

AMS Student Life Committee

May Report

Chair: Kevin Zhang

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Hello Council,

With the summer kicking off, we are still very much in a period of transition. This report is the first so far from my term, intended to provide a brief summary of updates on work that has been done so far. For both this report and future reports from this committee, please feel free to contact the committee chair if you have any questions.

1. Works Completed:

a) Approval of the 2019 Grad Class Gifts

I am happy to report that the Student Life Committee was able to approve all 2019 Grad Class Gift items carried over from last year. Proposed by the previous Grad Class Subcommittee, the bulk of the discussion process was thus already conducted by last year's iteration of the Student Life Committee. The items are as follows:

- i. \$5000 AMS Food Bank Donation*
- ii. \$2500 Hygiene Products Fund (toward AMS Food Bank)*
- iii. \$5000 Indigenous Committee Donation (for capital improvement projects)*
- iv. \$5000 toward the revitalization of the Goddess of Democracy Statue*
- v. \$1000 toward the UBC Archives Department to digitize old student handbooks*

*Note that as this must be a joint approval with the AMS Finance Committee, funds cannot be allocated **until the Finance Committee conducts an identical approval.**

b) Appointment of a Vice-Chair

The Student Life Committee appointed **Ian Stone** to the Vice-Chair, effective until the first council meeting in September.

2. Works Ongoing:

a) Recommendations and initiatives for an improved council dynamic

Included in our first meeting agenda were additional carry-over items from last year that have not yet been executed. Last year's committee proposed a set of recommendations intended to improve and bolster internal council atmosphere. We were able to review these recommendations and discussed the feasibility and logistics of executing these items. We came up with a set of tentative deliverables:

- Looking into future lower-cost retreat options for councilors to partake in, with the end-goal of building a cohesive team dynamic conducive to discussion.
- Looking into creating an informal working group to streamline the existing AMS Councilor Handbook.
- Creating an anonymous Councilor consultation survey, and an additional option for councilors to opt-in to an in-person check-in (potentially with the Speaker of Council) if they request it.
- Looking into future options for increasing Councilor interaction with office staff and the executive

For our next meeting, we will be delving deeper into what the timeline will look like for these items, including a delineation of the items that should be addressed by the summer committee, and items that should be addressed by the post-September committee.

b) AMS Events

The committee was able to discuss the existing composition of AMS Events, and the concerns expressed by a constituent pertaining to the perceived static participant demographic of these events. We briefly explored the possibility of conducting wider student consultation of the issue, and will look into the additional possibility of including a survey with the monthly newsletter for our future meetings. A potential line item here was to use data from these consultations to draft a written report to be viewed by AMS Events.

We currently do **not** have a regularly reoccurring meeting time for the summer; however I am extending the invitation for any interested councilor or student to sit-in on our meetings. Please contact me via email and I would be happy to let you know when/where we're meeting next.