

Agenda Advocacy Committee of the UBC Alma Mater Society

March 1, 2018

Invited: Sally Lin (VP External), Max Holmes (VP Academic and University Affairs), Suyesha Dutta (Councillor), Jeanie Malone (BOG and Councillor), Kevin Doering (Senate and councillor), Christopher Hakim (Councillor)

Guests: Isabella Picui (AVP External)

Regrets: Kevin Doering

Agenda:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:07pm.

2. Land Acknowledgement**3. Happy Beef**

[All]: Happy - Cake. Beef - Elections

4. VP External Updates

[Sally]: Most updates happened at council.

We had a meeting with UBC C+CP and city of Vancouver re: transit options. Will be a consultation on Arbutus loop in April. Another one in June. Of note – though we are working with UBC we will continue to advocate separately.

Lobby trip – currently going SFSS and UVSS. Wanted to have some U-Pass conversations, but looks like now might not be the time. Isabella will be joining!

[Chris]: Contingencies/plans for collab with UVIC + SFU?

[Sally]: We need to advocate for housing rights now – since gov't has indicated interest in funding housing in other schools, we need to make sure we get rights sorted out before

those begin being built out. Therefore, having more schools with us makes our stance stronger. Ongoing process, hope to have more people with us for this trip.

[Sally]: Lobby trip will include follow ups: mental health, sexual violence submission, RWR, student loans eligibility.

5. VP Academic and University Affair Updates

[Max]: Senate happened last night! MISSED council for it. Last night at Senate we discussed Strategic Plan, got assurances that SSC's asks will be included. We voted to endorse with the assurances that these will be included.

Appointed members of ad hoc on diversity & inclusion (students: Jeanie, Marium, Jakob, grad student).

Housing action plan – many asks were listened. Working well with VPS. Will see again in April.

Proposal for office restructure.

Will be sitting on VP Alumni & Dev as well as VP FinOps search committees. Excited, these are key university execs.

Setting up regular monthly meetings (VPS, C+CP, provost...). Better than reactive meetings.

Budget consultation coming up soon on UBC Budget.

Finalizing Musqueam communications policy.

Will be returning with AMS divestment policy soon – it is up for review. May be good to broaden it to include more about sustainability goals.

[Daniel]: When is the university planning to have indigenous strat plan?

[Jeanie]: Coming to April Board.

[Max]: Would assume April senate then?

6. Discussion

a. Housing Action Plan

[Max]: Submission that we sent on HAP – university initially sent to BoG a bunch of stuff we didn't agree with. Ex: a static number of beds to aim for. We are advocating for something tied to the build plan & land use plan.

We also discussed tying the unit-per-unit increases to something other than HEPI (higher ed price index) but rather the increase cap to what is in the RWR campaign.

Also – inclusion of non-market rentals/university housing. We are pushing for this in the stadium neighbourhood development. Some discussion around what units get held for staff/faculty VS students.

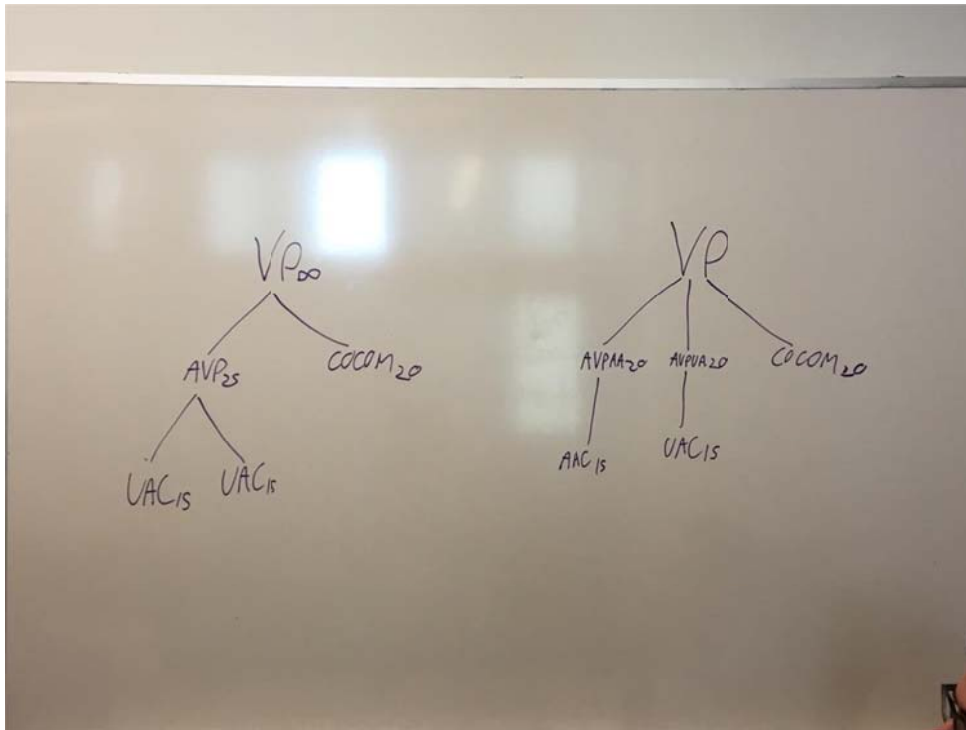
[Suyesha]: What is overlap between RWR and HAP?

[Sally]: RWR is provincial – but whatever they adopt now will make it easier for UBC later. HAP is focused on building projections, not so much rental rights.

[Suyesha]: If we fail at RWR will this hamper HAP?

[Max]: Don't think so.

b. VPAUA Office Restructure



[Max]: -draws on board-

I want to avoid skewing us so far towards university affairs – I think there is room within restructure to make sure the academic affairs side is equally resourced. This will be coming to HR comm officially, wanted to get AdvoComm up to speed though.

Note that this doesn't have a huge impact on budget – only shifting a few extra hours.

Want to ensure we can support student senators (especially with Senate 2020), constituency members... we need to be able to support in curriculum consultations. We need to work on our local-level advocacy.

University Affairs will deal with BoG, C+CP, policy 131 from administrative perspective, university admin. Sometimes we have 10+ consultations/month. Many Board policies (72, 73).

Each AVP has one research assistant, don't need to spend too much time managing someone. Makes it easier to have the VP organize, from top down. Wanted your thoughts/concerns/criticisms! Will circulate JDs.

[Jeanie]: Review in a year? Cautious about taking work that senate secretariat should be doing.

[Max]: Yes, absolutely. We will review. Not concerned about finding extra work if that ends up happening.

c. Mental Health

[Isabella]: We have been working, largely on mental health and sexual violence. Been consulting various groups (speakeasy, etc). Hope to wrap this up with a draft policy. I think we have a good foundation started here, focusing on data driven methods around mental health. Found a lot of silo-ed efforts, need to bridge gaps. Campus culture shift/communications/engagement are key. Hoping for more engagement from students on mental health topics, but need to be cautious + not glamorize it.

[Sally]: we will be developing the SV and MH policies, and will be revisiting after the lobby trip. So they are ready for the next team.

d. Search Committees

[Max]: VPFinOPS – we have had a lot of discussions around efficiencies, operations. We have lots of finance experts, not many operational experts. Looking to see if the current structure of this portfolio actually has the room to fill this. Search will go throughout summer, will be consulting next year's team throughout the process.

[Max]: VPAlum+DevEngagement – looking at a candidate that has had strong campaigns, that can be on the ground, connecting. Real goal – expand alumni network. Hoping to take advantage of new data opportunities, IT. Trying to bridge all the things we do at UBC to make a clearer narrative.

Since the agenda was exhausted, the meeting adjourned at 2:55pm. The next meeting will be held (potentially) on Mar 15th.