

## AMS Advocacy Committee Minutes

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Present:** Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Initchi (VP External Affairs), Riley Ty (Councilor), Andy Wu (Councilor), Yash Gurnani (Councilor)

**Present via Phone:** Cole Evans (Councilor)

**Regrets:** Juliana Craig (Student-at-Large)

### Territorial Acknowledgement

#### Call to Order:

5:04pm

#### Approval of Agenda

green shirt

Unanimous approval

#### Approval of Minutes

Cristina

Unanimous approval

#### VP Academic & University Affairs Updates: Max

- UBC budget conversations, had call with Santa recently, budget is basically finalized, about 90% of our asks are being funded this year (e.g. work learn positions, work learn off campus, blue and gold campaign, blue and gold campaign, empower me used for all students, jumpstart, open educational resources [likely to get funding])
- Gender equity amongst athletics
- Policy #3 review, submitted a report for that, wrapping up
- Tuition consultations
- Academic concessions policy is out for consultation currently (compassionate grounds within the policy, SASC and SVPRO recognized)
- Fall reading break report is close to being finalized

#### Questions

- *Andy:* question about finalization/make-up of working group for fall reading break
- *Max:* someone from senate will be appointed to this group, proposal will likely come to January 2020 meeting to be implemented for 2020/2021
- *Riley:* Academic concession policy review?
- *Max:* reviewed by academic concession policy committee (Max is chair), town hall is happening soon, advocacy committee will be having a meeting, consultation goes until March 31<sup>st</sup>

#### VP External Affairs Updates: Cristina

- Minister of advance education will be giving a budget echo announcement next Thursday in the nest, important to recognize a government that is responding to student issues
- Professional governance act, gathered information packet to better drive conversation next week (trying to get a date set for that meeting),

- Equity caucus: send out information document to other stakeholders, hoping to learn more
- UCRU: taking a leadership role in this, we need better governance, social media, website, get people engaged so we can develop better policy. discussed everything from mental health, sexual violence, climate advocacy, future skills development, loans, indigenous issues –trying to keep it broad and explore different advocacy areas
- Connecting with other higher education lobby groups to create a submission about open education –response was that it’s still really important to send feedback
- Collaborating with the sustainability collective around Clean BC and to do an event about how to best collaborate –want youth to be a big part of this plan
- Met with student housing working group, talked about rent with rights recommendations, how can we better understand what
- Mental health research for how we as student unions to better connect students to services and supports

#### Questions

- *Andy*: federal copy right act, consultation period has closed, what’s next?
- *Cristina*: formal feedback process for INDU is closed, but that doesn’t mean that there’s no room for political influence, especially with the elections coming up – answering copy write advocates concerns
- *Andy*: clean BC clarification, does it involve public institutions like UBC?
- *Cristina*: Clean BC will affect UBC around cleaner buildings, etc. – it demands UBC to step up along with other institutions – our goal is to have student a part of the process

#### **Professional Governance Act Discussion:** Cristina

- Document gives a brief summary of Professional Governance Act, gives opinions from government and other self-governance bodies.
- A lot of the details are being developed over the next couple years, next steps will be what the implementations and reality of this act will look like –I was mandated to connect with interested student groups to gather their feedback. I will connect with faculties and student groups who want to be a part of this process.
- Clarifying scope: it’s not in our best interest to get into the nitty gritty of this act and specific regulations, better to focus on the bigger ideas that will impact more significantly

#### Questions

- *Andy*: clarifying who this act falls under
- *Cristina*: Attorney General’s Office and maybe the Ministry Of The Environment
- *Andy*: any specific concerns from student?
- *Cristina*: haven’t heard any specific concerns yet, this will be happening at the round table, will bring this to the next Advocacy committee

#### **Equity Caucus Review Discussion:** Cristina

- When governance review happened, it wasn’t getting up off the ground and nothing really came out of it. Lowering the barriers to participation was an issue raised, there’s still something that we need to do to include marginalized communities.
- Had meetings with Equity and Inclusion Office and others, and outlined what the initial consultation looked like and some of the issues that were addressed throughout this process (e.g. what are the structural issues that prevent people from engaging)
- Proposal: we need to listen to students in this situation, there’s clearly a missing piece here and more consultation is needed(need a more thorough evaluation).

- We haven't gone through a proper consultation process since 2016, we need a new and up to date version—student consultation will be key

#### Questions

- *Max*: likes the idea of creating an Equity and Inclusion framework, but it's also important to give existing groups a seat at the table. Just going to the student body on this might be an issue, we should go to specific groups who are already doing this work.
- *Cristina*: Important to get a balanced and holistic interview of all perspectives
- *Andy*: points out how late we are in the year already, we can start consultation now but there's a whole new group of leadership and they might not continue this work.
- *Cristina*: There has been in depth conversations about why this group might not be working, but we can lay a good foundation. Is aware that it's not right to start engaging students on this and then drop the effort.
- *Max*: There needs to be some step forward –that is necessary so there needs to be follow through.
- *Cristina*: Can create a document with a plan of action going forward and context.
- *Andy*: should pass something binding in council to ensure this gets worked on with new council
- *Cristina*: should ensure council has the proper information
- *Max*: AMS could require that every constituency should have a framework, but there needs to be accountability will this.

#### Fall Reading Break Update: Max

- Report is almost done, still unsure if there should be a third party reviewing the data (leaning towards no) – doesn't think it's worth it to do this
- Report will be finished within the next two weeks but student senate caucus still needs to review as well.
- Creation of working group has been approved by committee, one seat will be graduate and other should be VPAUA (especially if they are a senator too) and one seat will be undergrad

#### Other Business

#### Adjournment

6:13 pm