



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

November 2017 Report of the AMS Student Life Committee for AMS Council Meeting of 22 November 2017

Prepared 18 November 2017 by Lorenzo Lindo (Chair)

What have we been working on?

The Student Life Committee of the UBC Alma Mater Society last met on 10 November 2017. At this meeting, we continued our discussion on committee goals. Building upon our discussion at the previous meeting, this is where we are currently at in regards to goals:

- 1) Creation of a Student Engagement Strategy – including consultation with Constituencies and students at large; perhaps create infographics/videos to explain what the AMS is to students which might aid with engagement
- 2) Creation of questions regarding student engagement to be included in one of the two surveys conducted by the AMS – would include questions pertaining to potential barriers to engaging with the AMS; e.g. best times for events, preferred time for events, reasons for not engaging with the AMS, etc.
- 3) Fostering an increase sense of student identity and pride; e.g. through supporting athletics → Blue and Gold; this goal mostly pertains to our Blue and Gold Society working group as they are the main forum for discussion regarding student identity and pride
- 4) Work with the President's Council to coordinate with UBC Campus Experience and the Constituencies to create a unified calendar of events; e.g. coordinate First Year Orientation events to prevent overlap with large campus events such as Homecoming and Welcome Back BBQ

We hope to finalize these goals soon and we are open to comments, questions, and other suggestions.

Blue and Gold Society

The Blue and Gold Society met last Wednesday in the Gallery. We saw attendance from representatives from Marine Drive, Thunderbirds Athletic Council, Engineering US, Pharmacy US, AMS Events, Bird Cage, Arts & Culture, and UBC Fraternities. We started off with a discussion regarding some quick feedback on the AMS before moving into an in-depth discussion on possible initiatives and collaborations to address mental health on campus. The group culminated on deciding that it is not enough to just “talk” about mental health, but that we should also “act” with tangible goals and results. Possibilities discussed include a potential run to raise money and awareness for mental health initiatives, and workshops to give people

the tools to address mental health in their own communities. These ideas are still in their very early stages of design and the group would very much welcome feedback.

First Year Committee

The First Year Committee started moving forward with its first meeting earlier this month. The Committee also began drafting its terms of reference which can be viewed by contacting myself (my phone number and email are indicated at the end of this report). In short, the aim of the FYC is to foster a connection between the AMS and new-to-UBC students as a working group of the AMS Student Life Committee. It will be comprised of the AMS President (chair), the Executive Projects Assistant, Student Life Initiatives, and a new-to-UBC representative from each of the constituencies as detailed in the AMS Constitution (usually in the form of elected First Year Representative, but not exclusively). The primary roles and responsibilities of the FYC will be determined by the membership of the Committee, however, suggested roles include:

- 1) Facilitating communication between new-to-UBC students
- 2) Identifying gaps in programming in the first-year experience
- 3) Receiving feedback on AMS events from new-to-UBC students

These are just some of the topics we have on our radar but we are open to hearing other ideas as well.

Questions?

If you have any input, suggestions, or feedback regarding Blue and Gold Society and/or Grad Class Council, or student life in general, please feel free to contact me at slcom@ams.ubc.ca (cc lindo.lorenzo@gmail.com) or at 604-781-0155.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Lindo

Chair, AMS Student Life Committee