THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
Minutes of November 19, 2018

Members: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Yash Gurnani (Councilor), Cole Evans (Councilor), Juliana Craig (Student-at-Large)

Regrets: Andy Wu (Councilor)

Vacancies: One (1) Councilor

Recording Secretary: Julia Burnham (Academic Campaigns and Outreach Commissioner)

Call to Order
Called to order at 6:06pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda
Approved (Cristina, Juliana)

Approval of Minutes
Approved (Yash, Cristina)

VP External Affairs Updates
- Cristina
  - Away during last committee meeting for provincial lobbying trip, receiving follow-up from some ministers
  - Preparing for Ottawa lobbying trip with UCRU team in two weeks
  - UPass Advisory Committee meeting, deliberating new contracts
  - Mayors Council happened last week with new councilors, spoke about transit and getting Sky Train to UBC
  - Working on Equity Caucus, finished first round of consultations with resource groups. Second round forthcoming with other groups
  - Conversations with Sustainability Collective about climate action advocacy
  - Working on provincial referendum campaign to explain ballot choices to students, boothng etc.

- Yash
  - Will we hear more about the UPass and Rail to UBC?

- Cristina:
  - Conversations are in-camera most of the time, but will announce as soon as we can

- Juliana
  - What kind of interaction will students have with the climate action plan?

- Cristina
  - First plan comes out in December with strategies and projects to be funded. Hoping for postsecondary institutions to be one of the industries they look at, as well as transit and municipal activities.

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates
- Max
o Met with Stadium Road Neighbourhood Planning Advisory committee, a bit of a slowed down process right now to work on Musqueam relationship
o Academic Concessions working group is now writing the policy, group formally approved by Academic Policy committee
o VP Students and AMS office met to talk about budget etc.
o Met with VP Finance about GBE
o Interim Indigenous committee has been meeting over the past month, have a final TOR to present today
o VP students finalists meetings with stakeholders, UBC hopes to announce soon
o Expressed concerns about budget and tuition consultations, submission sent to BoG
o Athletics and Rec negotiations going on, recreation space MOU and 21$ fee MOU
o Open Ed resource funding conversations re: Excellence Fund asks
o Undergrad research funding call, ongoing work happening to create this proposal
o Met with Registrar to discuss fall reading break and integrated renewal program
o Policy 93 (closed/open meetings of BoG) review is over. Few comments, people seem satisfied
o Executives attended the UBC Alumni Achievement awards, enjoyable event.

- Yash
  o Any update on AES?

- Max
  o Moving forward and creating new questions. Most likely, our first meeting in January will be discussing the questions – will encourage councilors to come if they would like to be consulted.

### Code Changes: Indigenous Committee

“Be it resolved that Advocacy committee recommend the code changes in the document entitled “Code Changes 2018 Indigenous Committee” to Council for approval and allow the archivist to only make format changes if necessary.”

- Max
  o Terms of reference was completed by the committee on Friday.
  o There were very little tweaks made from their TOR to the code changes. Not my place to make substantive changes, just adjusted to code language. Committee was notified they could come today to motivate the TOR at this meeting.
  o Committee will be an Extraordinary committee, aka not following regular committee structure.
  o Head of House would be their Chair, Knowledge Keeper is Vice Chair. They also have an Elder present. Matriach/Patriach would be a graduate student, Aunties and Uncles are more consistent, core members of the committee. They will appoint and determine method of appointment.
  o I would like to move for this to be approved. (Cristina seconds)

- Yash
  o I am concerned that there is not a defined number of cousins
  o Anything related to constituency representation? Could we amend code to allow for an Indigenous constituency representative to be added to the committee?
  o Are we required by code to mention that the Indigenous committee has a specific room?
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Minutes of November 19, 2018

- Max
  o It was the intention of the committee to not limit the membership of Indigenous students
  o We usually allow constituencies a large amount of independence. Law students actually have one of the most comprehensive groups of Indigenous Law students. Indigenous committee would be happy to discuss how those structures would be created, should be up to constituencies to reach out and see how they can accomplish this.
  o We would not amend code without the Indigenous committee approving those changes or showing support for those changes.
  o Did not include a specific number in case they wanted to move to another room later on. Does not need something in code for VP Admin to allocate space.
- Cristina
  o Really happy to see this created by Indigenous students, for Indigenous students.
- Juliana
  o How can Indigenous students who aren’t involved with the AMS be involved?
- Max
  o The Talking Stick newsletter goes out to all Indigenous students from the FNHL, that’s something that they are looking to include. We have gotten support from FNHL to help promote this.
  o Intention to have an Indigenous staff position in the AMS to be dedicated to this committee and other student affairs.
- Unanimous consent! Will be on the council agenda next week

Equity Caucus Discussion

- Cristina
  o Intent is to move away from Student Issues and Equity caucus model because of the recruitment process and barriers to be involved/useful
  o Students from marginalized backgrounds do not feel like they are represented in the AMS, this is one step to improve this
  o Will not be a formal committee of council, but situated under the structure of Advocacy Committee.
  o Open call to any of the groups listed in the TOR (i.e. Mature students, students of colour etc.)
  o Hoping to make it a collaborative body to work with groups throughout council
  o Two co-chairs, executive and non-executive from the caucus to bring forward internal and external issues
- Yash
  o Could we add Refugee students?
  o I did not understand the difference between black students and racialized students
  o Maybe we could add a community agreement to protect the space
- Cristina
  o Yes!
  o Some students felt that specifically naming groups of students would be more appropriate and inclusive (similar logic to black/brown stripes on pride flag)
  o Good idea – maybe we add something about core values similar to Indigenous TOR
- Juliana
Would hope that the people who are part of this caucus can represent multiple groups of marginalized identities.

- Max
  - Potential point of concern about Indigenous students listed, since they do have their own committee now that offers representation.
  - Should look at consulting the Student Diversity initiative
- Cristina
  - Definitely a possibility of overlap of a student’s identities. If an issue comes up that effects primarily Indigenous students, it would go to caucus, but it would be primarily worked on and discussed in the Indigenous committee.

**Fall Reading Break Town hall and Progress**

- Max
  - Tomorrow there will be a town hall to discuss Fall Reading Break
  - Main point is that there will be tradeoffs to get a fall reading break and figuring out what students are willing to give
  - UBC has the second lowest teaching days in Canada, so we can’t lower teaching days at all or our accredited programs will be unaccredited
  - Looking at 3 day break before exams, Sunday exams, longer winter break etc
  - Survey has been posted for feedback to those who can’t make it
  - Feedback will guide our advocacy with the Academic Policy committee and Student Senate Caucus
  - Likely solution to be a 4 day long weekend around Thanksgiving
- Cole
  - Some faculties (arts) are easier to achieve fall reading break. Have heard from senators that there are solutions that exclude professional faculties.
- Max
  - Only two students on the academic policy committee, myself and Jeanie.
  - I personally think it is wrong for the AMS to not advocate for all students to have a fall reading break. Some other universities have implemented fall reading breaks without engineering students included. That would be a mistake in my view but we need to consult engineers.
  - A full week is not possible next year, it’s a 4-5 day break. The conversation next year will be whether or not we try to advocate for a full week long break for everyone.
  - Need to also consider how UBC has the second lowest number of teaching days in all of Canada and whether students feel the value of their education could be affected by lower teaching days. Will also have to be a conversation with both faculty and students.
- Juliana
  - How will grad students be part of this conversation?
  - How would it effect worklearn students and their hours?
- Max
  - It’s great to have Jeanie on this committee since she represents graduate students on the committee.
  - This definitely could effect some graduate programs, but we do have good representation on this committee from these areas.
  - This break would be tacked onto Thanksgiving, which is already being disrupted
o I believe it would be up to the specific offices on how they choose to operate during a break.

- Yash
  o How do faculty feel about this?

- Max
  o Unclear but there is some indication that faculty don’t want less teaching days, but they do want a longer winter break. Students and faculty are both in agreement on a longer winter break especially with us coming back on January 2nd this year.

Other Business
No other business.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned 1 hour after it started.