



**Executive Committee  
Vice President, Academic and  
University Affairs  
2017/18**

**Max Holmes**

Special thanks to Kelsi Wall, Cody Haddow, Cristina Initchi, Nicole Liang, and Akuecbeny Kuol

## 2017/2018 Goals

The goals for the VP Academic and University Affairs Office are below.

### **Greater Affordability for ALL Students**

**Values:** Engagement, Affordability, Collaboration, Equity

**Focus areas:** Consultation, International and Domestic, Housing, OERs

Collaborate with UBC to review Tuition Consultation procedures to make consultations fairer for students. Review UBC Policy 71 (Consultation with Students about Tuition and Mandatory Fees) or negotiate an MOU with the University surrounding consultations “Where a proposed increase to Tuition or Mandatory Fees is at or below the Higher Education Price Index, the Responsible Executive may provide for a simplified consultation process.”

Enforce the newly created AMS Internal Policy 11 (Policy on Tuition and Mandatory Fee Consultations from the University) to ensure a standardized procedure for student consultations and consistency in responses to new/increased fee proposals from the University.

Further AMS advocacy on Open Educational Resource adoption in lieu of expensive textbooks. Support the OER Heat Map SEEDS project to identify the current state of adoption of OERs on campus to inform where efforts need to be directed. Expand the Textbook Broke campaign to encourage better engagement of students in the problem of textbook affordability and open educational resources as a solution. Utilize the OER Listening Tour to consult UBC faculty on the barriers to adopting OERs in order to identify the gaps in support that need to be addressed

Work with UBC to lower on-campus housing costs by advocating for alternative housing financing models. Ensure proper student consultation is conducted throughout the process and there is appropriate student representation on bodies that are working on these new models. Negotiate a consultation MOU with the University that fully recognizes the AMS as the elected advocates for all UBC Vancouver Students and requires the AMS to be consulted on all student issues.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

- Negotiate an MOU or Policy Amendment for UBC Policy 71 before May 2018
- Review AMS Internal Policy 11 with the VP Academic Caucus before the end of my term and put forward any necessary recommendations
- Engage with over 2000 students through the Textbook Broke Campaign
- Finish the OER Listening Tour and Compile a report with recommendations
- Finish and present the OER Textbook Heat Map Seeds Project to the faculties that are reviewed and the UBC VPS and Provost
- Work with UBC to review the UBC Housing Action Plan Policies regarding Students
- Begin negotiations around a Consultation MOU with UBC
- Ensure that the average student housing prices UBC that do not increase beyond 2% at an annual rate

## **Increasing Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

**Values:** Supportive, Principled, Advocacy, Equity, Inclusive Excellence

**Focus Area:** Senate, Academic Policies, Mental Health

Endorse and advocate for the creation of a UBC Senate ad-hoc committee on Ad-Hoc Committee on Fostering an Inclusive Academic Environment to Support Student Diversity and Academic Success. The establishment of a Senate ad-hoc committee with the goal of identifying ways to make UBC a more diverse and inclusive community and to prioritize Inclusive Excellence inside and outside of the classroom.

Ensure students with disabilities are treated equally by advocating for a review of UBC Policies on Academic Accommodation. Advocating for a review and revision of Policy 73 (Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities) in collaboration with the Disabled Students Association and Access and Diversity. Finalizing a report on Policy 73 and the recommended edits that need to be made, as well as, why the policy needs to be reviewed immediately.

Review Academic Concession and Accommodation policies for each faculty and advocate for the creation of a standardized Policy. Analyze and review the strengths and weaknesses of Academic Concession and Accommodation policies across faculties to work towards a standardized Academic Concession and Accommodation policy for all faculties.

Acknowledging that everyday we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam people. Reviewing the AMS's Musqueam Communication policy to ensure the AMS is always striving to advocate with Indigenous communities. Creating an Indigenous Advisory group that will meet monthly with the entire VP Academic and University Affairs Office. This group will be open to all indigenous students who study at UBC. The AMS will continue to financially support and plan the annual Nehiyopaskwaitsimowin Pow-wow. The AMS will host at least one longhouse lunch to discuss how the AMS can better support and advocate for Indigenous students at UBC.

Initiate a review of the mental health support services provided for UBC students. Student consultation on the mental health support needs and how they can be better met to provide data-driven ways to support student mental health and wellbeing, in partnership with UBC. Working with UBC Vancouver senate to discuss how no fall reading break affects student mental health and possible solutions, keeping in mind, the scheduling difficulties surrounding this issue.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

- UBC Vancouver Senate creates and Ad Hoc Committee on Fostering an Inclusive Academic Environment to Support Student Diversity and Academic Success before February 2018
- UBC Triggers or Commits to Trigger a Review of UBC Policy 73 before May 2018
- Finish a review and final report on Academic Concession and Accommodation Policies
- Review the AMS's Musqueam Communication Policy
- Create an AMS Indigenous Advisory group

- Financially support and help plan the annual Nehiyo-paskwaitsimowin Pow-wow and host at least one long house lunch
- Initiate a review of mental health support services in coordination with UBC

## **Revitalize the Campus Experience for every student at UBC**

**Values:** Advocacy, Opportunity, Experiential, Supportive, Equality

**Focus Areas:** Graduates & Postdoctorals, Orientations, Commuters, International Students

Work with UBC to continue to develop an affordable UBC Collegia System to maximize first-year and all student commuters' experiences. Advocate for the continued expansion of the UBC Collegia system to ensure that all first year commuter students are able to be registered in collegia. Advocate to UBC for the creation of a transfer student orientation and graduate and postdoctoral student orientation.

Reviewing AMS Graduate and Postdoctoral student advocacy. Acknowledging that there is a difference between the advocacy required to advance graduate and postdoctoral students' agenda and interest at UBC from the advocacy required to advance the interest and agenda of the undergraduate students. Therefore, I will consult and work with Graduate Student Society to develop strategies that can best support graduate and postdoctoral students' initiatives.

Review UBC Policy 72 to provide provide protection for domestic as well as international students at UBC. When Policy 72 is reviewed, the policy must provide protection for both domestic and international students. Currently, this policy provides little protection for international students who have been heavily affected by recent tuition increases. If UBC wants to commit itself to be the #1 international school, it must ensure the continuous attraction of international students by their academic capabilities and not their financial capabilities.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

- UBC Triggers or Commits to Trigger a Review of UBC Policy 72 before November 2018
- Finish a review of AMS Graduate and Postdoctoral Student Advocacy and put forward any necessary recommendations to council by May 2018
- Receive a commitment from UBC to expand orientations to cover graduate, postdoctoral, and transfer students

## **Increase Experiential Learning Opportunities for Students**

**Values:** Research, Innovation, Collaboration, Creativity, Curiosity

**Focus Areas:** Senate, Career Services, Alumni

Endorse and advocate for the creation of a UBC Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Transforming Learning through Undergraduate Research and Research-Equivalent Opportunities. The establishment of a Senate ad-hoc committee with the goal of identifying ways to expand UBC's undergraduate research and research equivalent opportunities. Also, the formation of an undergraduate research and research equivalent opportunities office.

Advocate for a university-wide mentorship program that provides undergraduates with increased research opportunities and preparation for graduate school. Work with the Provost and VP Academics Office as well as the VP Students Office to explore opportunities for implementing a research mentorship program.

Diversify coop and on-campus opportunities to increase students' access to work experience across faculties. Work with career services and alumni UBC to find ways to bridge our Alumni and careers services.

Explore new approaches to expand entrepreneurship and collaborative opportunities at UBC. Promote AMS E-Hub service and the creation of an on-campus Knowledge Hub to foster partnerships between students, alumni, staff and businesses.

### **A UBC Strategic Plan for Students**

**Values:** Advocacy, Leadership, Accountability, Affordability, Community

**Focus Area:** Senate, Board of Governors, Student Consultation, Provost

Push for a UBC strategic plan that is to the benefit of students and the entire UBC community. The Academic Office will coordinate and create all research, position papers, and submissions related to the UBC Strategic Plan. Ensure that student voices from all communities are heard in the strategic planning process.

Advocate for the allocation of proper funding and resources for student priorities recognized in the strategic plan. Using the excellence fund and other strategic resources at UBC to help fund student priorities.

Work to ensure that the UBC Strategic Plan has the metrics and structure in place to facilitate actionable implementation of the plan. Working with our UBC Board of Governors Student Representatives, UBC Vancouver Student Senate Caucus, and all student advocates to identify and advocate for a strategic plan for all students.