and Withdrawal Deadline Extension**
 - August 2015-March 2016
 - Right now there only exists a W standing, not a standing for those who must withdraw from classes for extenuating circumstances. **Additionally, the withdrawal period at UBC is only 16 days, shorter than many other institutions.**
 - Sub-goals
 - The VP Academic & University Affairs to work with the Mental Health & Wellbeing Commissioner to develop a strategy to engage with the university on this topic
 - Researching the implications of WE standing at other institutions
- Fall Reading Week
 - June 2015-January 2016
 - Many other universities have a fall reading week for their students to reduce with stress, anxiety and increase wellbeing.
 - Sub-goals
 - The VP Academic & University Affairs to work with the Mental Health & Wellbeing Commissioner to develop a strategy to engage with the university on this topic
- Syllabi development
 - June 2015-April 2016
 - Currently there lacks a structure to syllabi across the university. Student Senate Caucus, with the help from the Academic & University Affairs office would like to work to have a systematized template for syllabi, mentioning important pieces surrounding mental health & wellbeing, wellness, equity and access & diversity.
 - Sub-goals

- Develop timeline for Senate implementation
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Commissioner to research into other universities and their work around syllabi

3.10 Campus Development

- Housing Contract
 - June 2015-April 2016
 - Residences at UBC are on land owned by UBC Properties trust and not subject to provincial legislation, or the Resident Tenancy Act. With that, the residence contract currently holds no real rights for residents, having to do with many things including eviction, prices, and privacy. The AMS needs to work to ensure that residence contracts have UBC have student rights involved.
 - Sub-goals
 - Work with Student Housing & Hospitality Services to review the residence contract to ensure that it abides by the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities
- The Campus Development Commissioner will work to research different residence agreements, highlighting those that are most important to ensure the rights of students living in housing
- Land Use Plan Amendments
 - August 2015-March 2016
 - With the University Boulevard project and other changes to campus, the Board of Governors will be going through Land Use Plan Amendments, and the AMS will work to ensure that they are in the best interest of the campus community and students.
 - Sub-goals
 - The Campus Development Commissioner will work to ensure that the amendments to the Land Use Plan are in the best interest of the campus community
 - The VP Academic & University Affairs should work with the Board of Governor student representatives to ensure that they have support in the process of the amendment.

4 Hiring

In the last two months I hired two staff members to round out my team; the Academic Affairs Commissioner and International Students' Commissioner.

4.1 Academic Affairs Commissioner

Dario Garousian has been hired as the Academic Affairs Commissioner. So far he has been working on reaching out to faculty members about the Exam Prep Database and Mid-Course Feedback, including creating a list of faculty who are interested in initiatives like them. The other big project that Dario is undertaking is the undergraduate

research platform, which will be housed on the AMS website, and feature opportunities, awards, and events involving undergraduate research.

4.2 International Students' Commissioner

Saxon Coop is the new International Students' Commissioner. Besides navigating the difficulties of work visas and being an international student, Saxon is currently working on supporting the VP Academic & University Affairs portfolio in the international tuition consultation, coordinating and supporting Vantage College student representatives, working with the ISA, and international student financial aid.

5 Committees

5.1 AMS Committees

5.1.1 University and External Relations Committee

5.1.2 Impact Grant Adjudication Committee (to come)

5.1.3 AMS Representative on the Premier Wesbrook Scholarship Selection Committee

5.1.4 Education Committee

5.2 University Committees (Standing and Ad Hoc)

5.2.1 Associate Deans Committee (Previously known as the Student Evaluation of Teaching Implementation Committee)

This committee is a UBC committee made up of university administrators and representatives from the major faculties to discuss the implementation of the SEoT. In the past discussions have been in regards to improvements that will soon be coming to the CourseEval system, whether evaluations in grad courses are always happening and/or being reported to the Provost's office, and how to better communicate to students how course evaluations are used to ensure quality of teaching.

5.2.2 University Health and Safety Committee

The University Health and Safety Committee meets to discuss high level health and safety issues at UBC. The last meeting was attended by the AVP Academic & University Affairs.

5.2.3 Bookstore Advisory Committee

The Bookstore Advisory Committee is a body made up of staff, faculty, and students that provides feedback and advice to the UBC Bookstore on its product and service offerings to the UBC community. The committee has not met recently.

5.2.4 Vantage College Advisory Committee

This committee is the advisory body for Vantage College and the development of the first year international student program within the college. The committee has not met recently, though I have been prompting it to meet as a result of the new class of Vantage college students entering in September.

5.2.5 Investment into Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee

This committee is comprised of staff and administration from UBC VP Students' Office and Student Development & Services, as well as myself and the Mental Health Network Chair. The committee was formed to discuss the increase of \$2.5 Million in spending into Student Mental Health & Wellbeing, both having decided to put part of the money to hiring new staff and counsellors, and working with Keeling & Associates to decide what other spending will look like for more sustained change in Student Development & Services.

5.2.6 Orientations Steering Committee

This committee is made up of staff from Student Development & Services, the Centre for Student Involvement & Careers (specifically Orientations staff), International Student Development, Student Communications Services, Undergraduate Societies, and the AMS. The committee makes large decisions about university orientation programs like Imagine Day and Jumpstart, and leads a direction for student-led orientations.

5.2.7 Campus Safety & Security Steering Committee

The Campus Safety working group brings together the UBC administration, Campus Security, Student Development & Services, Access & Diversity, and students to discuss the Campus Safety report and recommendations, as well as outline future steps to ensure Campus Safety remains a priority amongst all units. Recently they held a larger Campus Safety Forum for the campus community, and will hold another one when the fall semester starts.

5.2.8 Informal Learning Spaces Committee

This is a committee that meets once a year to adjudicate a fund that provides money for the creation of informal learning spaces on campus. The committee met in February.

5.2.9 Naming Committee

This committee meets to name campus development projects.

5.2.10 Wellbeing Steering Committee

The Wellbeing Steering Committee meets to support the Wellbeing Initiative, following its creation as a cross-campus initiative to bring together stakeholders in Wellbeing and initiatives/programming that is occurring in silos. This initiative and committee focuses on wellbeing as a holistic term covering mental health and resilience, food and nutrition, physical activity, built and natural environment, and inclusion and connectivity.

5.2.11 Learning Technology Leadership Team (Stemming from the work done on the Learning Technology Ecosystem Steering Committee)

This committee make decisions about which learning technologies the university will adopt and proceed with, as well as updates on pilots, and the general learning technology ecosystem. The focus is primarily on Connect and Connect-mobile apps.

5.2.12 Student Academic Systems Initiative (SASI) Governance Committee

This committee works on a new student system to support the redesigned business processes and improvements that UBC is using to transform the way faculty, staff, and students interact to support student success. It is made up of those working with student communications and success in faculties, and chaired by the Registrar.

5.2.13 Counsellor Selection Committee

This committee worked to select two new counsellors in Counselling Services, and will help to select more counsellors in the near future.

5.2.14 VP External Relations & Communications Search Committee

I sat on the VP External Relations & Communications Search Committee struck by the UBC President. All matters discussed at these meetings is confidential, and the committee was successful in selecting and hiring the new VP, Philip Steenkamph.

5.2.15 Learning Spaces Advisory Committee

This committee advises the Vice Provost and Associate VP, Enrolment and Academic Facilities on Learning Spaces. Recently the focus has been determining principles and guidelines for classroom scheduling practices.

5.2.16 Advisory Planning Committee for Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood

This committee advises and shapes changes being made to the neighbourhood plan for Wesbrook Place/Wesbrook Village.

5.3 University Neighbourhoods Associations (UNA)

The UNA represents people living in the University neighbourhoods, and I currently sit on their Board of Directors as the AMS Representative. My role in that capacity is to inform the UNA and residents of what is going on at the AMS, and to ensure that all decisions being made by the UNA reflect the best interest of the students who attend UBC. So far the biggest pieces of this role have been involved in mitigating relations between residents and students, weighing in on some of the programs that the UNA is running, and ensuring that the AMS makes considerations surrounding the residents of the neighbourhoods in our event planning.

5.4 VP Academic Caucus

The VPA Caucus is made up of the VP Academics from each constituency, and meets a few times a semester to discuss programming at each constituency, AMS initiatives and ways to collaborate with them, as well as offering support to VP Academics. So far this caucus has focused on mid-course feedback, exam prep database, tuition consultation, student engagement in academics, and the Academic Experience Survey.

5.5 Student Senate Caucus

Student Senate Caucus is comprised of all Student Senators and meets twice a month, once before Senate and again for a monthly strategy meeting. The VP Academic & University Affairs normally sits on the caucus, and seeing as I am a student senator-at-large I have also been actively engaged. Work with the caucus from the Academic & University Affairs portfolio has been with the Taskforce on Intersectional Gender-Based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes recommendations to the Provost Office, and Senate/Board of Governors relationship.

6 Conferences/Travel

6.1 Student Union Development Summit (SUDS)

This conference was held at the end of August and hosted student societies from across Canada, with two delegates joining us from the US. Though my office did not plan the conference, I was involved in coordinating BCcampus' presentation on Open Educational Resources and co-facilitated two sessions of the Principles of Engagement with Campus & Community Planning, and on Assessment and the Academic Experience Survey. Overall I learnt a lot from other student society executives and really enjoyed hosting them in the new AMS Student Nest!

6.2 Board of Governors Meeting at UBC Okanagan

The UBC Board of Governors meeting is held once a year at UBC Okanagan at the end of September, and I travelled there with Aaron Bailey, AMS President, to present on our plans to engage students in the international tuition consultation, as well as attend the UBCO Centennial celebrations.

If you have any questions, please reach out.

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