

## AMS Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda

August 26th, 2019 in NEST 3511

### Attendance

Present: Cristina, Julia, Tanner, Michelle, Nevena

Regrets: Nicholas, Lindsey

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:11am

### Land Acknowledgement

### VP AUA Update

- Search committees are ongoing. HR Advisor finalist is moving on to stakeholder consultation, SVPRO is making an offer to a candidate, new Ombudsperson started last week
- Met with Academic Caucus, advocacy executives from constituencies
- Textbook broke campaign is finalized - open letter coming to September Advocacy Committee
- Policy 131 review starts Sept. 5. Julia is doing intensive research and working with SASC. First draft on review goes to UBC Executive and UBC Board and then there will be a community consultation period during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Michelle: How is the Stadium Road petition going?

- Julia: We're at 415 responses right now, also sending in more detailed AMS petition. We feel good about using Qualtrix because it has more validity than change.org.

### VP External Update

- Summer is for relationship building - UCRU, ABCS, BCFS, aligning goals and lobbying strategies.
- Want to help facilitate an opportunity for a potential joint meeting with Minister of Advanced Education Melanie Mark and representatives from all student unions in BC asking for student financial aid
- Doing research on lobbying priorities, conversations with staffers to see government priorities
- Mid-September our advocacy priorities must be solidified to be able to identify prospective advocacy partners
- Progress on Sexual Violence advocacy - government working groups were created to address multiple areas of sexualized violence on campus, from policy development to training, rolling out a student climate survey, etc. Important to note that policy development doesn't have students at the table - we will be pressure on government to bring in these voices.

- Mental health hotline was supposed to be implemented in September, very rushed process, doesn't look like they will choose a new provider in time. We are following closely to understand next steps for advocacy on this initiative.

Michelle: Did climate change come up in national student letter?

- Cristina: We touch on it but not the main focus. Obviously a very important issue to talk about this election, is probably the number one issue. This letter is focussed on education though because education, especially higher ed, is almost never discussed during elections. Using this as an opportunity to bring it to light. No one else will talk about education if we don't - not the same with climate action.

Nevena: Will volunteers be recruited for GOTV

- Cristina: Yes, trying to do that through multiple channels. From getting interest at Jumpstart to spreading the word through engaged student clubs/organizations also doing get out the vote work.

Nevena: How will we engage grad students?

- Cristina: Will reach out to GSS for collaboration opportunities. Elections info will be accessible and helpful for everyone on campus.

## **Committee goals and future of committee work**

Cristina:

- Engaging on-campus student groups on the start of the Equity Plan. Putting together an AMS-based equity definition. To be passed on to President's Office to align with the AMS's strategic plan.
- Reviewing new advocacy around housing, Indigenous student support, transit, and affordability policy work.
- On Climate: Clean BC event, potential event collaborations with David Suzuki, federal advocacy.
  - Julia: Informing Treasurer on why divestment is very important, work with Student Legal Fund Society.
- Many policy reviews need to be undertaken by this committee

## **Library consultation update**

- Julia: Library has gotten in touch about consulting student on current 24hr exam openings for libraries on campus and whether this should continue. On their end, this comes from concerns about student mental health but we need to balance accessibility vs wellbeing.
- Nevena: Wellbeing is obviously important to think about but what if students don't have anywhere to go if they have early morning exams? Can promote wellbeing for students without making important spaces for them inaccessible.
- Julia: Maybe can provide more support during that time and better advertise it in those spaces. Will come back later for more input on this when ideas as more developed.

Adjourned at 12:02pm