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
Met with Stadium Road Neighbourhood Planning Advisory committee, a bit of a slowed down process right now to work on Musqueam relationship

Academic Concessions working group is now writing the policy, group formally approved by Academic Policy committee

VP Students and AMS office met to talk about budget etc.

Met with VP Finance about GBE

Interim Indigenous committee has been meeting over the past month, have a final TOR to present today

VP students finalists meetings with stakeholders, UBC hopes to announce soon

Expressed concerns about budget and tuition consultations, submission sent to BoG

Athletics and Rec negotiations going on, recreation space MOU and 21$ fee MOU

Open Ed resource funding conversations re: Excellence Fund asks

Undergrad research funding call, ongoing work happening to create this proposal

Met with Registrar to discuss fall reading break and integrated renewal program

Policy 93 (closed/open meetings of BoG) review is over. Few comments, people seem satisfied

Executives attended the UBC Alumni Achievement awards, enjoyable event.

- Yash
  - Any update on AES?

- Max
  - 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
  - Terms of reference was completed by the committee on Friday.
  - 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.
  - Committee will be an Extraordinary committee, aka not following regular committee structure.
  - 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.
  - I would like to move for this to be approved. (Cristina seconds)

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

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- Max
  - It was the intention of the committee to not limit the membership of Indigenous students.
  - 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.
  - We would not amend code without the Indigenous committee approving those changes or showing support for those changes.
  - 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
  - Really happy to see this created by Indigenous students, for Indigenous students.
- Juliana
  - How can Indigenous students who aren’t involved with the AMS be involved?
- Max
  - 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.
  - 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
  - Intent is to move away from Student Issues and Equity caucus model because of the recruitment process and barriers to be involved/useful.
  - Students from marginalized backgrounds do not feel like they are represented in the AMS, this is one step to improve this.
  - Will not be a formal committee of council, but situated under the structure of Advocacy Committee.
  - Open call to any of the groups listed in the TOR (i.e. Mature students, students of colour etc.)
  - Hoping to make it a collaborative body to work with groups throughout council
  - Two co-chairs, executive and non-executive from the caucus to bring forward internal and external issues.
- Yash
  - Could we add Refugee students?
  - I did not understand the difference between black students and racialized students
  - Maybe we could add a community agreement to protect the space.
- Cristina
  - Yes!
  - Some students felt that specifically naming groups of students would be more appropriate and inclusive (similar logic to black/brown stripes on pride flag)
  - 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
AMS Advocacy Committee
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- I believe it would be up to the specific offices on how they choose to operate during a break.
  - Yash
    - How do faculty feel about this?
  - Max
    - 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.
AMS ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
Minutes of AMS Advocacy Committee – October 29, 2018

Attendance
Present: Max Holmes (Chair, VP Academic & University Affairs), Andy Wu (Councillor), Yash Gurnani (Councillor), Cole Evans (Councillor), Juliana Craig (Student-at-large), Chris Hakim (VP Administration), Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability)

Regrets: Cristina Illnitchi (VP External Affairs), Laura Finkler (Councillor)

Recording Secretary: Chris Hakim (VP Administration)

Call to Order
• The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Territory Acknowledgement
• We acknowledge that we are on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral land of the Musqueam people. It is important to recognize that learning has happened long before our time here, and that we are very privileged to be on these territories that are not ours.

Approval of the Agenda
• The agenda was approved (Yash, Cole).

Approval of the Minutes
• The minutes were approved (Juliana, Yash).

VP External Affairs Updates
• Elizabeth:
  o Cristina is currently in Victoria for a provincial lobby trip.
  o Setting up federal lobby trip for December 2018.
  o Almost done with a SFA report that’ll be ready after lobby meetings.
  o Wrapping up the municipal elections campaign.

• Andy:
  o Are we hearing anything from students about how they will vote for proportional representation or whether they even know anything about the ballot?

• Elizabeth:
  o All student groups that we have met with are for proportional representation.
  o We have not started boothig, so we don’t have any data about one-on-one interactions.

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates
• Max:
- Gave a presentation on the AMS to the Alumni Board with Marium.
- Gave a tour of the NEST to Paul Davidson President of Universities Canada.
- Academic Concessions Working Group of Senate was approved, and I am the Chair of that working group.
- We will be finalizing the first academic concessions policy in 10 years.
- May 2019 is our goal for the policy.
- I went to the Aga Khan Ceremony as I was part of the Academic Procession.
- The Undergraduate Research Working Group finalized what undergraduate research currently looks like at UBC.
- The VP Academic Caucus met last Friday, we talked about broad range of topics such as the AES Report and tuition consultation.

- **Yash:**
  - What part of the Excellence Fund deals with Jumpstart funding?
- **Max:**
  - Jumpstart is already fully funded for international students.
  - Domestic students this year was a pilot, so we got funding to include them.
  - It’s currently up in the air of whether we will continue with that model.
  - The AMS is currently advocating for that model to continue.
  - The AMS also wants a bursary for students who cannot afford to attend.
  - We want Jumpstart to have continuous funding because it is so important, not just a one shot.

**Code Change: Student Senators and Board of Governors**

- Be it resolved that Advocacy Committee recommend that Code changes in the document titled ‘Code Changes 2018 Student Senators and Board of Governors’ to Council for approval.
- **Max:**
  - Context: we used to have an office for Student Senators and Governors.
  - I think it is a good idea to provide them with an office because they are student leaders that don’t get paid and don’t have a formal space to work.
  - They used to have a space where they can work and hold meetings that was given by us.
  - My office tries to support these people as much as possible.
  - I have had conversations with Chris about this idea and it is feasible.
  - My office would be responsible for maintaining that access is only provided to Student Senators and Governors.
- The motion was approved (Max, Andy).

**Ben Shapiro Statement for Approval**

- **Max:**
  - After talking to Marium, we think it would be important for Advocacy Committee to approve a statement like this, especially since we have had conversations about this before.
- **Juliana:**
  - It’s great, especially with the section on the services that can be provided.
Max:
  - Those statements were also written by the services themselves.
  - We want the focus of our statement to be on students who might feel threatened from this event, as opposed to focus on Ben Shapiro.
  - The statement was approved (Juliana, Andy).

**Academic Experience Survey Priorities**

Max:
  - Note: we will probably eliminate the question specifically on Greek Life since not a lot of students may know much about Greek Life and we want to get as many responses from students.
  - There are other opportunities to gauge how students feel on this issue.

Juliana:
  - I would agree; with such a small range on students involved in Greek Life or knowing about it, this would not be relevant to the Academic Experience Survey.
  - Also, taking note that we might have polarizing responses from students involved versus students not involved in Greek Life.

Cole:
  - Do we ask questions on how engaged do students think the AMS is?

Max:
  - No, because the Academic Experience Survey has moved away from asking AMS-focused questions since this survey is primarily centered on the student experience and advocacy.

Andy:
  - I’ve taken the Academic Experience Survey before, I am wondering if there have been attempts to add more policy-specific questions?

Max:
  - Typically, we try not to put things in the survey about things that students don’t have a lot of knowledge of because it can skew data.
  - If you put policy-specific questions, it can be difficult since a lot of people don’t necessarily know enough to answer very specific policy questions.

Andy:
  - That is fair, but I think on big topics, it may be useful to gauge the opinions of the student body.
  - I point to when we had that meeting on the Trans Mountain Pipeline where we had a divisive discussion on whether we should release a statement on it or not because we were not sure if it was representative of the student body.

Max:
  - I think this is more about gathering data on students’ experience and using that for data, as opposed to bringing political issues to the plate and gauging if that is something that influences their experience at UBC.

Yash:
  - Do you think it would be useful to ask students about how often they access the disability shuttle at UBC?
Max:
  o I can look into whether that is one of the services we can ask questions about.

Michelle:
  o I think it would be useful to ask questions on climate change and see what students’ interests lies there.

Max:
  o We can potentially frame it into a UBC context and seeing what students feel on how well UBC is doing regarding climate change and sustainability.

Andy:
  o Adding more questions about how the University or the AMS is tackling climate change may be useful to the VP Administration office.

Juliana:
  o What do you think the nature of the graduate students related questions will be?

Max:
  o We already ask students whether they are an undergraduate or graduate student.  
  o However, graduate students in the past have said that the Academic Experience Survey doesn’t always ask questions that is relevant to them. 
  o It is difficult to ask specific questions to them, because we need to have common ground questions in consideration of the amount of time it takes to complete the survey. 
  o We may be able to add one or two additional questions for them.

UBC Annual Tuition Consultation

Max:
  o This is to give people a heads up that I will be sending in a submission on the AMS’s opinion on UBC’s annual tuition consultation. 
  o UBC has not done a good job with their consultation, and I will be including that in our submission – I had to ask UBC to consult with us. 
  o I blame this somewhat on the VPS turnover. 
  o We are opposing the tuition increase because we do not approve of any international tuition increase that is larger than domestic tuition increases. 
  o Another reason we are opposing because we have been asking UBC for a long-term enrolment plan, so we can understand what our enrolment will be in the future along with the costs. 
  o I want to see the potential of if the increase did not happen, and UBC has not sent me the numbers.

The Committee agreed with this stance moving forward.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.
AMS Advocacy Committee
Minutes of September 12, 2018

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Dylan Braam (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large), Andy Wu (Councilor)

Regrets: Kate Burnham (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor)

Guests: Jason Tockman (AMS Policy Advisor), Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability), Rodney Little Mustache, Jacob Fischer-Schmidt (Social Justice Centre)

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order
Called to order at 3:05pm

Approval of Agenda
- Rodney adding discussion item of HIV/AIDS in other business
- Approved with unanimous consent

Approval of Minutes
- Dylan expressed concerns about length and content of last meeting’s minutes, not as long as they typically are.
- Dylan abstains the approval of minutes, otherwise approved by all of the committee.
- 3:10 Jacob Fischer-Schmidt arrives

VP External Affairs Updates
- Cristina:
  o Busy first week of meetings and hiring
  o Had a booth at the First Nations Longhouse (FNHL) Resource Fair to talk to students about transit and resources
  o Team is working on financial assistance proposals and research
  o Prepping for municipal election, marketing and outreach plan to engage student voters. Partnering with GSS and UBC Debate Society to put on a mayoral debate.
  o Working on a letter on Rent With Rights campaigns, working with different provincial groups.
  o Connecting with student unions in BC on lobbying for an upcoming October provincial government visit
- Daniel asks for an update on the PR referendum. Cristina updates that they are doing a campaign on “Get Out The Vote”, also trying to get David Eby to come out and talk to students.
- Dylan and Rodney ask if AMS will be endorsing a position in the referendum, Cristina says the AMS will be non-partisan. Reason being that AMS does not know what student political stances are on this issue, just wants to encourage students to make informed decisions.
- Rodney brings up supporting Chief Ian Campbell, committee confirms that Ian Campbell has dropped out of the race two days prior. Rodney stresses importance of Indigenous
representation in politics, both in municipal and AMS politics, and encouraging Indigenous voices to speak up.

- Rodney advocates to include residential school survivors and their families, also low-income students, in the affordability requests. Cristina is unsure of how long this process will take, confirms need to advocate for financial aid to low-income students.
- Rodney highlights an event about postsecondary Indigenous education upcoming in Vancouver, will send information to the committee.
- Jacob clarifies that students can only vote for Electoral District A, but they can vote for school district representatives.
- Rodney leaves 3:23
- Andy asks for elections campaigns to go beyond basic education of electoral process, wants campaign to be prescriptive not descriptive. Cristina agrees to include the possible advantage and disadvantages to both options.

**VP Academic and University Affairs Updates**

- Max:
  - Met with Chair of BoG
  - Sitting on cannabis policy committee, seems to be guided mostly by provincial legislation.
  - Undergraduate Research Working Group has been making a lot of progress.
  - Had a meeting with representatives of the fraternity village to discuss the relationship between the AMS and the fraternities
  - Despite zero councilors volunteering for the second year in a row, Textbook Broke ran a successful campaign engaging with students about OERs.
  - BoG committee meetings upcoming
  - Working with Senate on Academic Concession Policy
  - Sitting on UBC VP External search committee
- Rodney returns 3:30
- Michelle: Will you be highlighting the AMS decision to divest at the Board of Governors?
- Max: Yes
- Rodney: Would like to start more programs for Indigenous people, like an Elders program.
- Max: Advocating for this in particular would be perhaps better suited to Senate or speaking directly to faculty and associate deans. Also within the Indigenous Strategic Plan.
- Rodney: How long will it take for Indigenous students on Senate, BoG?
- Max: Your proposals have helped to guide the October 2nd Indigenous Community Circle discussion.
- Rodney: It seems you are restarting the process that you started at the meeting in the Nest in March.
- Max: I can’t say how long it will take, but ultimately those seats are decisions made by the university and province. When it comes to AMS decisions, we think it is important to do broad-based consultation.

**Board of Governors Submissions Discussion**

- Max:
  - We sent three submissions to the BoG. One for increased housing and tower height in the Stadium Road Neighbourhood. Would like to maximize trees and park space.
Second submission was about the Life Building and Brock Commons Phase 2. There needs to be a short term (1-4 years) space allocation and a long term space allocation (beyond 5 years).

Third submission on Policy 131, very satisfied on workshops this summer. We also called for the policy to be reviewed a year early, there are issues with policy rather than procedures to amend.

- Jacob: Was SASC a key stakeholder on Policy 131?
  - Max: Yes
- Rodney: Can anyone make submissions to the BoG?
  - Max: Yes
- Dylan: The purpose of committee is to assist, not oversight, therefore why are we talking about these after they have been submitted?
  - Max: We included this discussion to inform the committee. The Stadium Road Neighbourhood was discussed at council. The Policy 131 was consulted with SASC. The Life Building submission was a reactionary submission, usually not enough time to circulate reactions to committee. Going forward would like to include these submissions and let the committee review.
- Rodney: I would like to submit that the Ubyssey should be removed from this building and to cut the office in half to make space for Indigenous students.
  - Max: This would be a conversation to have with the VP Administration. We do have a contract for that space with the Ubyssey.
- Jacob leaves 3:55pm

Student Issues and Equity Caucus Terms of Reference Discussion

- Max:
  - The Student Issues and Equity caucus has been dormant for a while, it is a labour intensive process to join the caucus. We would like to consult many groups on changes.
- Andy: Two years ago, I was supposedly a member of this caucus. We met once and did not hear from the VP External’s office afterwards. Reading through the TOR now, I still do not understand the purpose this caucus serves.
- Max: We have this caucus because of the governance review from two years ago. Historically marginalized groups do not feel as represented by the AMS. Governance review did not detail what the caucus would look like. Advocacy committee has already voted to have the creation of this structure created in its goals.
- Michelle: Consulting with marginalized groups will be key, especially resource groups. I am personally opposed to an application process, it should be accessible. This can also be seen as tokenistic to have specific positions, is not intersectional. I would like to see a discussion circle open to anyone that has concerns to come and voice concerns.
- Dylan: I am concerned by the application process. Needs to have a variety of views, appointment and application process internal to AMS is problematic. Would be good to get groups external to the AMS to put names forward, will need to be careful.

Adjournment

The meeting time was exhausted and adjourned at 4:05PM before other business.
THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
Minutes of August 14, 2018

Members: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Kailey Graham (Dylan Braam’s Proxy), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large) Hannah Xiao (Councilor, arrived at 6:05pm)

Regrets: Kate Burnham (Councilor), Andy Wu (Councilor)

Guests: Elizabeth Garvie (External Affairs Campaigns and Outreach)

Recording Secretary: Kennedy Gagnon (Associate Vice President University Affairs)

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order
6:04pm

Approval of Agenda
Removed presentation on university governance for a meeting with full attendance.
Unanimous approval.

Approval of Minutes
Unanimous approval.

VP External Affairs Updates (5 minutes)
- Has been assisting with SASC hiring.
- Had a meeting about bike share which is coming to campus (it launched this week). Full speed ahead for the new academic year.
- Has been doing lots of preparation for the Student Union Development Submit
- Had a discussion with Ministry of Advanced Education alongside other student unions; are taking on a mental health initiative and developing program to support students (leasing with them). Next steps are meeting in the fall semester.
- Has been doing lots of work student financial aid prep, hoping to have main points to bring to the province for Student Aid BC by going through most salient issues for students and developing advocacy to take to province on those findings.
- Met with Joyce Murry. She held a UBC student leadership round table discussion and Cristina met with her privately afterwards and discussed some areas of interest (e.g. rapid transit to UBC, open educational resources, etc.)
- Is working with other U15 student unions to develop our federal asks for this year; working on creating joined submission for copyright act.

No questions
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of August 14, 2018

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates (5 minutes)
- Is working on a submission for the mandatory syllabi policy.
- Had a meeting with the stadium road planning committee, also met with subgroup of the neighborhood committee. Some stakeholders are supportive of current proposal but with the addition of faculty and staff housing (indirectly benefits students), others want a lower density plan. The AMS does not agree with lower density plan given the current housing crisis.
- Working on 2 campaigns currently: One is the Textbook Broke Campaign; all is the same as previous years with the addition of an acknowledgement of the faculty who use OERs currently. Another is the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Campaign, there are lots of different groups involved in this, but it is being led by SASC, SVPRO, and the AMS.
- Met with the adjudication committee and went through initial proposals (most were approved to go forward).
- Participated in a Policy #131 workshop (6 hour long). There were lots of stakeholders there and all left happy knowing where we’re going in the future. 15 issues were discussed and will be coming to the September BoG. AMS is satisfied with current work being done with policy 131, we have a submission to BoG coming soon.
- Attended the Senate Undergraduate Research Working Group, spoke about the current state of research opportunities and moving forward we’ll look into how to enhance what we have.
- For the upcoming BoG, we will produce a submission about life building, and give an orientation for new BoG members to give current state of Student Government (presentation about AMS)

Questions
- Hannah: inquires if there will be new opportunities created for undergraduate research (not just more of what already exists).
- Max: The committee isn’t just about expanding current opportunities that are offered, it’s about how we can better evaluate current opportunities, how we can better measure the experience of undergrad research. Work being done over a 2-year timeline: The first year will focus on evaluating current opportunities and the second year will look into how we can improve current opportunities and possibly create more.

BC Referendum Campaign Discussion (15 minutes)
- Cristina: provides introduction; Liz has been working hard on looking at logistics, values, and how to connect with students on issues. We want to communicate why it’s important to vote in elections and plan some events in relation to this (e.g. a debate with the candidates).

Liz gives presentation
- The Referendum is occurring through mail-in ballot, all registered BC voters will be mailed a ballot (between Oct. 22 and Nov. 30, 2018) to determine which BC should use for elections to the Legislative Assembly (you can vote for only one). Option 1: The current First Past the Post voting system, Option 2: A proportional representation voting system.
- If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, there are multiple voting systems within that: Option 1: Dual Member Proportional (DMP), Option 2: Mixed Member Proportional (MMP), Option 3: Rural-Urban PR
- Background: BC has held 2 similar referendums, PEI is holding a similar referendum this year, but currently all provinces use FPTP
• Explanation: in First Past the Post (FPTP), the candidate who receives the most votes wins, the candidate does not need a majority of votes to win. In Proportional Representation (PR), the candidates are elected to proportionally represent the results.

• Potential Implications of PR: Increased spending on public services - roughly 8% of GDP, Voter turnout among students could be 5-7% higher, Women tend to be better represented

• Our Proposal: Run an educational campaign that provides students with awareness about the referendum, how they can vote, and the benefits of the different systems

• Concerns around taking a stance: isolating students, isolating political allies, the system is applied in a different way than its conception

Discussion

• Hannah: Thinks booths are good because they will help inform students, but thinks the AMS should not have to take a stance as our job is more about educating people about their options while staying neutral.

• Daniel: Noted that we did take a stance on a past referendum (related to transit), how is this different?

• Cristina: That referendum had an impact on students directly, more of a tangible impact on their life in university specially.

• Liz: Also, probably because there would have been definite negative implications if we hadn’t of moved forward with that referendum.

Tuition Consultation Proposal Discussion (15 minutes)

Max gives background

• Any changes with tuition fees have to come up with students. There are 30 days open for consultation, any student that is affected by it is able to send in submission about it to UBC. UBC is also meant to do consultation with student leadership.

• We get over 20 tuition consultations in a year. Usually the AMS is supportive of programs, especially if they follow current program frees.

• BUT there are ‘inflationary increases’ each year; domestic tuition increases each year at 2% (UBC has a 2% cap), international at 3% usually. Some years there are larger increases for international tuition.

• The AMS stance: we hold the positon that increase should not be above 2% and international increases should not be more that domestic. We are limited in our opposition when the province doesn’t increase funding for seats by inflation.

• Document sent by VP Students discussed with the committee.

Max explains document sent by VP Students

• Process for Annual Inflationary Increase, if annual increase is at or below 2% for domestic students and 3% for international students: Separate meetings with the following groups: AMS & GSS Executives. The AMS and GSS will do internal consultation within their respective societies before this meeting.

• Process for Larger Increase, If annual increase exceeds 2% for domestic students and 3% for international students: Broader student consultation and two additional meetings with the AMS & GSS Executives. Separate meetings between undergraduate societies and their dean’s offices would also occur.

Discussion
• Hannah: Is this to be sent somewhere?
• Max: This is the first draft, there is a lot to be edited/changed. Eventually this will be changed and approved by AMS and UBC, but until then we follow the old process.
• Kailey: where in the policy does it state that UBC has to do student consultation? So, major difference between inflation and the larger increase is cutting out general public consultation?
• Max: The UBC policy has a requirement to include student consultation in any increases.
• Kailey: criticizes AMS for not having enough consultation, references to SASC events as of late
• Max: The AMS would put together student questions and UBC would put together a response to all of our questions, but with the current process, students are consulted but not listened too. Note: we would not agree to anything if it doesn’t involve the university creating a response, they don’t respond to students currently. For a larger increase, there needs to be a whole lot more consultation (e.g. the AMS should have time at BoG to discuss this, there should be town-halls, etc.).
• Hannah: I agree that it would be a mistake to take away UBC consultation. There is a distrust of the AMS right now, we could also have our own consultation, but we shouldn’t get rid of UBC’s.
• Agreement and further conversation from Kailey, Hannah, etc.
• Conclusion: Max: If we aren’t willing to give anything it’s hard to get something out of them – it’s important for us to expend our political capital on things that we can change. I will tell VP Students we are not interested in exploring new options for the tuition consultation.

Other Business
August 28th is next the meeting.

Adjournment
7:13pm
THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
Agenda of July 24, 2018

Members: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Kate Burnham (Councilor), Dylan Braam (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large)

Regrets: Andy Wu (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor)

Guests: Rodney Little Mustache, Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability), Roshni Pendse (AVP Academic), Kennedy Gagnon (AVP University Affairs),

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

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order
6:03pm

Approval of Agenda
Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes
Unanimous approval

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates

- Max:
  - Pending announcement about an accomplished goal for this year
  - Meetings about Undergraduate Research working group
  - Ongoing meetings about SASC and SVPRO resources
  - Finalizing AFS report for upcoming council meeting
  - Active conversations about Indigenous outreach and AMS apology with Julia and Jason
  - Discussed Brock Commons Phase 2
  - Meeting with Presidents Office about strategic plan, we have one AMS seat on the committee. Marium will be on that seat. GSS and SUO also have seats.
  - Conversations with Orientations steering committee about pep rally

- Daniel: I’m currently an Orientation Leader for Science, we did activities about changes to pep rally. Was any of the advice from the retreat weekend taken into account planning this year’s rally?

- Max: Yes, they did talk about the retreat. I think it is informing some of the work about the pep rally. We don’t have an MC this year, which is a change.

- Rodney: You had discussions about the Indigenous committee? Who was there in discussing the apology?

- Max: There were not as we were not discussing the content of the apology. We are not coming with a structure of what they should look like. We are coming with “we recognize the flaws that we’ve made in the past”, only content is recognizing the past mistakes we’ve made and we’d like to engage with you and what structures you think is necessary.

- Rodney: What about pep rally?
Max: It is UBC’s pep rally. I told them it would be a good idea to include Indigenous dancers and to reach out to include more than a territorial land acknowledgement at the rally.

Rodney: When I work at the Aboriginal AIDS network, I went to an Elders gathering and I heard drumming from far away. I would suggest students come into the pep rally with drumming. It would be a good way of honouring Musqueam people.

Max: That is a good idea to bring forward.

**VP External Affairs Updates**

Cristina:
- Met with David Eby today and some other student societies
- Had a conversation with Andrew Parr from SHHS about Rent with Rights, met with the Provincial WG on Student Housing
- Met with City of Vancouver elections, we will be having a booth in the Nest to vote
- Reaching out to different interest groups on provincial referendum stances, developing campaign

**Approval of Committee Goals**

Max:
- There is one slight edit on the goals I had sent out via email about Indigenous structures within the AMS.
- Dylan: Should say “comprising” not compromising
- Max: Steering committee will also look over grammatical errors.
- Rodney: Was there an email with this?
- Max: Yes it was sent Sunday, I included your email.
- Daniel moves approval of goals, Cristina seconds
- Unanimously approved by committee

**Approval of E-2 Environment and Climate Change Advocacy Policy**

Max:
- This policy has been headed up by Kennedy, our AVP University affairs.
- Hyperlinks were an issue brought up last week.
- People also brought up whether or not the AMS should be “actively opposing” so we changed to opposing.
- Removed the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion piece because a policy like this reflects what our policy is on general issues, then becomes responsibility of the committee to follow the policy. If it determines the policy is to oppose the pipeline expansion, then we do so then.
- Added advocating for the Climate Hub and rapid transit
- Need a mover and seconder

Moved by Cristina, seconded by Daniel

Kennedy:
- The idea of the policy was that there were several different policies that relate to sustainability, excluding transit.
- We’ve updated divestment from fossil fuels
- Max summed up everything

Max: We reviewed policy last time, so not surprised no questions.

Kennedy: Want to recognize all of Michelle’s hard work and guidance on the policy.
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of July 24, 2018

- Kate: Reading through bit about leaving ¾ of fossil fuels in the ground and linking to Global Challenges – why is AMS taking this stance?
- Michelle: Journal article found that to keep 2-degree climate increase, we need to keep 75% fossil fuels in the ground. This number is widely cited, including by other student society policies.
- Max: I think the rationale makes sense. If we’re taking the 2 degrees UN recommendation and this is what is necessary, then I don’t see why we wouldn’t have it in the policy. Our members have clearly stated that climate change advocacy is important.
- Kate: Yeah, I’d like to see a directly cited in-text that the numbers are coming from a UN site, rather than Global Challenge article. Makes it easier to follow.
- Max: Luckily small changes to clarify the policy are able to be made after it’s approved by the policy advisor. Also applies to the broken links issue raised by Dylan last week.
- Unanimously approved and recommended to council

Approval of E-10 Mental Health Advocacy Policy

- Max:
  - This is a new policy, thanks to Roshni AVP Academic who worked on this.
  - Few new changes since the last time we met
- Roshni:
  - After consultation with Marium, we added changes about funding towards research
  - Changes to point 10
  - Changes to investment in embedding mental health in wellness strategy
  - Few minor wording changes that don’t change meaning of policy itself
- Kate moves, seconded by Daniel
- Unanimous approval and recommended to council

Discussion on AMS Statement about Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion

- Cristina:
  - Wanted to follow up on last meeting’s discussion
  - Now have two statements drafted
  - One is broader focus on opposition to pipeline, student engagement and Indigenous consent
  - Second draft hones in on Indigenous consent and stands in support with non-consenting Indigenous communities
  - Kate provided thorough feedback on aspects needing work in the statement, like actually naming the nations that are against the pipeline
  - Also feedback on speaking to philosophical and ethical aspects of climate change
  - Also Switching “clean” to sustainable, and adding more nuance all around
  - More nuance is definitely required, all of the feedback and consultation has been great
  - Got feedback from Michelle again, looking at which communities are against pipeline and adding more information around the BC and Albertan families
  - Kate also had feedback on that part, that it wasn’t the correct sentiment. Suggested something about students that are engaged in oil sector work.
  - Rest of the feedback will be from the sustainability collective as a whole, will also be reaching out to the EUS and INSA (the Indigenous students association)
  - Would love to hear more feedback from committee members
The Chair created a speakers list to ensure committee members and guest all had time to speak.

- Rodney: I read this and thought it was very good. I think we should be adding truths in here. All lands are unceded in BC. Went to a rally, and they don’t want the pipeline here. Crown lands transportation, was natural resources apart of this agreement? No. UBC should start questioning the spiritual significance of the pipeline to all involved. It’s not religious, it’s spiritual. No one is talking about the spiritual significance.

- Kate: I still believe that issuing a statement like this is not the place of the AMS. This issue is complex. This is not the best use of time for these elected and paid staff of the AMS. I believe that this is not a statement for the AMS to make. Everyone has stronger perspectives from different backgrounds.

- Dylan: I feel like it’s not convinced of its own convictions in the statement. It isn’t grounding itself in the background and in the facts as much. Specifically when speaking about indigeneity. I think it’s important to demonstrate that we are taking an informed stance and is a call to action to UBC students. This is why the statement falls flat for me.

- Michelle: To the point about climate change not being a student issue, I would strongly disagree in that. It affects all students on this campus. A lot of young people are really scared about climate change. Climate change is also such an urgent issue, we are nowhere close to 2020 goals. If a student government can’t speak up and make progress, how can we expect our governments to? AMS has a huge opportunity to make a big positive difference.

- Daniel: Which resources are you planning on putting on the statement?

- Cristina: Hoping to have a discussion with the committee on this. Was thinking about adding groups that students can join on campus and resources

- Rodney: Michelle is right. If you talk to a FN person, they will tell you how important the land is to us. We are all one. The only people who are really fighting for the land itself are the Indigenous people. If something happens to that pipeline along the way, we’re the ones that are going to be paying for it. If you go to a protest, you’ll understand that the people who get up and speak are youth. They study what’s going on and how it’s going to effect the whole world.

The Chair reminded members at this time to address all comments to the Chair and not to individual members of the committee. Also, to address arguments and not to assume the views of committee members.

Daniel leaves at 7:00pm

- Dylan: I would say that I have huge environmental concerns about the pipeline. However, conflating environmental harm due to oil spills and climate change is a very easy mistake to make. This project does not increase fossil fuels emissions, it’s just a method of getting a product to the key market that it was going to get to anyway. It may reduce emissions because it is less oil transported by rail. Advocating for reduced extraction is a great way to address climate change. But to say that this pipeline is a climate change issue is not true, but to say it’s an environmental and Indigenous consent issue is true and huge issues.

- Kate: Agree with sentiment about confusing climate change. Climate change is a really complicated issue, difficult to see net change. Seen many industry people with best interests at heart and it has a net negative impact. To have the AMS make uninformed statements on this
takes time and energy away from the AMS. I also want to reiterate that blanket statements about Indigenous nations is dangerous because not all nations oppose. I have a different experience on this in my industry and working with nations that approve of projects. There is a lot of nuance to this conversation. As well, my constituents and executive do not want to condemn this pipeline. A lot of young people in engineering want to get involved in this industry to make things cleaner and regulations tighter. Taking a spiritual and philosophical stance on this is a separate conversation about renewable energy. Pipelines are quite a bit cleaner to transport oil. You need to be incredibly specific in the statements that you’re making.

- Jason: I agree about the issues around Indigenous sovereignty and free prior informed consent being the most significant issue surround the pipeline. So far 43 First Nations have signed an impact and benefit agreement, which means that the majority do not support this. There are various lawsuits being filed by the nations and environmental groups. The strategy about stopping the pipeline creates a bottleneck where oil is not able to get out of Alberta. Environmentalists are strategizing to stop the transportation.

- Michelle: I will argue pipelines are climate issues. If we want to be serious about combating climate change, we need to invest into renewables and technology. Pipelines are expanding the oil industry. The points about safety by pipeline rather than rail, some argue is not true. Need to add bitumen by pipeline which is toxic, don’t need to do that for rail. Also need to consider that consent is about everyone consenting to the pipeline, which isn’t what is currently happening. I agree on adding more specific facts.

The Chair emphasized the points made earlier to address arguments.

- Kate: I want to underline that there are a lot of complicated, different factors into how our climate is changing and people have different stances of short term and long term strategies. You can continue to rely on a resource while investing in new sources of energy. Solar panels also use rare earth metals. A statement saying the majority of nations don’t approve, there are lot of different levels of approval in this and there have been over 100 agreements signed. Saying that majority oppose isn’t an accurate statement. You need to say which nations oppose and what you’re standing for in alliance with that.

- Rodney: She mentioned the word negligence. I think we’re all being negligent of the point going on here. We should only be talking about this area and the First Nations in this area – they don’t want the pipeline. Instead of talking about the rest of the province and Alberta, let’s talk about the nations on the land that UBC stands. There’s a lot we can learn from them. It all goes back to spirituality. If organizations and businesses don’t have a spiritual base, they’re going to be gone soon. I am here to protect Mother Earth. I would not be where I am right now if it had not been for the teachings of the people from this territory.

- Max: Thank you for this robust discussion. I think it’s important as a student society that when we make statements most people support those things. This is a statement that would alienate some students. We would be making a conscious choice to go against some of our students, but this has been done before. Usually these precedents are of moral and/or social importance. It is important to continue to have a robust discussion, but if we are making a statement, we need to be confident that it’s a statement that students support and is valuable for the resources that the AMS has.
• Cristina: Thank you to everyone who contributed to this discussion. This is a complicated issue and it requires a lot of depth and research. I think the statement hopes that students will go out and do this research and get engaged and get informed, to encourage that level of engagement. I agree that the statements that were made need to be revised to make things specific and refined. As we pass the Environmental and Sustainability policy today, we can see that this is an issue that students care about and that we care about. This discussion needs to continue to happen.

The Chair noted we must respect the opinions of everyone at the committee, be careful about how we word things, and not discourage any members or guests from speaking on issues they may care about. Members and guests were encouraged to attack ideas and arguments, but not people or the way they think. The Chair stated that in the future members and guests can be interrupted if they are out of order.

Other Business
Adjournment
Adjournment at 7:28pm
AMS Advocacy Committee  
Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2018

Members: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Andy Wu (Councilor), Kate Burnham (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor), Dylan Braam (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large)

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

Guests: Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability), Roshni Pendse (AVP Academic), Jason Tockman (Policy Advisor)

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order
6:05pm

Approval of Agenda
Max Moved, Andy Seconded, unanimous consent

Approval of Minutes
Max Moved, Daniel Seconded, unanimous consent

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates
- Max:
  - Been away on vacation for the past little bit
  - Having discussions on tuition increases over the next year
  - Lots of work on policy and the Academic Experience Survey report
  - VPDAE search is now over
  - Almost done VP Finance and Operations search
  - Will be sitting on the UBC AVP Health and VP External Affairs search committees

VP External Affairs Updates
- Cristina:
  - Been working on the municipal election with the Get Out The Vote campaign and materials
  - Meeting soon with the mayoral candidates and ensuring we are bringing up student issues
  - Currently in contact with other student unions about Iranian student PR delays
  - Exploring millennium line extension advocacy, presenting to council
  - Meeting with Darren Fernandes about student financial aid
  - Research on affordability for post-secondary education to develop discourses for a one-day summit at UBC for student associations
  - Finalizing submission for the Copyright Act review
- Dylan:
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of July 10, 2018

- This is the first meeting of Advocom since the SASC decisions. I would like to note that this was absent in both of your reports. Please provide an update.

_The Chair noted that there will be a fulsome discussion of the SASC decision at the July 11th Council meeting and that councilors questions will also be addressed there._

- **Max:**
  - A decision was made, there was a discussion with council about the decision. We’ve learned we need to improve on consultation and reaching out to communities.
  - We realized quickly it was the wrong decision, which is why we reversed the decision.
  - The town hall was a good first step, a document of minutes and progress will be sent soon.
  - There’s been lots of outreach recently with the resource groups and the SASC moving forward.
  - We’ve learned we need to reach out to the membership more on matters like this and to continue to create structures for marginalized groups.

- **Cristina:**
  - We recognize we made a lot of mistakes throughout the process and that it was flawed.
  - We heard our membership and we are thankful that they were able to call us out.
  - We recognize there was a lot of hurt that came out from this decision.
  - We have a lot of action items moving forward so that we do better in the future.

- **Kate:** What action items?

_The Chair, with consent from the committee, asked members to pose all further questions at Council on July 11th. It was noted that if there was time this could be added as a discussion item for the committee but there was an extensive agenda that the committee already approved for their official business._

- **Andy:** Is there an update on the copyright review? What is the main point of contention?
- **Cristina:** We wanted to include the importance on open educational resources for students and entrenching their importance within the act.
- **Dylan:** I would look into the regulations as well.
- **Jason:** The government is doing a review of the act right now and is soliciting feedback on this. We are seeking to make sure that OERs are not rolled back.

**Approval of Committee Goals**

- **Max:**
  - We did not get a chance to do key performance indicators yet, but can discuss this as a committee.
  - This was emailed to everyone ahead of time.
  - We have some routine goals first. In code, there’s very little aside from advocacy and keeping the VP Academic accountable.
  - I think Cristina and I should be bringing something to this committee every meeting for review.
  - Are there any comments or KPI suggestions?

- **Cristina:**
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of July 10, 2018

- We can bring more presentations to you and make sure you are an active part of our advocacy work

  - Daniel: That would be great. If there’s anything that you want to consult us on, bring it up in updates.
  - Kate: A good KPI would be the amount of documents sent out and the amount of time the members had to review them in order for us to give proper feedback.
  - Andy: It would be good if we knew what the discussions happening were in order for us to give feedback.
  - Cristina: We could send out the updates preemptively?
  - Max: Changing ‘assistance’ to ‘oversight’ in terms of code. Will also be sending committee documents well ahead of time, including information relating to executive updates.
  - Kate: Could we specify the amount of time?
  - Max: Code says 48 hours ahead of time, we can write this.
  - Max: The next goal is to hold the AMS accountable to engage with more diverse student groups. This sort of ties into the next two goals. This should be a routine goal for this committee.
  - Hannah: It says hold the AMS accountable, we can word this better since this committee is part of the AMS.
  - Max: Next goal, “Revitalize the Equity and Student Issues Caucus to take on a more meaningful role within AMS advocacy efforts”
  - Max: This was supposed to be formed two years ago and have struggled. KPI could be that every spot is filled and starts meeting in September at least once a month.
  - Cristina: We have had a difficult time trying to find people to fill these spots. KPI could be the active ways to disseminate this.
  - Andy: Why don’t we ask the resource groups to fill positions?
  - Max: A good idea, but we have some positions that don’t have a resource group – i.e. commuter students.
  - Max: Need to add a KPI to make this a low barrier process.
  - Max: Next goal, “Work in partnership with Indigenous student communities to establish a structure for increased, autonomous Indigenous representation on campus”
  - Max: This should be a goal within the AMS as a whole.
  - Dylan: Then that completely takes away what is meant by the word autonomous. The AMS is a parliamentary supremacy.
  - Max: There are autonomous Indigenous groups on campus. Indigenous representation within the AMS, perhaps for wording.
  - Max: KPI – we should create something made by Indigenous communities by September.
  - Max: Last goal, “In consultation with UBC student groups, take a stronger position on social issues that would directly or indirectly affect UBC students’ wellbeing”
  - Roshni: For every issue brought to advocacy committee, we could draft a letter or response? Could be hard to represent all students.
  - Cristina: I could bring our stance on referendums, Trans Mountain Pipeline etc.
  - Kate: AMS should be representing on things that are appropriate to speak to on the student experience, a focus on student priorities.
  - Max: Yes I agree, but also we could stand alongside moral values of our membership.
  - Kate: Yes, but you can’t play favorites for different views on campus. Need to be cautious when there are dissenting opinions on campus, there’s a place for referendums on this too.
• Cristina: It’s important to be flexible on these things
• Dylan: The more you make statements, the more it dilutes your convictions. Each policy you take a stand on is another opportunity to alienate students. All it takes is one or two issues.
• Max: It’s a good goal, some wording can change. This is a conversation that we can have in more depth.
• Max: I will send this out with the KPIs for approval.

**New External Mental Health Advocacy Policy**

• Max: These policies are for consultation, they will go for approval at the next meeting.
• Roshni: We wanted to formulate this policy to direct where we are advocating for stronger mental health supports. We have consulted VPAUA, VPX, Speakeasy, Policy Advisor.
• Max: Do we support the idea of this policy?
• Dylan: This is an example of a policy that is very pertinent to students. This is a great opportunity to push UBC.
• Daniel: I like the intersectional approach to mental health in this policy, e.g. point 5
• Max: We will bring it back to committee for approval, there are a few more internal consultations to do. We can look at maybe external consultations with student groups.

**New External Environment and Climate Change Advocacy Policy**

• Max: This policy has changes that aren’t reflected in the emailed version. It came originally from a policy on UBC divestment from fossil fuels, which we are mandated by referendum. Climate change advocacy and zero waste are new from a policy standpoint.
• Dylan: I think that the document does a good job of this, but we need to highlight that the divestment of fossil fuels cannot be removed. Putting it in a policy with things that can be changed could run the risk of this changing. We could change divestment into a reference point, or a separate document that cannot be touched.
• Max: We can make this more clear in the history section of the policy. AMS Sustainability, Sustainability Collective, VPX, VPAUA and Policy Advisor have been consulted on this policy.
• Dylan: Footnote edits needed for the hyperlinks to preserve them for the future if links are broken.

**Trans Mountain Pipeline Statement Discussion**

• Cristina:
  o We’ve been talking to students to see the movement that the sustainability collective has lead over the past year taking a stand on climate justice.
  o This is part of a larger discussion on the AMS being active on social justice movements that affect students.
  o This came from the action in the media of Canada purchasing the Kinder Morgan pipeline. There has been a lot of dissent on this.
  o I understand that we don’t want to put a statement out there that won’t be actionable.
  o This statement was going to be framed as an opposition to the pipeline, but a call to action for students to get involved in the conversation about climate action on campus.
  o We are opposed because of environmental damage, the burden on students and youth. We stand in solidarity with students speaking up against climate change.
  o This pipeline will be running through the backyards of Indigenous communities and the fact that Canada supports UNDRIP says that we value the consent of Indigenous peoples on the policies that affect them.
• The AMS as a whole is working on reconciliation efforts and to better include Indigenous voices.
• There is obviously a lot of contention on the Trans Mountain pipeline, but I think that at the end of the day dozens of Indigenous communities did not give consent to the pipeline and that it does disproportionately endanger their communities.
• Lastly, a call to action to get students involved in climate change.

- Kate: I think it would be really inappropriate for the AMS to make a statement on this right now. As you said, it’s a really contentious issue. As per census polls, the majority of Canadians in BC support the pipeline.
- Max: AMS has taken somewhat of a stance on this in the past. Jude Crasta, former VPX, did take a stance against the pipeline. The AMS has taken stances on issues that don’t necessarily have great public approval, i.e. gay marriage when it was divisive. That’s not the same issue as this one, but we shouldn’t limit ourselves from action if we think it’s divisive.
- Kate: Definitely different now that the federal government has purchased the pipeline. Not a straightforward political move. I recognize there’s a social responsibility, I still don’t think it’s the place for the AMS as a small group of people to make this decision. You also represent a lot of students who work in this industry and have different perspectives on this. The AMS had a referendum on this similar discussion with the divestment, which could be more appropriate.
- Dylan: I don’t want to attack the strawman, but to distinguish this from the gay marriage debate, public polling was not indicative of a divisive issue. In terms of Canada as a whole, over two thirds of Canadians support the pipeline. In Lower Mainland 50% support the pipeline, 39% oppose. I think it would be irresponsible to advocate on a position that was not in an electoral platform. There are particular aspects of this project that engage more of the AMS mand. There are several legal challenges of this pipeline, i.e. federalism. There is a lot of concern that First Nations rights were steamrolled through. The requirement for consultation with Indigenous peoples has now skyrocketed that federal government has purchased this as a public project. We could speak of our support for Indigenous rights in this. Need to be careful that we are framing this as a student issue.
- Cristina: There are a couple pieces to this, the environmental piece, the support of Indigenous rights and the call to action for climate action. If we could frame the statement with the specific discourse about Indigenous peoples and their rights and ensuring its about the level of consultation that needs to be had, would that be more along the lines of what you are thinking?
- Michelle: I think that making a statement opposed to the project would be consistent with the new environment and climate change advocacy policy and the fossil fuel divestment policy that the AMS is mandated to have. I think the framing of the statement is more around solidarity with nations who were not consenting to this and solidarity with students standing up for this. We could also include a recognition that the oil and gas industry in Canada is important economically to a lot of people and to include people employed in these industries in these conversations.

The Chair noted that the divestment policy only applies to UBC’s Investments and that the Environment and Climate Change Advocacy policy has not been adopted yet by the AMS.

• Jason: Obviously the AMS should be accountable to their membership. Ideally, we would bring it forward to referendum, but I don’t think there’s time for that based on the court timeline. I
don’t think the judges are going to be influenced by a student society’s opinion. There’s about 3-4 months for this to happen, time is of the essence. The only guide that we have for how students feel is the divestment of fossil fuels policy, which was supported by 74% of the student body in the referendum.

The Chair encouraged committee members to try and not assume student support for a government advocacy position based off of a referendum about a university advocacy position that wasn’t directly related to the topic at hand.

- Andy: There’s more consultation to be done with students at large. We need to include not only the environmental groups on campus. I don’t agree that we need to have a referendum. Situations like these happen and we as a society need to take stances on social issues like this. Not doing any sort of advocacy work on this would be against what we’re talking about. It’s ultimately up to us.
- Kate: This group is maybe being a little shortsighted about what sustainability means on a global scale. The divestment decision happened four years ago. There are a lot of complicated facts about this pipeline re: construction and repair. As a blanket statement, there needs to be careful wording and scientific accuracy rather than a generic student liberal perspective.
- Cristina: I agree that there’s a lot of nuance in this conversation and that there would be opposition. There’s a standalone discussion about how Indigenous communities are implicated in this expansion of the pipeline, which I think is separate from the economics of it.

The Chair ended the discussion in the interest of time since the committee had gone over its allotted time by almost half an hour by this point.

- Max: We should continue this discussion in the future. It’d be good for us to come to consensus when possible. Cristina, if you could bring more information to the next meeting. Indigenous consent is probably the most important issue here. We want to make sure that we’re making an informed statement if we’re going to be making any statement.
- Cristina: I can draft up a couple different statements and what they’d look like and discuss further then.
- Andy: If we include every single perspective, it’s going to be so eclectic that it doesn’t matter.
- Kate: I would like to see it be factually based with links to sources. Indigenous rights should be more highlighted than contentious takes on climate change.
- Michelle: I want to point out that this would not be a policy about the AMS’s advocacy stance on the issue. This would be about bringing up discussion on a major social issue.
- Andy: Given this conversation, we should perhaps take another look at the environment policy. I’m not comfortable with the AMS using student resources to advocate on issues that do not directly pertain to students.
- Max: Please bring me back comments on the policy. There has been a lot of work and consultation that has gone into that policy. I am interested in opinions about the line about actively opposing fossil fuel extraction without the consent of Indigenous people line.
- Dylan: I am for it.
- Andy: I am not.
- Daniel: Probably yes.
AMS Advocacy Committee

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- Kate: I disagree as long as actively stays in the wording. Lots of nuance with permitting process.
- Max: We can look at the word actively.
- Kate: You could change to morally.

Other Business

Adjournment

Next meeting two weeks from now. Adjourned 7:32pm.
THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
Agenda of June 12, 2018

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Dylan Braam (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large)

Guests: Rodney Little Mustache, Roshni Pendse (AVP Academic Affairs)

Regrets: Andy Wu (Councilor), Kate Burnham (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor)

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

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order
  • 6:09pm called to order

Approval of Agenda
  • Max:
    o Amendments: approval of the minutes from May 29, discussion on engagement on Indigenous committee or structure in the AMS
  • Michelle:
    o Add: discussion on Rodney’s role in the committee, Trans Mountain pipeline statement
  • Max:
    o Need to make sure we leave at 7, so Trans Mountain pipeline will need to wait until the next meeting.
    o Can include Rodney’s role in this committee in the discussion on the Indigenous committee

Approval of Minutes
  • Moved by Daniel, seconded by Cristina
  • Unanimous consent.

Indigenous Engagement
  • Max:
    o The AMS has had a major failure in engaging Indigenous students. We apologize for not creating this earlier.
    o This needs to be the first goal that the Advocacy Committee works on and becomes a continuous discussion in the AMS as a whole
    o At our last meeting, we discussed the principle of the AMS creating space/structure that Indigenous students want within the organization for representation and involvement.
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of June 12, 2018

- We agree that anything created needs to be an active discussion led by Indigenous communities and Indigenous students, not a siloed conversation at this committee.
- Need to ask these communities what structure they would like and what they would like us to advocate for.
  - Jason:
    - So to recap, there’s interest in creating this committee and possibly much more (i.e. different positions or advocacy).
  - Max:
    - This committee needs to hold the AMS accountable to make sure these things get done. Indigenous communities and students need to be deciding on this.
    - Their recommendations should be what we approve and send to council.
    - This is the first goal that we should work on.
    - We need to reach out to the Longhouse and be setting up those discussions.
  - Cristina:
    - To add, we heard what you (Rodney) said at the Indigenous Advisory group said and we take this into account.
    - We realize that this initial structure did not provide a successful environment for this conversation.
    - We want to do better when we are reaching out the next time we go to Indigenous groups.
    - We need to make sure that they are consulted in a way they see fit and is an environment that they feel welcome in joining the conversation.
  - Rodney:
    - Can the apology be made public by the President of the AMS?
  - Max: I can’t speak on behalf of her, but I can immediately discuss this with Marium. I assume we all agree on this. This committee can also look at the text of this apology. This apology should be created.
  - Rodney:
    - When I was first at UBC, I’ve been to the elections debates and I felt not included in them. Nothing about us for us.
    - Living with HIV, I fight to get my voice heard. We formed the HPAA committee, we gave them our terms of reference. My vision is to be part of the AMS, 2 seats.
    - I don’t know how many people have tried this before me.
  - Max: We can get our archivist to look at this.
  - Rodney:
    - Want the history of how First Nations were included.
    - Where are the notes for advisory group?
  - Cristina: Passed publicly in council, I can send to you.
  - Rodney: Are any of these offices Indigenous? Is there an ombudsman?
  - Max: No. We need to be advertising these to Indigenous groups, putting them in the Talking Stick newsletter, at the Longhouse lunch etc. It will also be important to have a staff member be responsible to follow through with this.
  - Rodney:
    - As part of the Indigenous committee, we need to have an Elder. This is the tradition here.
o Terms of Reference would be done by us, I can give examples from across Canada.
  o After this committee is formed, who would we submit it to?

• Max:
  o To be created, it would go through this committee – obviously we would approve this in consultation with them.
  o Then at council, when its presented, I would pass on the motivator at the meeting to have the chair of the Indigenous committee motivate it.
  o Would then be moved, seconded, approved by council.
  o Then, whatever structure is created could work on these issues and bring forward directly to council.
  o This would be an autonomous functioning committee.

• Michelle: How would this work if committees are required to have a certain number of executives on them?

• Max: This may not be a standing committee, we could make this an extraordinary committee that has less structural requirements. This wouldn’t be a standing committee, but would have all the same approval processes and go directly to council – like the Elections committee. If this the structure that is decided.

• Rodney:
  o I spoke to the Longhouse before this and I’ve been told I need to go through them to get anything done with the AMS. Why?
  o I spoke with the Ubyssey about this and they took 5 months to print this story, they released the Board of Governors one first. That really upset me.
  o Who takes precedence with the AMS? The students?

• Max:
  o We have many constituencies, as well as clubs. Publications are independent – the Ubyssey separately incorporated in 1999.
  o We have no jurisdiction over what they do. We do not fund them. CiTR is also separate, we’re a little involved in their finances but not their media publication.

• Rodney:
  o Why do I have to go to the Longhouse to get things done with the AMS?

• Max:
  o I don’t think that should be the structure. We should discuss how we can improve this if it’s been a failing in the past.
  o We need to make sure Indigenous students can come to the AMS to improve that.

• Rodney:
  o One of the things coming up in the next term is to include Native performers there. To have Larry Grant speak and to have Coast Salish, as well as dancers from across Canada, perform.

• Max:
• This is part of orientations, which is done by an orientations steering committee. So we’d need to discuss this in the framework of whether that’s something they’d like us to advocate on. We also want to create an Indigenous advocacy policy to dictate what Indigenous students would like us to advocate on.
  • Larry Grant does already do the Land acknowledgement, but of course there is room for improvement.
  • Rodney:
    • As well, there’s always big parties outside and there are no Indigenous parties there. As well, there was a speakers series on World Peace and there weren’t any Indigenous people there. It’s about inclusion.
    • How long will it take to get two seats on the council set aside for Indigenous people?
  • Max: That’s something we want to talk to Indigenous communities about
  • Rodney: You already asked that at that meeting last year. We told you already.
  • Max: There were recommendations that came out of that advisory group, but we want to make sure that we engage the community on a larger scale where all Indigenous students know this is something they can be part of when we create this.
  • Rodney: So this is going to take another year?
  • Max: No, I don’t think so. We want to engage with students, which can be difficult sometimes over the summer. If we can with good turnout, then we will. If not, that’s the first thing we will do in the academic year. The timeline for implementation would be up to these students.
  • Jason: So hopefully this summer, but if not, September?
  • Max: Yes. No matter what, if we establish something this summer, we will revisit it in the academic year and is a continuous conversation for the AMS.
  • Rodney:
    • It’s frustrating. Since colonization, everything has been taken and we’re trying to get back and be part of society. We face policy after policy, not our policy,
    • It’s time for UBC to start creating programs for Indigenous people.
    • There’s a lot of Native students who see what’s going on in their home communities, but they can’t go to university.
    • We want to create separate programs for Indigenous students so they can get here.
  • Max:
    • This is actually one of the things that a recent BoG meeting discussed, the Aboriginal Access Studies program at UBCO.
    • We are exploring implementing this system at UBC Vancouver, that any Indigenous student who wants to study here should be able to.
  • Rodney:
    • I never learned of the importance of the land until I came out here.
    • I was thinking of a program where Indigenous Elders and people living with HIV could learn about living with HIV.
    • What’s the next step?
  • Max:
    • Reaching out to communities on campus. We can commit to the timeline of trying to engage with groups this summer, if not, in September we will create and engage with a structure made by Indigenous students on campus.
    • This is one of the first things we will work on. Julia will contact these groups.
    • This will get done by the AMS.
- I will speak with Marium to create an apology.
- I am gone from June 23 – July 3rd, but Jason and Marium can work on this when I am gone.
- Thank you Rodney, for all of your efforts in bringing forward these issues. I’m grateful to you and all the people before you who has advocated for this.
- **Rodney:**
  - I’m sorry I’ve been so pushy, but please understand where I’m coming from.
  - There’s different levels of activists in Indigenous groups, there’s very few that are fighting for what I’m doing.
  - We are trying to be included at times we are not.
- **Max:** Thank you so much Rodney. We understand the frustration.
- **Cristina:** We want to do better.
- **Max:** In the interest of time, we’re going to remove the rest of our agenda items. This was a good discussion. I will put together the committee goals into a google document, we will send it out to all of the members, as well as to you Rodney. Everyone can make additions and edits. We will be able to do an email approval vote or discuss it at our next meeting.
- **Michelle:** Can I give everybody a primer on my thoughts on committee goals?
- **Max:** Okay, but we are going overtime.
- **Michelle:**
  - I’ve done research on other student societies are a lot more progressive than the AMS on human rights issues and societal issues.
  - I found that these principles of social justice and equity are enshrined in the constitution and mandate, the AMS does not.
  - These are issues a lot of students on campus care about, so I’d love to see this be a conversation on if these are things the AMS can speak up on.
- **Dylan:** Do any societies in BC say these things? The BC government forces you to put these things in bylaws, not constitutions.
- **Michelle:** UVic does in their bylaws.
- **Max:**
  - This is important, this is something that would be done at the AMS strategic planning process this year
  - These are issues that the AMS has taken action on in the past and continue to do as well. We can continue to have this conversation and figure out how to enshrine this.
  - It’s within our committee goals to have conversations on what advocacy positions we do take.

**Adjournment**

Adjourned at 7:08pm. Next meeting July 10th at 6-7pm.
THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
Agenda of May 29, 2018

Attendance
Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Andy Wu (Councilor), Kate Burnham (Councilor), Dylan Braam (Councilor)
Regrets: Hannah Xiao (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large)
Guests: Roshni Pendse (AVP Academic), Kennedy Gagnon (AVP University Affairs), Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability)

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

Land Acknowledgement
The chair acknowledged that this meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hañq̓əmiʔam̓ speaking xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.

Call to Order
6:07pm

Approval of Agenda
• Motion to amend the agenda from Max to add “Election of Vice Chair”, add discussion on student arrested in Saudi Arabia
• Seconded by Cristina
• The agenda was approved (Andy, Cristina)

Election of Vice Chair
• Max
  o Julia will be taking minutes during these meetings, so the Vice Chair will not have to do this
  o If I am not present, the chair will do so in my absence
  o Cristina is acclaimed as Vice Chair

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates
• Max
  o Hiring for department is done, all staff are present at this meeting
  o Recently decided to postpone hiring the two commissioners for department at the beginning of September. Recognized that there was not as much work being done in the summer, also to save money
VPDAE committee search going well, should have someone in June or July.
VPFinOps committee. Have just finished collecting candidates, will be done by end of June or July
Working with SVPRO to work on a campaign on consent and solidarity with survivors. AMS did a campaign two years ago for Policy 131 focused on statistics and why we needed a policy, this time it’s about solidarity with survivors and that we believe them.
Been in conversations with VP Students and HR for a small review of Policy 131 over the summer to see the recommendations brought forward at April BoG.
VP Students Louise Cowin recently resigned. Currently figuring out what the interim structure will be.
Met with new secretary for BoG, Amandeep. Had a conversation about the AMS relationship with the BoG.
Most likely going to Okanagan BoG meeting in September to give a presentation on the AMS.
Went to Leadership Lunch dialogue with Dr. Alma Clayton-Pedersen to talk about diversity and inclusion at UBC.
Presented at Senate meeting about the cost of learning materials and guiding principles for the cost of learning materials. Went very well and moving forward.
Working on the Arts Student Centre, moving forward quickly.
Stadium Neighbourhood planning advisory committee meeting.
- Concerns from faculty about the increase in square footage, they wanted more faculty housing but less density.
- Hawthorne Place had a petition on this, I advocated on their lack of student representation in this.
Academic policy committee meeting yesterday, there will not be a fall reading break next year.
- Jeanie and I are pushing for a commitment on this.
- Looking at a policy to protect students against midterms outside of class time and on weekends.

Andy: Is there an estimated time for ASC start of construction?
Max: I don’t have timelines in front of me, I could get them and come back to committee about them. Site has changed, instead of next to Brock Hall, it will be situated in the BOSC. The university has agreed to cover any additional costs that come with this space, also a more prime location.
Dylan: In terms of the housing being built, is the university going to be the landlord or is it private development?
Max: It will be private development, there will be market lease and rental in that area. We are hoping to push for more university market, similar to Central operated by Properties Trust. We will also work to push for more faculty housing in that area, which is also a concern for us.
Dylan: Does no fall reading break apply to the law school?
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of May 29, 2018

- Max: Has to go through Senate, I haven’t seen any yet.

VP External Affairs Updates
- Cristina
  - I have hired my entire team
  - Lots of consultations have come up, especially for transit. Have had meetings about the Millennium line extension
  - Have sent in a bunch of submissions on the 41 B-Line. There’s a consultation right now for transit efficiency and priority
  - Submission right now for the fare review, distance based or zone based. Will send in the next few weeks
  - Someone from the community relations dept at Translink meet with us to start a committee with other student unions and stakeholders
  - Federal copyright act is being reviewed, AMS will be making a submission. Trying to create narrative about open access and open data
  - Municipal elections preparations, get out the vote campaign. Preparing briefs for what is happening the elections as of now. Environmental scan of what the landscape for elections looks like right now.
    - Will be meeting with all candidates to ensure student priorities are known to them. Need to have candidates stand behind the extension to UBC.
  - Meeting with electoral district A director, which resides over endowment lands.
  - Federal election, long ways away but already talks about setting up polling booths in Nest.
  - Started research in transit advocacy. Kevin (staff) does transit and research, creating a big report on the millennium line extension and the AMS position throughout the process. Trying to find out where we have been successful, where have we lacked. Looking to use this report to improve advocacy going forward.
  - Also researching in mental health, comparative to universities we aspire to. Talking to administrators at the university to discuss big ticket advocacy items regarding FTEs/base funding, OERs etc.
  - Went to UNA meeting, talked about where the UNA has gotten to so far about hiring staff members
- Dylan: Do we have anything in the works about the upcoming provincial referendum?
- Cristina: Not yet, but will be part of it soon. Will keep you updated.
- Michelle: Polling stations for federal, not municipal?
- Cristina: There’s one station on campus for municipal election, not with us, but for federal we are the only one.
- Andy: Any word if the government will be funding the line moving forward to UBC?
• Cristina: Currently it’s not going to UBC, there’s been no commitment to start the tangible planning. We finally have UBC on board, but there’s awhile to wait to see who is elected in Vancouver and if they will support.

Committee Goals Discussion
• Max:
  o I see advocacy committee goals as not mine or Cristina’s, these goals are what do we as a committee wanting to tackle. Have looked at a few things that we have to do as a committee this year
  o Student Issues and Equity caucus for two years have not met a lot or done a lot. One of things we want to do is review structures. Looking at combining into one and making it a subcommittee to be a consultative committee. People who sit on it can bring forward issues and liaise with their groups. Brought forward from Governance review, underrepresented groups feel they do not have a voice in the AMS.
  o Push for a sustainable structure for Indigenous student engagement within the AMS. This has been a major failing of the AMS and it must be improved. It should be left to Indigenous students to decide what that structure should be, not the AMS.
  o What else do we see as a committee being larger goals that we want to work on?
  o It’s alright if no one has any ideas right now, but I wanted to bring it up.
  o In the interest of time, everyone can think on that and we can talk about it later.

Discussion on Loujain al-Hathloul’s Detainment in Saudi Arabia
• Max
  o I don’t know if everyone heard, but there is an alum who has been detained in Saudi Arabia. Letter from faculty calling on the university to comment
  o CBC article with comment saying that the university cannot comment on an individual case of over 300,000 alumni
  o It would be a good move from this committee to move a motion from the AMS to write a letter in consultation with the other executives and the comms department to express that not only do we support the release of this alumni, but also that we’d like to call on UBC to publicly support the release of this person as well.
  o It would be important for us to come out and support this person. One of the jobs of advocacy committee is to recognize things like this.
  o I don’t want us to word something now, but direct myself and Cristina to bring something to council meeting tomorrow and ask council for a motion to support that letter.

• Andy: Is she a Canadian citizen? The letter might change given the citizenship.
• Cristina: I think they were an international student. I received an email from one of their associates.
AMS Advocacy Committee
Minutes of May 29, 2018

- Andy: To be clear, if the student is a Canadian citizen, the letter should encourage Canadian diplomats to support this student. If not, it’s really not their business.
- Dylan: Global Affairs Canada has given a statement.
- Kate: Might be appropriate to talk about how her activism aligns with the values of UBC as an institution
- Max: Absolutely.
- Andy: I move that the VPAUA and VPX create a letter supporting the alumni and their immediate release, calling on UBC to do the same.
- Dylan seconded
- Max: I am going to assume unanimous consent. Cristina and I will work on this and bring to council.

Other Business
- Andy: Is the VPX office currently researching proportional representation?
- Cristina: Not within my goals, but we can do that if that’s something you’re interested in

Adjournment
- Adjourned at 6:59pm.
- Next meeting June 5th from 6-7pm in the same location.
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
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.
Minutes of the AMS Advocacy Committee

January 11, 2018

Attendance (Invited): Sally Lin (VP External & Chair), Max Holmes (VP Academic and University Affairs), Daniel Lam (Vice-Chair, Student at Large), Kevin Doering (Student Senate), Jeanie Malone (Board), Chris Hakim (Councilor), Kelsi Wall (AMS Policy Advisor)

Guests: Albert Tung (Councillor)

Regrets:

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order
   ○ The meeting was called to order at 14:05

2. Approval of Agenda
   ○ Sally wishes to add a discussion item on a tuition referendum.
   ○ Moved by Jeanie, Seconded by Chris
   ○ Passes unanimously.

3. Land Acknowledgement

4. Happy/Beef

Max Holmes arrives at 14:09.

5. Approval of Minutes dated November 24, 2017
   ○ Moved by Max, Seconded by Jeanie
   ○ Passes unanimously.

6. VP Academic and University Affairs Updates
   ○ Had workshop to appoint project leads
   ○ Lots of developments on strategic plan, will have meeting with VP Students and Provost.
     GSS, AMS, SUO exec invited.
   ○ Joined Senate. Sit on curriculum committee and the Health Sciences Subcommittee.
     Also sit on Agenda Committee.
   ○ AMS will contribute to pow wow this year.
   ○ AES almost finalized. Having session tomorrow.
   ○ Board of Governors meeting upcoming.
   ○ Finalizing Musqueam communication policy and AMS Indigenous Advisory Group
○ Policy 73 will be reviewed.
○ Sexual Violence and Respectful Environment Working Group is doing work.
○ Marijuana policy is going great.
○ Kevin: Will the AMS also push for other drug legalizations?
○ Max: Ask the VP External on that. It’s advocacy to the government.

7. VP External Affairs Updates
○ Set up team with research projects. They’ve been assigned with 2-3 topics each.
○ Had a mayor’s forum beginning in winter break where we engaged with mayors on consultation processes.
○ Maria documenting and tracking U-Pass complaints in inform work moving forward. Brooklyn working on SLFS on housing fair. Will bring together landlords and rental resources.
○ RWR has 800 signatures so far. Amazing.

8. External Policies
○ EP-2014-06 Possible Closure of Pine Free Clinic
○ EP-2014-08 Increase in UBC’s International Tuition Fees and Housing Contracts
○ EP-2014-09 Official AMS Statement on UBC’s Proposed International Tuition and Housing Fee Increases
○ Sally: These have all expired. I recommend they just expire.
○ Kelsi: Any sentiments captured through these will just be in our Affordability Policy.

9. Tuition discussion
○ Max: A few preliminary discussions were held on this. The policies that we have right now is that no increase can go above the 2% domestic cap. Just because we have had a past referendum on this, thinking about the international tuition increases, if there are future increases, and that they may happen in the next few years. We should have a referendum on what our next steps should be in the future. The past referendum was very vague; it says we needed to advocate for reduced tuition. We would not be successful. Making the referendum more accurate is important. The referendum could just work in both the Academic and External work as well. It could also be a general affordability referendum. There are a lot of options.
Kevin: The people will come out from the left and have some rally. Most students will agree with you but some won’t and won’t vote.

Jeanie: Should we step out of this meeting?

Max: You can stay. Or declare a conflict of interest. What would be great is to look at whether we are okay with the current status quo.

Sally: I wonder if this would make our advocacy easier.

Jeanie: There’ve been contradictions in the past where the AMS has been in favour and also against certain increases because of this policy.

Max: I think the referendum reflected the spirit of the times. Do we want to continue that?

Chris: Is it restricting our negotiations?

Max: Currently following the affordability policy. It allows a 2% domestic cap so as long as it is justified. We did voice concerns with the last increase. Right now the referendum is not restricting us. What I’m asking is are we okay with the current policy and should we follow the referendum in context?

Albert: How much has international tuition been increased in the past?

Kevin: The increases ended up being 40% over three years. There was also a 20% housing increase.

Jeanie: Next year they will make a new plan on international tuition.

Max: There have been big international tuition increases in the past. It doesn’t mean we should be opposed to a 2% increase as long as it is justified.

Albert: Are we wanting to expand the 2% increase to also include international students.

Max: The 2% increase is a government cap for domestic students.

Sally: This discussion really is about the University advocacy side of things in a referendum. Not for external and governmental advocacy.

Max: There is a great risk in running this referendum too. It could damage the reputation of the AMS if it fails. There is little risk to the status quo as well. The benefits of passing this referendum are not that great. It only really just builds us up for the upcoming increases.

Jeanie: Past referenda are another can of worms. There have been a lot of

Max: Nobody has come out and said that they are in favour of this.
Daniel: We’ve been in the status quo for a while and while it’s a nuisance, it’s worked, and university officials have gotten used to us opposing things now.

Max: So I think I’ve heard from this committee we don’t want to run this. Done.

10. Announcements

Sally: Wendy is leaving us. We will appoint someone else next Council.

11. Next Meeting: January 25th at 14:00

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 14:43.