



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee

Agenda of February 14, 2019

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

Regrets: Cole Evans (Councilor), Andy Wu (Councilor), Yash Gurnani (Councilor),

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order

5:13pm

Approval of Agenda

Riley, Jules

Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

Cristina, Riley

Unanimous approval

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates

- Max:
 - Have been sitting on the Policy 3 Review Committee, we submitted our report with recommendations for the Policy. We were a strong advocate to remove the 1 year time limit on complaints and when they can be filed.
 - Met with VP Academic Caucus
 - Adjudicated for large and small TLEF projects (funds OER projects, expanding curriculum, enhancing teaching and learning)
 - Stadium Road Neighbourhood Committee: Seems that project will stay at current square footage, wanted more but main goal is not decreasing density, think they'll go to 2/3 rental instead of 1/3 aka a million square feet of rental. This is a huge win for students to see an increase of 500,000 square feet of rental!
 - Finished fall reading break and extended holiday break consultation, still finalizing report, needs to be amended to reflect that AMS isn't taking a stance
 - Went to a conference on career services, met with other schools' career services and was great to see what other institutions are doing that we could be doing better
 - Academic Policy Committee met, consultation for concessions policy is moving forward, also discussed Peter Wall institute, and withdrawals
 - Called into an open meeting of the Board of Governors Housing Action Plan Working Group to discuss the stadium road neighborhood.
 - Doing Policy Advisor interviews

- Went to Indigenous Committee Meeting, discussed different funding options and potential referendum, the group decided to go forward with the fee referendum
- Working on UBC budget consultation, we're in a good position to get at least \$7 million funded for the student priorities we have advocated for, including work learn jobs, community work learn pilot perhaps, OER fund, integrated health center, funding to expand jumpstart, and more.
- It is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and we've also received an update related to Policy 131 that was sent to the Board of Governors. We are giving feedback on the proposed Policy Review process.
- UBC passed new Policy 15 on tobacco and smoking due to cannabis legalization
- Had monthly meeting with VP Finance to discuss budget and divestment, office is currently working on a divestment report
- Current ombudsperson office is being reviewed and VPAUA office is engaging with it – we are supportive of it, hopefully getting more resources and reporting to more bodies
- Riley: How much money will Skytrain cost UBC? Have they decided how much they'll give
 - Cristina: Conversations ongoing, they're still working with other regional partners to figure it out, I am engaging in these conversations as they develop
- Riley: How did the Indigenous Committee get to that dollar amount?
 - Max: They had a private meeting and determined that dollar amount on their own. I fully support their independence to decide on this referendum on their own and I hope we all support the yes-side of the referendum.
- Juliana: So AMS isn't taking a stance on Fall Reading Break?
 - Max: We are not taking a stance for a Fall Reading Break in 2019/20. We will actively be advocating for a Senate Working Group to review the academic schedule to make a Fall Reading Break possible in 2020/21, after community consultation.

VP External Affairs Updates

- Cristina:
 - Met with UBC VP External office to talk about copyright advocacy with U15 schools based on UCRU asks, how we can possibly work together
 - Max and Marium will be presenting to the UNA on our position on the proposed bylaw changes (student representation needs to be on their board) next week and discuss consultation moving forward
 - Calling Vancouver City Councilors to talk about Skytrain to UBC and other municipal student issues
 - Had another call with the Sexual Violence Working Group and connecting in with Minister Eby on it, asked to slow timeline down, said they are and bringing more people into consultation, I asked to be connected to the person from UBC that sits on the WG
 - Met with the Student Engagement Group (Translink) – we talked about student consultation on the Regional Transportation Plan
 - Preparing for Mayor's Council tomorrow – will speak more to this in Transportation discussion
 - Student Housing Working Group met to talk about the Rent With Rights recommendations again and trying to find what the next step forward in this process is with other student unions we're partnered with

- Planning our transit campaign – in progress
- Has a conversation with BCCampus about OER advocacy both provincially and federally – how can we best continue our provincial advocacy on this and working with bigger group federally like OER Canada to do more ambitious work there
- Riley: How will the UNA consultation process work?
 - Cristina: Max and Marium will present, using feedback we got from Council, and then have a discussion with the UNA Board after to discuss what next steps look like
- Riley: What are the next steps for the Sexual Violence Working Group?
 - Cristina: I will continue to work with the group, particularly on what the first draft of their plan looks like, ask to bring more people into the consultation as work moves along

Transit Updates

- Cristina:
 - Exciting things happening with transit right now
 - Work on Skytrain to UBC is pushing ahead
 - Vancouver City Council – sent letters to all Councilors, spoke at meeting, their council voted in support of approving the project
 - Continuing to connect with Vancouver City Councilors in the aftermath to further develop relationship
 - Mayor’s Council – tomorrow the Mayors are voting whether to approve Skytrain as the technology for the project, sent all the Mayors letters, gathered student testimonials, will speak tomorrow and deliver them
 - Meeting with other student unions and Translink to talk about other student priorities around transit and how to best engage young people in this conversation
 - Talked about mobility-as-a-service and integrating platforms for different bus, car-sharing, bike-sharing services
 - Talked about how best to engage students in Regional Transportation Strategy
 - Preparing a Skytrain campaign
 - Important to continue garnering student support – dispel myths about the project, show community support, get students engaged
- Riley: Why are you using testimonials?
 - Cristina: They’re actually really important and effective, decision-makers want to know how these decision affect communities, a necessary part of compelling advocacy
- Juliana: What else are you advocating on to improve transit on Broadway?
 - Talking about beyond Skytrain to UBC, making sure that in the meantime there is solid bus capacity to bring students from skytrain at Arbutus to UBC until Skytrain to UBC open

Equity Caucus Updates

- Cristina:
 - Quick updates on this one because I’ll be bringing a full debrief to next meeting
 - Consulting on the terms of reference for the Equity Caucus
 - Lots of thorough feedback so far, want to continue collecting it

- Definitely a lot of changes to be made that I'll be bringing back to this groups to figure out what the next steps forward are

Senate Updates

- Max:
 - Talking to Senate about the AMS resourcing the Senate working group on fall reading break
 - Consultation on a senate issue shouldn't end up on students
 - There was a lack of consultation with other affected stakeholders from Senate, didn't consult with faculty staff and internal units
 - It would set an irresponsible precedent if it's done without full consultation
 - Could affect people's contracts TAs and employment contracts
 - Way forward - pushing for working group: disappointment, students won't be able to see action on issue they see interest in, working group model has been successful, it will happen next year
- Riley: Were there any issues with the fact that AMS was in contravention of University's Act with our elections?
 - AMS Elections are not within the purview of this committee. This is a matter to raise with AMS Elections Administrator or the UBC Senate Secretariat Office.

Other Business

Adjournment

Adjournment at 6:13pm