



**THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER**

AMS Advocacy Committee

Agenda of January 17, 2019

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Initchi (VP External Affairs), Yash Gurnani (Councilor), Riley Ty (Councilor), Andy Wu (Councilor), Juliana Craig (Student-at-Large)

Regrets: Cole Evans (Councilor)

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order

- 5:06pm called to order

Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Yash, seconded by Ty
- Unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

- Moved by Max, seconded by Ty
- Unanimous consent.

VP External Affairs Update

- Cristina:
 - Federal advocacy: meeting with MPs that we didn't get a chance to meet in Ottawa
 - Provincial Sexual Violence Working Group was created, had a consultation call with SFSS, AMS, and UVSS
 - Got to give feedback on draft action plan
 - Lots of work still needed, more voices need to be included
 - We're meeting again with the provincial Student Housing Working Group
 - Rent with Rights will be presenting at the meeting, having a discussion on student housing rental rights with universities from across BC
 - Equity Caucus
 - Met with UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office for consultation on the ToR, will be synthesizing feedback from groups and coming back to Advocacy Committee with that information
 - Transit
 - Preparing for next steps at different government levels of Skytrain advocacy – municipal government will be engaging on conversations soon and we will be at those meetings
 - Attending Rapid Transit Community Coalition to meet with other stakeholders
- Yash: Is the student housing legislation a part of the RTA?

- Cristina: No, it was separated from RTA, understand that student housing is a special situation but that doesn't mean rights aren't needed
- Andy: What's insufficient about the SVWG?
 - Cristina: Great that this group was created but draft plan needs a lot of work and timeline is tight, more consultation required going forward and longer timeline, we'll be connecting with the group to let them know our thoughts going forward

VP AUA Update

- Max:
 - Engaged in budget consultations with UBC
 - Started in December, overview of Excellence Fund and VP Students and Provost offices, attended a student consultation and Associate Deans consultation meeting
 - Supporting the creation of an OER fund, undergraduate research, Integrated Health Centre
 - So far, advocacy is going well, we're hopeful we got some of our asks in, it's been a transparent process so far and we might successfully secure \$7 million or more for our asks
 - Fall Reading Break
 - Consultation response is great – over 6,000 people engaged
 - There is adequate time for completion
 - Report is coming for endorsement to Council on the position on Reading Break
 - Student Senate Caucus position matters a lot in this conversation, driving initiative
 - Academic Concessions Policy Working Group
 - March 1-31 is consultation period for community and students (most likely)
 - Draft is almost done but needs to go to committee first
 - Mandatory syllabi policy was passed after years of advocacy
 - PURE pilot project
 - Advocated for money to go to undergrad research experience program, it's being funded \$1 mil
 - To be used for innovative way to involve undergrad students in research
 - This is an amazing example of UBC Admin, Senate, and the AMS collaborating to impact student life in a major way
 - Stadium Neighbourhood
 - Original plan was 1/3 rental but Working Group was favourable to change proportions
 - Making it 2/3 rental hopefully UBC community (staff, students, faculty) housing – around 500,000 added square footage for rental if that happens
 - Andy: is the UBC community housing rental?
 - Max: yes
 - Riley: for the fall ready break consultation, many of my constituents were confused by the survey, didn't realize it was only one extra day off

- Max: we were explicit in the email and the models showed a 4-5 day break
- Jules: Have we discussed the concern that if it's less than a 4-day week then people may not show up to other classes for the rest of the week?
 - Max: We're having the broken weeks conversation
- Andy: Why were people opposed to the syllabi policy?
 - Max: They wanted to change language around need to include estimated costs of textbooks, there was opposition to this because it would make language too vague and it would endanger the principle of what it was saying

Academic Experience Survey Consultation – Max

- Max: (spent the rest of advocom taking the committee through the entire question list)
 - Last year had best turn out, not changing incentives this year
 - Max made a presentation to the Committee on the AES
 - Andy: Are you including UPass awareness?
 - Max: No transit questions other than effect of commute on academics
 - Riley: Should questions about the AMS go last in the survey if we're trying to be less AMS-centric?
 - Max: That doesn't impact the survey results since we only look at completed responses
 - Yash: What if student click yes on the sexual violence questions and then decide they don't want to do them anymore – can they leave?
 - Max: Yes – can click back
 - Yash: Should we include the accessibility shuttle in question about services/supports usage and awareness?
 - Max: Sample size isn't big enough, won't be traceable in the results, perhaps we will explore adding it in the future
 - Andy: What if the identification questions don't capture what you consider to be your background – especially the East-Asian selection that may not include all nationalities?
 - Max: You can select all that you identify with

Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:07pm.