

Goals Updates

Prepared by the AMS Executive

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Executive

AMS Strategic Plan

To date, the AMS Strategic Plan is behind the proposed schedule from May, but still under development. Our current proposed timeline is to have the next, and final draft, ready for Council in January.

Currently, the Core Values and Focus Areas are in a position similar to the last presentation to Council, and form the strategic part of the plan. Currently, working alongside the November goals updates, the goals of the various departments, services, businesses, and executives will form the operational and implementation components of the plan. As these are streamlined and further discussed, they will be added to the overall plan for presentation to Council.

Internal Communication

Through the turnover that has occurred this year, this Executive has continued to hold positive, holistic internal communication as a key to our accomplishments to date. Overall, this has been a success for our group, as we continually update each other on our progress. One area we have identified for improvement is ensuring that our various university communications are clearly conveyed to each other. Though we all have many touch points with university administration, we will be focusing in the second half of the year to keep one another effectively informed.

Student Engagement and Outreach

As identified at the beginning of the year, being present for the student body is a priority for this Executive. Although we have not been able to attend every constituency council meeting, this may have been an unrealistic goal/KPI to set, and even still, we have been in attendance at many. Our VP Administration in particular has been active in attending constituency councils. In addition, the Executive have successfully been attending at least five club events each month, and are always looking for ways to support student initiatives (example: Lace Up for Kids).

Council Interactions

The Executive continues to value creating a positive atmosphere in the Council chambers, where councilors feel willing and able to share, and to challenge, the Executive. We invite councilors to share with us how we can continue to improve on this goal as we move through to the end of the year.

AMS Community

So far this year, the Executive has attended staff events in force to show our continued appreciation and support of the permanent staff. This has included events such as the Summer Kick-Off BBQ, the Annual Staff Softball Game (Team President Defeats Team VP Finance 11-3), the inaugural Battle of the Bat (including both permanent staff and student staff players and supporters), the AMS Staff Halloween celebration, and regular Friday trips to The Gallery. Our goal is to be available for the permanent staff in way that we can support one another, so that the AMS may function in a positive and efficient manner.

President

Campaign Promises

Regarding my campaign promises, the four outlined in my goals include finishing the AMS Strategic Plan, working within the realms of the governance review, continuing conversations on student life, mental health, and wellbeing, as well working on the UBC Sexual Assault Policy.

On the AMS Strategic Plan, the updates on this are included in the 'Executive' section of this document. Regarding the governance review, I ensure to keep a mindset of respect for the changes in the review, and take very seriously any proposed changes to undo review recommendations. Student life will be elaborated in further later in this document, however, mental health and wellbeing are central to a lot of conversations around the office currently, and the Student Life Initiatives Assistant is currently developing on a second term campaign surrounding this topic. Finally, most of my work on the development of the UBC Sexual Assault policy has concluded, and has turned to implementation.

Carry Over Goals

My carry over goals included graduate student support, working with the International Student Association, finishing outstanding Grad Class Council Projects, burying the time capsule, and launching the AMS/Sheldon's book.

To date, I have been attending GSS Council meetings and have been providing support to their Executive whenever possible. As well, we are working on being able to host ISA elections in the spring, and are on track to be able to do so. An MOU regarding the 2013 Grad Class project is currently in the works, and the 2016 Grad Class project will have a development permit submitted by the end of the month. The 2018 Grad Class is yet to be set up, but just recently we have been able to recruit a few members to the committee, which is a step in the right direction. Once the 2016 project is completed, the time capsule will be buried alongside. Finally, the AMS Book is will be launched on December 4th!

2017-2018 Goals

Councilor support, executive support, student society support, student life on campus, and university representation are all among my 2017-2018 goals.

The Policy and Community Engagement Coordinator used the summer to provide personal support to councilors, and organized a councilor retreat for September (as per councilor feedback) which, in the end, was cancelled. The sessions from the retreat were given to Council as presentations in a special 'pre-council' format, previously used in 2013. For the remainder of the year, this staff member will be working on more policy focused tasks, including providing support for MOU negotiations with the university.

So far, I meet with the other Executive on a very frequent basis (more than once a week) though this time has been more ad-hoc than scheduled recently (which I intend to go back to for the second term). Although it is difficult to self-reflect on my personal success with this goal, I believe that I have been readily available for each Executive to ask questions of when they have required it.

The VP Administration has been a great partner in providing support to student societies, and to date we have been attending student society council's whenever possible (I hope to increase my personal

attendance in the second term). Through the Blue and Gold Society and Presidents Council, I feel we have been adequately placed to respond to concerns from student societies.

Though we did not quite hit 10,000 people in attendance at Homecoming (9600!!) we were very close. The winter classic and faculty cup have not yet been held, so it is not yet possible to determine success. However, the Blue and Gold Society has been meeting, and we are currently working on a mental health initiative (across portfolios) for the second term.

Finally, the UBC Strategic Planning process has been delayed, and now the VP Academic is taking a leading role on our advocacy. Additionally, the MOU's with Athletics and Recreation are currently under development, in conjunction with the VP Administration and VP Finance.

VP Academic

The Vice-President Academic and University Affairs Office has had a great deal of transition and turn over the past 6 months. Due to this turnover, and the election of a new Vice-President Academic and University Affairs, the goals adopted last may will be receiving an update and new goals will be adopted for the remainder of the next six months. Overall, some of the more ambitious goals of the office have not been completed due to turnover, but many campaigns and initiatives are still active and successful.

Affordability for Students

A new AMS internal policy (I-10) was created and adopted and lays out the procedures the AMS and constituencies will follow for tuition consultations. Conversations were initiated with the VP Student Office surrounding clause 1.3.6 in Policy 71 and these conversations will continue. The Textbook Broke campaign was a massive success with over 1000 students engaged with the campaign and we hope to continue this progress. The AMS Open Educational Resources Listening tour has moved on from the pilot in the Vancouver School of Economics to multiple faculties now. The AMS has been in active communication with the University over alternative on-campus housing financial models and the affordability of student housing.

Greater Equity and Inclusion

The AMS is beginning to actively seek a review of Policy 73 and has been in communications with the VP Students Office and University Counsel about this issue. The AMS has been advocating for the inclusion of indigeneity and reconciliation as a priority in the UBC Strategic Plan. The AMS is actively seeking to support the annual Nehiyopaskwaitsimowin Pow-Wow and to host at least one Long House Lunch in collaboration with the First Nations House of Learning and indigenous students groups.

Enhanced Student Experience

The AMS recently secured a student seat on every working group for the UBC Strategic Plan. The AES report was finalized and presented over the summer and each executive is keeping their recommendations in mind. Council recently approved the Academic Experience Survey Internal Policy (I-12). This policy will ensure the Academic Experience Survey is run every year, reduces the amount of membership surveys while increasing the quality, and protects valuable demographic and advocacy questions from being cut from the survey.

VP Administration

The past six months have been spent focusing on the various goals of the VP Administration portfolio, which include 1) Constituency Support; 2) Student Life; 3) Clubs; 4) Old SUB Renovations; and 5) Sustainability/Art Gallery.

Constituency Support

The progress of this goal has been quite positive. Most constituencies have been personally consulted with on their plans for the year and the relationship prospects between the constituency and the AMS. Relationships have been formed and constituencies have been reaching out with questions and ideas, as well as personally assisting with individual goals of the executive. A social was planned and executed in October, which was very successful. The VP Administration worked closely with Governance Committee to form Presidents Council, which the VP Administration now sits on. In conjunction with this committee, the Constituency Handbook is being written up and is well on its way to be completed by April.

Student Life

While the priority for Student Life and Engagement still stands, much of the work has been conducted by the President's Office. Additionally, with the expansion of the Blue and Gold Society, the priorities of this goal have been met and therefore the VP Administration is putting more focus on other goals.

Clubs

While much progress has been made on this goal, priorities have also shifted based on circumstances brought to attention over the summertime. The priorities that have remained from May include the expansion of the SLSC, where much of the attention has been towards encouraging clubs to take advantage of the resource, animating the space, moving the sustainability office, and purchasing more equipment. This has proven to be successful and more work is being done to continue to expand the centre and make it more efficient in its processes. Additionally, while Operations Committee still holds the priority on policies related to departmental and charity clubs (consultations are currently taking place), other topics have also arisen and have been in discussion to improve the operations of the AMS, and specifically, the Admin portfolio. The goals that have shifted are Outreach and Bookings. For Outreach, we recognize that clubs are already quite strong in reaching out to the AMS with questions and for forming collaborations with other clubs. Therefore, the Admin portfolio decided to put more focus on improving the logistics of how collection of documents and data take place, which includes working closely with our partners (CampusVibe and Showpass). Additionally, the bookings process in place seems to be working well currently (booking through CampusVibe), and therefore, work isn't being invested at this time towards this goal.

Old SUB

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the construction of the Old SUB will not be completed until June 2018, after this term. However, much work has been done to ensure that costs are as low as possible, which includes multiple meetings with UBC PT, BIRD Construction and UBC Infrastructure. These meetings included discussions on cost sharing on shared spaces, which have been quite positive and have shown returns. Construction commenced in November and it is expected to take around 7 months to complete.

Sustainability/Art Gallery

Many of the goals of the sustainability end of the Admin portfolio are doing quite well, along with new goals that have been introduced. The LFS is currently being drafted up through multiple consultations with students and the LFS Working Group. Additionally, waste audits and Outlet Waste Signage are in the works, as well as a new Sustainability Circle that involves different members of the sustainability groups within UBC. Various SEEDS projects are in the works, which includes a tree mobile outside the Nest which can be used to charge electronics. For the Hatch Art Gallery, priority has been put on creating an identity for the Hatch Gallery, closely following what other esteemed galleries do, which includes websites, piece reviews, and photography of events. The hope is that all this will be finished before April 2018.

VP External

The External Affairs Office faced a slow start this year as our key advocacy stakeholder, the provincial government, had a colourful election with immense uncertainties that lasted until July. The political landscape was initially difficult to navigate, but given that the provincial government is looking to be more settled, the External Offices' work also picked up.

Provincial Advocacy

The VP External and the AMS Policy Advisor joined the Simon Fraser Students' Society and the University of Victoria Students' Society for a trip to the Legislature at the end of October. The group met with twelve different ministers and MLAs on relevant working groups to advocate our concerns around student loans, needs-based grants, student tenancy rights, and targeted funding student wellness and support services. A future second trip will be planned to share the petition signatures from Rent with Rights.

Federal Government

The AMS' federal advocacy is done with a collaboration with other student unions across Canada from research-intensive universities. In an attempt to better align the group, and increase recognition and formalize its reputation, ADVOCAN rebranded to Undergraduates of Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU). From November 4th until November 10th, the VP External was in Ottawa and had 50 meetings in the span of the six days, having met with MPs, ministers, staff members, and other decision makers throughout the week to progress our recommendations. Topics of discussion for the 2017 delegation included policies impacting Indigenous students, the Canada Student Loans Program, undergraduate research funding, and International Students' path to Permanent Resident Status. Meetings were well received, where some MPs offering to sponsor petitions to willingness to write letters of support and bringing up the recommendations for policy discussion.

Student Tenancy Rights

The Rent with Rights campaign is currently ongoing, a report will be provided to council upon its end. Interactive targets with students are well above expectations. At the halfway point through the campaign, about 480 signatures has been acquired thus far. Expanded the strategy to include interactions with different campus groups. The social media campaign is also well received, as it currently has more shares and interactions on Facebook than the average interaction that the AMS gets. MLAs were receptive of this. The Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs was introduced to the issue, and has expressed openness to examine the issue more.

Transportation

Transit advocacy for the External Office covers three major projects. The first is the Broadway rapid transit line. The Broadway Phase 2 is advocacy that will be ongoing across many VP External's terms. Currently the City of Vancouver, the Mayor's Council and the Union of BC Municipalities are examining funding options to close the funding gap. Thus far, the external team partaking in in all community consultations and technical feedback for all phases of the Broadway line. By positioning the AMS as an active stakeholder for the phase 1 of the Mayor's

10 year plan, we will also better position ourselves for conversations about the beyond Arbutus, and continue to advocate where opportunities arise. The second part is U-Pass contract negotiations, along with other PSIs and SAs at the U-Pass Advisor Caucus, the final extension agreement looks very favourable to students, and should be finalized with legal opinion in the coming weeks. Lastly, for expanding transit advocacy, the AMS is in the process of finalizing design of the project for the SEEDS project on transit origins, set to take place for term two in a urban design class.

Student Union Development Summit (SUDS)

The Student Union Development Summit, intended for stakeholder relationship building, idea exchange and networking for all student societies across Canada was immensely successful this year. We were over capacity at 128 delegates, and led 3 days of well-connected programming for our guests. Executives from other student societies still speak about SUDS months later, and has set AMS up as a body where other societies look to learn from. Recent estimates of the final balance also sets SUDS at an approximately \$27,000 surplus - an unprecedented feat in comparison to past years.

Combatting Sexual Violence on Campus

The work began with the VP External and President in the search committees for the Director of Investigations and the Director of Sexual Violence Prevention, Response, and Education offices. The implementation process will see the VP Academic play a larger role in the coming months. Meanwhile, having been committed to the issue thus far, the External office will continue to be working on the issues of sexual violence, be coordinating the Our Turn action plan's adoption, in collaboration with departments in the AMS to ensure that our advocacy and internal processes are aligned.

VP Finance

Goal 1

Create a long-term sustainable financial plan for the AMS and ensure AMS businesses are successfully operating.

New Investment Policy - ensuring that we have our investments separated correctly for minimal volatility but yielding highest possible returns for an increase in yearly operating income for the AMS – growing it financially.

This goal is underway; we have currently migrated all of our investments from BMO to our new investment account with Phillips Hager & North Counsel. The funds including the currently held bonds are all transferred into a non-discretionary account, and when each bond breaks it will be transferred into the discretionary account and invested under our new investment policy.

There have already been investments into pooled funds that are slightly more high-risk but with a potential for a much higher return, towards the third quarter there will be more investments of our current cash into other funds.

There is a preliminary draft completed for a proposal, looking to evaluate this by Finance Committee come early next semester and set a direction for future AMS revenues for more financial flexibility.

AMS Business and Financial Transparency

AMS Business have displayed stellar performance up to this point in the fiscal year, we are currently up significantly from the budgeted on our revenues and the operation of them has still been successful. The business revenues are underway to meeting budgetary goals.

With regards to Financial Transparency, this goal is underway with the current two quarterly reports that have now been released, Q1 and Q2 which summarize the society's finances and keep our student membership up to date with the operations of the society.

Goal 2

Implement professional development programs for students outside of the classroom.

Improve the consultations and support available to all Treasurers/VP Finances of clubs and constituencies in order to assist them with better strategic planning and financial operations for the future of their organization.

All VP finances of all constituencies have been met with and consulted, we have gone over any concerns they had and assisted them with any inquiries they brought to the table.

Re-create all training material currently available to treasurers and develop video orientations so that treasurers do not have to wait in order to attend an orientation to learn about good financial processes and how to work with the AMS.

That has been done with our creation of our brand new Treasurer's Handbook that boasts an interactive design and is not as static as the one before. It is also much easier to navigate and provides the most up-to-date information.

All treasurer orientation presentations have been redone to reflect the new changes within the Finance office.

Create financial literacy programs for students who are not part of any clubs/constituencies to have access to educational material on good budgeting and financing. Numerous students on campus struggle with correctly allocating their spending/budgeting and I wish to outline the importance of using certain tactics to open up potential savings and investment opportunities for when they graduate from university

We have scheduled our first financial literacy workshop that was on the topic of how to manage your credit/debit. While the turnout was not as great as we expected it was a learning curve for us and we are receiving a better understanding of what other workshops to host to better align with what students want.

Goal 3

Modernize accounting principles at the AMS

Improve our accounting software for better more efficient department operations

This goal has not been completed; we have completed upgrades to the Microsoft Dynamics GP software however are still experience challenges with migrating from Microsoft SharePoint to Prophix.

Expand Square & Replace current online ticketing platform

We have successfully implemented Showpass which is now the new ticketing platform that clubs have access to. It is much better and we have received positive feedback on it, the data analytics are much better and we are better able to process the revenues to their respective club accounts as well.

Square is currently being re-modelled, while the program has not expanded extensively over these past two quarters, we are looking to restructure it from the ground up so that there is less mix-up with accounts. It is still a great software we intend on keeping.

BMO Spend Dynamics

We have been working for quite some time now to replace BMO spend Dynamics, this is a result of our move from BMO to RBC as our bank of choice. Furthermore, the system proposed by RBC was the US Bank Corporate Card program that is able to provide credit cards to us at a much faster rate, decreasing the time from two weeks to 2-5 business days.

Currently we are in the implementation phase, the Know Your Customer stage took a little longer than expected but we have submitted the implementation package and currently working with our assigned implementation manager to get the system fully launched and ready to go as clubs/constituencies are eager to get their new credit cards.

Student Services Manager

AMS Services has had great progress till this point in the school year. With the two new services, a full staff and a new school year, a total of nearly 60 part time student staff and over 70 volunteers have kept all 7 AMS Services operational. The majority of summer was utilized to plan ahead and test our programming. The end of summer saw the extensive on-boarding and training of our entire team. This greatly attributed to us being prepared for service delivery this September. With a large presence during all student orientation, we were able to transition into our schedules and continuously improve throughout the past two months. My team and I look forward to the opportunities ahead and are excited for the rest of the year.

The first goal for the year was improved data collection. I am happy to report that starting this January, AMS Services will not only have access to uninformed data collection, we will for the first time have the tools to get real time data analytics. This will drastically improve not just the delivery of our services, but will contribute greatly to us knowing the direction in which AMS Services should head for the future. With better understanding of the needs of the students, we will also be able to use this information to guide student advocacy from all aspects of the AMS.

Professional development for the Services team was the second goal for the portfolio. The timeline that was initially aimed for has transformed. Given the reality of the schedules of many of the employees, it is not always possible to have a monthly session. But having said that, the net development that the team receives will still remain the same given that makeup sessions are scheduled. Additionally, all support staff and volunteers to the coordinators have received extensive training in peer help and intervention, effective tools for service delivery (uniquely tailored for each service) and emerging practices in their area. Nearly half of the coordinators have either utilized their conference budget or are scheduled for a conference in the upcoming months.

The goal for an emphasis on student experience has gone well so far. All services were able to have a qualitative and quantitative feedback which throughout the last term contributed to us iteratively revising our service and building on it. Additionally, the implementation of an uninformed data collection and analytics systems will greatly aid the process of further strengthening our collection of feedback.

Lastly, targeting outreach as a goal has been altered. While we did compile information on what student need are throughout the course of the year, we did not articulate it into a formalized document at this point. This was due the recognition of our limitation in being able to provide a picture which was sufficiently comprehensive in describing student needs. As such, we will continue work on it over the course of the year and add to the document to ensure that it is better rounded. It also gives all of us an opportunity to reflect on the year and use it to create a document that is more comprehensive and informative for future operations.