

**AMS EXECUTIVE
YEAR END REPORT
2018-19**



INTRODUCTION

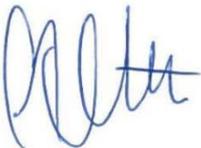
Every year, every student at UBC has access to a range of services that support their wellbeing and goals, advocates that push our post-secondary institution and governments to improve our education, events that bring students together to make their best memories at university, and a home at the Nest where they can get involved in over 400 clubs, meet friends for lunch, or study in a space that constantly strives to be more sustainable, affordable, and accessible.

As the 2018-2019 year comes to an end and we begin to transition an energized new Executive team, the AMS Executives proudly reflect on a year that has strengthened the AMS and has made a positive impact on the lives of students.

At the beginning of our term, we were optimistic and excited to take on every opportunity to improve the AMS to make life better for students. As our work as an Executive team wraps up and we finalize the initiatives we're currently working on, we thank all of the staff at the AMS and our teams for their hard work to help achieve the goals we set out to accomplish. They are truly the anchors that ground our work.

Throughout this year, we have learned from every success and mistake, by listening to our community, and taking action to leave the AMS better than we found it. Equipped with everything we've learned, we excitedly look forward to pass this knowledge down to next year's team so they can do so too. Our goal for this document is that it serves to inform students of the work that has been accomplished this year and the opportunities yet to come.

Sincerely,
AMS Executives 2018-19



GOAL 1: ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

With the creation of AMS's new website, we took this year to evaluate how students interacted with it. We heard some very valuable feedback from students and community stakeholders on how it could be improved. Starting from the accessibility of navigation to the actual messaging, our Communications department has taken note of that feedback and is excited to use the summer to incorporate a central space for feedback. We also saw that there were many places where students still have to rely on paper applications to avail grants and bursaries (ie AMS/GSS Health and Dental fee bursary). As such, starting next year, we will implement an online system for them to apply for the bursary.

The new website successfully integrated information on all of our services. Those pages are some of the most frequently visited web pages for our website currently. This has allowed students to view not just the information pertaining to hours of operations, it has also allowed them to know more about each services and how to avail them. We also committed to using our newsletter to add information from UBC on their services as well as offerings in student financial aid starting next year. Through my work with SACADI (Senate Ad-Hoc on Academic Diversity and Inclusivity), we were able to trace important contact points for students and services. Initiatives to improve that have been identified and will be advocated for through the AMS next year.

GOAL 2: ENGAGED COMMUNICATION

The new academic year saw the launch of AMS' new website. The website was a huge improvement from the last one and has seen far better usage and reduced bounce rates from the previous website. We have now aimed to increase our search optimization so that students seeking information from us do not search long to obtain it. Thanks to the leadership of our Communications and Marketing Team, our newsletters, media blasts as well as digital signage saw great engagement from the community. For the upcoming year, we will edit parts of the website to add dynamism in the visuals and contents. Explorations on offering some of our outreach in other languages will also be underway this year. While our social media engagements have seen improvements especially due to special features on our services and events, such as The Pit's 50th anniversary, there is room for improvements in other social media channels. AMS also saw good representation on many key UBC events including Imagine Day as well as the Student Leadership Conference (SLC).

GOAL 3: ENHANCED CONSULTATION AND ALLOCATIONS

This was the first year that the VP Students portfolio of UBC released a FAQ and responses to tuition increases. The AMS' advocacy to inform students was successful. The AMS opposed tuition increases to the BoG and brought to light many insufficient and unjustified areas of increases. The AMS took part in consultations rigorously and continued to push for longer, more informed period of consultations. We have received a commitment for an increase in information sharing, ongoing updates on budgetary allocations, criteria for benchmarking as well as communication on new financial aid from the VPS' office. I was also actively involved in the Budgeting process this year for UBC. Apart from helping out with the creation of AMS' submission on budgets to UBC, I also took part in multiple workshops that informed UBC on student priorities. We hope that next year's team is able to hold UBC accountable to those commitments.

GOAL 4: IMPROVED STUDENT EXPERIENCE THROUGH INCLUSION

The process and work to create communities that are accessible and inclusive is complex and difficult. Our communities were often built without considerations of access for everyone. As such, I have spent time this semester on understanding how this change can happen at a systems level. Earlier efforts to conduct accessibility audits were unsuccessful. It is important that we found people from within the community to create the audit. We are happy to know that UBC has taken initiative to create these audits now and the AMS will ensure that these audits are completed by as soon as possible. Additionally, I have budgeted financially for us to ourselves undertake this audit for the Nest over the summer.

The position Executive Assistant for Indigenous Students was created after feedback from the Indigenous Committee was taken to change the position. We are happy to have filled the position for the upcoming year.

GOAL 5: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL GOVERNANCE

At the start of the year, the AMS was lacking many key positions internally that would ensure the support and leadership necessary for all departments to thrive. By the end of the year, I am happy to have recruitment exemplary team members who bring with them a breadth of amazing and diverse experiences. Their support allows for key aspects of the AMS, such as services, human resources and communications to be successful.

I also sat on the Search Committee for UBC new VP Students. We were able to ensure that throughout the process, various stakeholders across the university stayed involved in the process and the successful candidate was someone who would champion student voices.

The Advisory Board was perhaps one of the more challenging aspects of my role due to the difficulty involved in curating the correct experiences necessary to convene this group. While we were able to recruit the individuals, we have faced issues in scheduling as well as onboarding. I would recommend the incoming President to spend time in creating a robust orientation plan for the new cohort of Advisors and reaching out to Alumni UBC to help with recruitment.

The creation of an AMS Strategic Plan has been contentious due to issues of turnover and perceived utility of such a plan. The Steering Committee spent a lot of time this term evaluating this issue and we decided that while a strategic plan might not be the best fit for us, a revision of our value and principles was needed. Any plans to create such a plan would be incomplete without high levels of consultation and collaboration. As such, resources from both staff, executives and the council would be necessary next year to make this successful.

OTHER PROJECTS

As with any job, there were many other projects that came up this year that I took part in and made progress on behalf of the Society.

The Recreation Space referendum that the AMS ran 2 years ago required significant work to be finalized. Before the creation of the rec facility can be approved by UBC BoG, it requires that a MOU with the AMS be finalized. The project has a \$22.5 million investment from students through the collected fee with an additional \$33.5 million from UBC. It was important for us to make sure that accessibility and affordability were maintained for this new place. The new MOU which will be signed after final discussions on financing models are concluded will allow the AMS to be intimately involved in not just the building of the new place but in its management as well. Through my role as a member of the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Committee, the administration of the EmpowerMe program was part of my work. We were successfully able to ensure that not only did students receive this service with improvements during this year that the service is continuing next year under UBC with more people covered under the plan than before.

I developed a keen interest in talks around career preparedness and enhancement throughout this year. I was able to represent student voices in critical discussions on that topic both at the University as well during Federal lobby trips. During a listening tour of other Canadian institutions, I gleaned important insights which will now help create a plan for AMS' future advocacy on the topic. Additionally, I advocated for UBC to adopt LinkedIn Learning, a tool available to only Faculty and Staff at UBC, to be implemented for students as well. Through this work, I also identified for UBC priorities that we should aim to seek assistance from the Federal government on especially around the future of works and skills and the federal allocation for work integrated learning (WIL).

GOAL 1: INCREASE FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT, COLLABORATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Worked closely with Vice-Presidents of Constituencies to encourage constant feedback to improve financial systems; credit card program, ticketing services and financial reports to ensure that the financial systems use continue to satisfy the need of the students and increasing transparency and accountability. Increase caps of AMS Student Initiative and Club Benefit Fund by 25% and increase projects cost coverage to 75% instead of the 50%. AMS VP Finance department established the constituency Vice-Presidents Finance caucus and they have been meeting on quarterly basis to provide feedback and help AMS Vice-president Finance achieve the goals that helps students. The term of reference for the Vice-presidents Finance caucus has been drafted and be approve in the upcoming meeting.

AMS council approved the increment by average 25% for all the AMS Funds and increase the cost coverage to 75% in contrast to previously 50% coverage to ensure that the students take advantage of the financial resources provided by their society to achieve their projects goals and put their creativity and commitment into practice. Different types of funding provided by the AMS including subsidies have been reviewed and the usage has increased and it's expected to increase as a result of enough funding and more AMS subsidiary organizations becoming more aware of the financial support provided by the AMS.

The VP Finance and the Managing Director have explored options and set goals to either improve or replace Microsoft Dynamics and the commitment is set the right goals and with good time frame and would be up to the next VP Finance to continue with initiative. The changes will be a little challenging as Dynamics has been for society operations and contain data of decades and its replacement will be a major investment. Replacing SharePoint systems project has been suspended but could potentially be explore by the next VP Finance, especially directing the focus toward replacing the accounting systems Microsoft Dynamics. Overall, this goal is successfully achieved.

GOAL 2: STREAMLINE FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF AMS CLUBS, CONSTITUENCIES, AND RESOURCE GROUPS

AMS negotiated and signed a two-year contract ending July 23rd 2020 at 7% with the Showpass our ticketing partner during the summer. The rate was cheaper than the cheaper standard rate of 2.625% + \$ 1.69 and with better customer service support. Various AMS organizations and AMS Events department still felt that the ticketing services was little more expensive and requested the AMS Vice-President Finance to find even cheaper ticketing services. This resulted in AMS and ShowPass re-negotiated the contract to lower rates further to \$1.5 + 3% per ticket sold (\$ CAD) for Block Party and Welcome Back BBQ and 3.5% for general ticketing for the AMS events and its subsidiary organizations event with better customer support. The society will receive better rates with better customer services such as onsite support BP and WBBQ events and in return the society will continue to ensure all AMS and its subsidiary organizations events go through Showpass and in return ShowPass requested extend the extension of the contract by one more year, that is to July 23rd 2021 which is yet to be considered by the AMS thus will be up to the next AMS VP Finance to decide. The new VP Finance would explore all the options available including developing the AMS Independent Ticketing Platform and make a decision of what services AMS should use moving forward.

AMS VP Finance department invested about \$ 1000 to on Square debit machine devices in addition to existing credit devices purposely create options for students to buy tickets and attend events of their choices easily.

RBC established online financial transfer known as MD5 in the summer to be used by the AMS. However, it was found out at the end of July that the system could potentially be compromised would post some security risk to the society financial operations. AMS VP Finance department decided to abandon that system and requested RBC to come up with a solution and they proposed Star 2 online financial transfer system which was developed and testing started in March 2019 and would be done April 2019 and should be roll out in April or summer of 2019. The new system is confirmed by the experts from RBC to be secure and reliable. However, accounting systems and department currently don't have capacity to implement the new systems quickly which is the major reason why the testing is taking longer time to be finalized. The project has also proven to be almost more than one-year plan given the time commitment and many parties needed to be on board and use it well. This goal is on right track on most part. However, it's about half-successful so far and the next AMS VP Finance and Managing Director will continue to work and implement the secure online systems hopefully have it implemented.

GOAL 3: AMS SELF SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL PLAN

Worked with the Investment managers at RBC PH & N and Manager Director to review the investment portfolios and returns from 2016 to 2018. This resulted in changing the portfolio to Fossil Fuel Free (divestment) and fulfil the membership expectation indicated by the 2014 referendum when members voted 76% YES in favour of divestment. The Council approved new investment policy in August 2018. The new investment policy fully reflects the values of the AMS. The investment returns under new policy are expected to yield 4% average in 4 years which will be better than the last fiscal year's returns if the expectation is achieved. The new investment policy generated a total return of \$202,776 in its first two quarters.

The VP Finance, Managing Director and Investment managers are meeting on quarterly basis (the last meeting for FY 2018/19 will be April 2019) to review returns and ensure that the new investment policy is followed 100%. The portfolio breakdown is set a minimum of 65% fixed income and maximum 35% equity to ensure the capital preservation which is the first priority of the society. The new policy removed 50% limit equity investment within Canada in order to allow investment managers to better navigate the market dynamics across economies. The society businesses and returns on track and the new sustainable financial plan of the society is on track so far and expected to continue to be successfully moving forward and generating more income that society can use to continue to provide services to membership.

Other important activities conducted in the VP Finance Department include an effort to increase transparency and accountability around student fee-based funding initiatives. AMS VP Finance worked with the university and society groups to initiate bi-annual financial reports for the society and university groups receiving dedicated students fee. The VP Finance established quarterly meetings with society groups receiving dedicated student fees and received feedback and ensure that the next leaders of both these organizations and the AMS will continue with this practice.

The first financial reports have been supported by many of the groups receiving student's fee. Some of these reports will be published on the AMS websites in the first week of April 2019 under financial reports and are available for the membership view and direct inquiries to the group's representatives and society VP Finance Office. The VP Finance department proposed code change to council around society quarter financial reports resulted to Quarter Four report presented to the general membership in AGM on October 3rd 2018 and was approved.

The VP Finance department team reviewed all the society subsidies and funding and ease the applications processes in order to give students and clubs the opportunity to better utilize the society financial resources. VP Finance office with the university to revive the Innovative Project Fund. The Review Committee consisting of 6 voting members 3 from AMS (VP Finance the chair, AVP Finance and President's Assistant), Faculty member and two UBC staff. AMS Vice-president Finance department reviewed all the AMS Fees and subsidies and proposed change to Graduating class fee decrease and Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) Fee increase that were approved by AMS Council and put to ballot for March 2019 and were approved by the general membership as well as provided feedback and advice to AMS organizations such as Indigenous Committee and Campus Culture and Performance beneficiaries who also proposed and ran successful referendum questions in March of 2019.

The past year has been spent focusing on various goals of the VP Administration portfolio that AMS Council has mandated and accepted earlier in 2018. Including these set of goals, the VP Administration Office has been working on a wide range of side projects which will be included in this report.

GOAL 1: CLUBS AND CONSTITUENCIES

The New SUB Project has been largely completed, with the biggest completion being the construction of the lower level of the Life Building as well as the tenancy of the 9 AMS groups. The Norm Theater has been mostly renovated with the only remaining task being the installation of some items. The completion of the Norm Theater is a carry over goal for the next VP Administration to see through.

The departmental club issue that carried over from the previous VP Administration has been solved with the creation of the departmental club system, and having it communicated to all constituencies. In addition, the VP Administration Office has been regularly attending constituency council meetings and President's Council in order to stay up-to-date on the on-goings within our constituencies.

The VP Administration Office was able to make great strides in terms of providing further clarity and efficiency in terms of our AMS Clubs system. We have been able to secure an online club elections feature on the AMS Clubhouse platform which will provide efficiency and accessibility for our AMS Club elections. In addition, with the help of the Operations Committee, the VP Administration Office was able to complete and pass a new version of the Operations Committee Policy Manual. The completion of this goal means that many AMS Club procedures are up-to-date and reflect how our AMS Clubs currently operate.

GOAL 2: HATCH ART GALLERY

The Hatch Art Gallery has seen a significant growth in popularity and attendance this past year in comparison to previous years through completing all of its goals. The focus this year for the Hatch Art Gallery has been on building up a marketing presence for the space while also changing the art exhibition schedule. For marketing, an emphasis has been placed on working with different on campus groups, building a social media presence, and developing the physical advertisement of the space. A big reason for the popularity has been the change in the art exhibition schedule from displaying a new show every month to every three weeks and to include pop-up shows. Moving the focus from art shows being conceptual to community and activism art has been able to garner a lot of popularity for the space.

As mentioned in a previous goals report, the Hatch Art Gallery has reinvented the role for the volunteers of the space. Previously, Hatch volunteers would simply be sitting in the space to ensure someone was always in the space. Now, Hatch volunteers play an active role in the space by helping with installations, preparing programming, and engaging with marketing. This change has had an amazing effect for the activity of the space and has provided with a larger and stronger applicant pool for the future manager and assistant manager positions for the Hatch Art Gallery.

GOAL 3: SUSTAINABILITY

This year, the sustainability department of the VP Administration portfolio has placed an emphasis on putting oversight structures in place as well as improving the sustainability aspect of the AMS's operations. During this past year, the AMS has established the Sustainability Subcommittee in order to have a body that is constantly providing oversight on the AMS's sustainability efforts. In addition, the AMS was able to pass long-term sustainability strategies within constituencies as well as host a SEEDS Project to develop these strategies specifically for the AUS, SUS, and EUS.

A large amount of the work done this year in terms of sustainability has been the increasing involvement of sustainability in the AMS's operations, specifically within businesses. We have collaborated with SEEDS on multiple projects regarding AMS businesses from sustainable marketing to sustainable food options in our menus. Furthermore, we have collaborated with other outlets and Common Energy to revamp the Mugshare Program which has gained a lot of attraction as well. Finally, we placed a large emphasis on sustainability and space usage, which is why we worked with the AMS groups moving into the lower level of the Life Building and SEEDS to investigate how to use those spaces sustainably.

GOAL 4: STUDENT LIFE AND SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE

This past year, the VP Administration Office identified awareness of the Student Life and Sustainability Centre as being on the low end, which is why there was a push to rebrand the space. The space has been changed to the Clubs Resource Centre and have focused on working with AMS Clubs on providing them with resources for their operations. In addition, we have worked on expanding the amount of hours that the space is open for as well identified different resources that could be offered in the next year that have shown to be important for AMS Clubs.

GOAL 5: MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health has played a big role this year in the VP Administration office and we have been able to accomplish some big items. Most notably, the AMS has increased the psychology coverage in the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan from \$300 to \$500. We have also collaborated with constituencies on hosting mental health events during Wellness Week in the first semester. In addition, we worked with student groups to develop resource lists of different services on campus regarding mental health, sexual violence, etc. and tailored them specifically to each group's needs.

OTHER PROJECTS

Much of the time of the Vice-President Office has been spent on working on various projects that are not part of the AMS Council mandated goals. Some of these projects include working on SVPREP, the renovation of the Indigenous Committee space, various smaller capital projects, expanding sexual violence and anti-discrimination training in the AMS, and more.

This year in the VP Academic and University Affairs (VP AUA) Office has been spent working on the five goals approved by AMS Council but also on the many issues that arise throughout the year. Some of the issues that have arisen this year include creating two new external policies to address mental health and climate change, creating a report and sitting on the review committee for UBC Policy 3, Discrimination and Harassment, negotiating an MOU with Athletics and Recreation around space and the \$21 AMS fee, sitting on multiple UBC Search Committees, the annual UBC Budget consultation, and the annual tuition consultation.

GOAL 1: SURVIVOR CENTRIC SUPPORT

The President and VP AUA participated in the Small Policy Review for UBC's Policy 131, Sexual Assault and other Misconduct, during the summer of 2018. The review was completed after the summer and offered clarity on many implementation issues. After the small review was completed the AMS successfully advocated for the UBC Board of Governors to review Policy 131 next year. During the small review, the AMS helped develop sexual violence awareness communication materials for the "We Believe You" Campaign in partnership with SASC and SVPRO. Brock Commons Phase 2, Student Services and Academic Uses is moving forward as planned after AMS advocacy. This project will provide space to a multitude of student services including a central space for SVPRO. Finally, the VP AUA office collaborated with the UBC-V Senate Academic Policy Committee to create the Academic Concessions Policy Working Group. The VP AUA is the current chair of the Working Group. The consultation for this policy has been completed and will be going to the next Academic Policy Committee meeting for approval.

The VP AUA Office has met all four key performance indicators for this goal.

GOAL 2: HOLISTIC STUDENT AFFORDABILITY

The AMS opposed all the proposed tuition and fee increases for the 2019/20 Academic Year. The divided vote on the tuition increases at the Board of Governors indicated that the AMS has an opportunity next year to successfully oppose unjustified tuition increases. The AMS has also advocated for a more comprehensive consultation process in the future that includes a response to student feedback, faculty and university budgets, and earlier and more in-depth consultation with elected student leadership. A report on the possibility of implementing a cohort tuition fee model at UBC has been completed, however, a cohort tuition freeze will not be possible until after the Integrated Renewal Program, an IT infrastructure overhaul of UBC, is completed. The AMS has also been in conversations with the UBC VP Finance and VP Students offices to discuss the priorities and principles for funding that will be created after the implementation of the UBC Hospitality Trust Investment, a Government Business Enterprise. The VP AUA worked with CTLT to create principles around the cost of learning materials. These principles have been approved the UBC-V Senate Teaching and Learning Committee and will come to the May Senate meeting for approval.

The VP AUA Office has met three out of four key performance indicators for this goal. The cohort tuition freeze will not be implemented yet due to UBC IT restraints. Establishing principles for the Government Business Enterprise, a key performance indicator, will not be approved yet due to a delay in the implementation of the GBE. These projects will need to be continued by next year's office to be successful.

GOAL 3: ACCOUNTABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF UBC'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The AMS continues to be involved in all the committees and working groups that are related to UBC's Strategic Plan. The President is sitting on the Strategic Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, and the VP AUA is sitting on the leadership groups for the plan.

The AMS completed the 2018 Excellence Fund report and submitted it to University Executive. This report called for a greater ratio of Excellence Fund and budget allocations towards student priorities. These priorities included more funding for research-oriented Work Learn positions, increased funding for Indigenous student scholarships, increased funding for Open Educational Resources Development, and many other priorities that tackle affordability and student issues. Every priority that the AMS advocated for has been funded or addressed in some way during the budget process. Finally, the VP AUA put a motion on the November 2018 meeting of Senate that required the University Executive to make a report and present annually to the Senate on the metrics and progress of the strategic plan. This motion was passed unanimously.

The VP AUA Office has met all five key performance indicators for this goal.

GOAL 4: SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

There has been an expansion of funding for student health and wellbeing space of more \$3 million after the AMS's submission to the Board of Governors. UBC's Policy 73, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, was adopted by the Board of Governors in December 2018. The Mandatory Syllabi Policy that was adopted includes references to UBC mental health and wellbeing resources and sexual violence response resources. The AMS hosted a town hall for fall reading break in November and the VP AUA office led the largest AMS consultation in recent memory to gauge students' opinions on the issue. A working group has been approved by the Academic Policy Committee to present and consult on the possibility of a fall reading break in time for implementation in Academic Year 2020-2021. This working group will consider all options including the status quo.

The VP AUA Office has met four of five key performance indicators for this goal. A fall reading break was not implemented for this upcoming academic year, but great progress has been made on this goal. This project will need to be continued by next year's office to be successful.

GOAL 5: STUDENT CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION

The VP Academic and University Affairs has been attending more meetings with student issues groups including the sustainability collective. The VP Academic Caucus has met monthly to discuss issues such as fall reading break, academic concessions, tuition consultations, and so much more. The VP Academic and University Affairs office has run multiple campaigns this year that have already engaged close to 1500 students including the Fall Reading Break Town Hall, the Textbook Broke Campaign, the We Believe You Campaign, and the Indigenous Discussion Circle. The equity caucus renewal is being led by the VP External and is expected to be completed in the new year. The AMS hosted the Indigenous Discussion Circle where the President delivered the AMS's Apology to Indigenous Peoples. The VP AUA has been attending more meetings with student issues groups. The VP Academic Caucus has tried to meet monthly to discuss issues such as fall reading break, academic concessions, tuition consultations, and so much more. There have been some attendance issues that need to be addressed in the future. The VP AUA office has run multiple campaigns this year that have had over 10,000 engagements with students including the Fall Reading Break consultation, the Textbook Broke Campaign, the We Believe You Campaign, the Academic Experience Survey, and the Indigenous Discussion Circle.

The AMS hosted the Indigenous Discussion Circle where the President delivered the AMS's Apology to Indigenous Peoples. The terms of reference for the AMS Indigenous Committee have been adopted and a fee referendum to support the committee was successful too. The terms of reference and fee referendum were entirely based on the preferences of Indigenous Students.

The VP AUA Office has met all four key performance indicators for this goal. It is important to note that our office surpassed our goal of 3,000 engagements with students by over 7,000 engagements. It is recommended next year's office review the VP Academic Caucus due to attendance issues.

The past year has seen the success of some long-term advocacy goals of the AMS come to fruition, many new relationships made and old partnerships strengthened, and building the foundation for new advocacy.

GOAL 1: PROMOTE AFFORDABILITY OF EDUCATION

Since our provincial lobby trip with the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) and the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS), the provincial government has funded two of our asks: eliminating interest on BC student loans and supporting open educational resources. I have continued work on reforms to student financial aid, including the redirection of the completion grant funding to improve this program. We should continue to develop research materials to advance this advocacy again next year. After the lobby trip, the provincial government created a Sexual Violence Working Group to address some of the issues we raised around the implementation of Bill 23 (Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act). There is a lot of work that must be done around a province-wide policy review and to identify where funding should be allocated. We should continue to play an active role with this group and inform and support its work. Now that there is additional funding for BCCampus to support open educational resource creation, we should work with them to identify next steps to push forward policy. The Summit has transformed into a roundtable to bring student unions together as new Executives enter their roles to identify shared advocacy goals. I recommend that research and advocacy around tuition affordability should continue to be explored collaboratively with them next year.

Federally, our Ottawa lobby trip in December was our first opportunity to meet with our federal advocacy partners - the Undergraduates of Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU). We met with over 50 MPs, staff working on federal election platforms, and had the opportunity to develop relationships with the Tri-Research Councils and higher education lobby groups located in Ottawa. Feedback we received on our advocacy this year should be used to inform and strengthen our asks next year and we should leverage our new relationships in Ottawa to align our advocacy when possible. This will be especially important to support advocacy on the Copyright Act review next term. Moreover, as UCRU goes through its policy and governance review, we should continue to be as engaged as possible and take on leadership roles in the group as it goes through this transformative process. The federal election in the fall will be an important time to raise awareness about UCRU, the issues we support, and our ability to mobilize student voters.

GOAL 2: PROMOTE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

A lot of work has been undertaken on transit advocacy throughout the year. Earlier this year, we helped secure an affordable, 5-year UPass agreement that passed by referendum in March. We supported two important votes at Mayors' Council and the City of Vancouver this year that have accelerated work on Skytrain to UBC. We were at every meeting to speak on the importance of this project for students all across the region and developed relationships with key staff and decision-makers to improve our lobby efforts. We have started our #NextStopUBC campaign to inform students about progress on Skytrain to UBC lobbying efforts, engaged in numerous municipal and provincial consultations, and are currently finalizing a comprehensive AMS Transit Advocacy Strategy. I recommend that we highlight transportation infrastructure as a student issue during the federal election and continue to support the Cure Congestion advocacy from Mayors' Council. We should also develop advocacy that addresses transit capacity until Skytrain to UBC is completed and begin to explore advocacy opportunities post-Skytrain to UBC.

Student housing rental rights advocacy has made progress as we've been working with the provincial Student Housing Working Group. Alongside government staff, representatives from post-secondary institutions, and another student unions, we've been working collaboratively to address the issues students face. This builds on the work that was done when the Rent with Rights recommendations were originally published three years ago and we should use this momentum to identify new opportunities.

The VP External office continued federal advocacy to include hours worked throughout a student's degree in permanent residency applications. We should continue to advocate on this issue as there was significant interest, however, we must undertake work with Career Services units to better identify a process for which our ask can be achieved if implemented. Regarding permanent residency delays for Iranian students, MP Joyce Murray has been updating us on the situation and we should continue to monitor it and support students alongside UBC.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE STUDENT WELLBEING

We are continuing to follow up with the provincial government on progress related to the creation of the Mental Health Hotline and inform the implementation process. This is an important initiative for student across BC and we should continue to vigilantly monitor and inform progress.

We have also begun a research project that maps out mental health, sexual violence, and wellness services and supports to identify gaps and opportunities to make these resources more accessible for students. We have met with relevant UBC partners as this work was initiated, however, more meeting as needed with other student unions and provincial government staff. This project should be continued to inform a concrete ask and should be done in collaboration with post-secondary institutions. A component of this project addresses data collection and data sharing.

GOAL 4: ELECTION YEAR AWARENESS AND ACTION

The municipal election and the electoral reform referendum campaigns we led this year provided the VP External office with important learning experiences that will help inform the federal election next year. Work has already started to meet early on with student groups who may be interested in engaging students in voting in the fall. This provides us with an early opportunity to connect with students, align our efforts, and support the visibility of both AMS and other student groups' initiatives to reach as many students as possible during the election. Aside from our own campaign, I am recommending that UCRU create a central "Get Out The Vote" campaign to engage students from coast to coast and create visibility for our advocacy later on in the year. We are currently developing a proposal of what this may look like.

GOAL 5: REIMAGINE AMS' SUDS

Student Union Development Summit was a success this year and the changes we made from previous years were welcomed by our attendees. To continue improving this event, I am recommending a series of changes that should be made next year, including: extending the Summit by a day, introducing more peer-led engagement sessions, and partnering with education organizations to support the conference and connect us to more workshop facilitators. I am also recommending that student unions involved in UCRU attend a few days prior to the Summit to meet in-person ahead of our lobby trip and start planning our federal lobby advocacy and trip logistics early.

I am very proud of the great work that the AMS Services have accomplished this year. We successfully implemented a strong data analytics software which we have used to cater services more towards the students that need them most, reshaped services that were becoming obsolete, and pushed the Services to greater heights in which we have experienced higher student usage and client satisfaction. Many successes have also come in the form of the preparations that we have put in place for the Services next year, where we have demonstrated our commitments to affordability and student centric services. The effectiveness of the Services speaks for itself, and this is due to the countless hours that the Services coordinators and volunteers have put into the extensive training and service delivery.

GOAL 1: CONTINUED DATA COLLECTION

Like everything in its infancy, the data collection software that we have built into the Services has not always been smooth. Through working closely with the company who built it, we have improved on the software through various tweaks and constant updates and additions to make the platform as effective as possible in delivering information that we can use to shape our services and practices to be as fitting and as convenient as UBC students need them to be. We have collected thousands of data entries which we have since used to validate various advocacy initiatives with UBC, help reshape certain goals for the year, and in the planning of events and/or workshops. Unlike previous years, the data we collect tells us so much about which student demographics want what from our services, as well as analysing the student demographics that do not interact with the Services and seeing how we can better target them through our marketing and outreach efforts.

GOAL 2: SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIC PLAN

This has been a sore spot for me, as I see this as an unfortunate slump in the otherwise vast amount of successes that we have experienced this year. We could have had a stronger line of communication with the AMS Communications team, which may have resulted in stronger outreach overall. However, our outreach initiatives have been successful in seeing more student usage in our Services, but this is more due to working with each of the coordinators. I would like to personally thank the Assistant Student Services Manager, who given his strong social media skillset, was able to constantly produce high quality promotional materials, as well as brainstorm innovative ways Services can market itself. Many of the successes we experienced this year are due to the student buy-in of wanting to become more involved in opportunities such as the food drives and other charitable events.

GOAL 2: PRIORITIZING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

I thought this was a necessary framework in which to adopt to a goal since the Services are first and foremost here to “have your back”. This was successful in that many services found opportunities to collaborate on initiatives where they shared similar goals. Speakeasy and Vice are closely linked as such and found success in combining their training efforts when training volunteers. We also found success in creating a uniform feedback form, albeit its implementation could have been more efficient. Looking more closely at these sort of relationships will greatly benefit the Services in the future, as I believe collaboration within different services to be crucial in the overall success of AMS Services in the student body.

Goal 4-5: ZERO BASED BUDGETING AND DECREASING THE RELIANCE ON STUDENT FEES

I thought it best to address both of these goals in the same paragraph as they are closely linked and play off of each other. I am extremely pleased with the AMS Services Team's constant dedication to a tight budget and being wary of our funding being directly from students. In addition, we have also been very fortunate of the help received from our many campus partners including all of our sponsors for the Foodbank as well as UBC's continued efforts to support us where they can. I am pleased to announce that all of our budgets have been met, with no additional costs or reason(s) to go over budget. I believe having the SSM revise the budget once when they come in to office, as well as setting the budget for the following year is crucial in maximising the money we use throughout the year. This year, I decreased many aspects of the budget, and the budget that is prepared for the revisions of the incoming SSM has also been further decreased. I am committed to having the budget be as efficient as possible, and I am confident that the \$70,000 that has been cut for the following year will not only prove to be a non-factor in the success of the AMS Services next year, but to empower the future SSM and Services coordinators in acting within the framework of student affordability. I would also like to personally thank UBC for its continued funding of services such as the Foodbank and Safewalk, and I am eager to see how the Services can become even more self-sustaining in the coming years.

CONTACT

PRESIDENT

president@ams.ubc.ca

VP AUA

vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca

VP FINANCE

vpfinance@ams.ubc.ca

VP ADMIN

vpadmin@ams.ubc.ca

SSM

services@ams.ubc.ca

VP EXTERNAL

vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca