11 2020-03-09 AMS Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda
Monday March 9th, 2020, 6:00 PM, NEST 5113

Attendance
Invited: Julia, Cristina, Brandon, Nevena, Nicholas, Anne, Rashika, Michelle (non-voting)
Present:
Regrets: Anne

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:03

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Minutes

Portfolio Updates

1. AMS VP External [Cristina Ilnitchi]
   a. Participated in the Equity Enhancement Fund adjudication
      i. Up to $2,500 for equity projects on campus
   b. Finalizing the Equity Plan, creating JD for a student staff position to implement work
      i. Will send to Advo Comm next week so that the committee can see the finalized document
      ii. Will meet with stakeholders this week to get external feedback from key groups on campus (social justice groups, marginalized communities)
   c. Continuing conversations with UNA on bylaw changes to remove AMS from Board
      i. They sent us the final offer
      ii. Will be reviewed and approved at next UNA Board Meeting
      iii. We need to see representation and governance changes to see AMS, students and renters within the UNA
   d. Knowing Your Rights as a Protester event happened last week, considering a second event
      i. Came to life following advocacy from indigenous students and push from the Advocacy Committee
      ii. About 25 students came out - we want to increase this turnout next time
      iii. Considering a second event with a student panel, community advocates and activism leaders on campus
   e. Many AMS executives and student staff participated in UBC walkout for Wet’suwet’en
i. Sent in number of submissions to government and a letter of support to the Wet’suwet’en
f. Beginning transition with new VPX
g. Planning for last lobby trip to Victoria, talking to Indigenous Committee this week about advocacy collab, feedback on BC Access Grant (upfront, needs-based grants)
h. Prepping for end of March start to #notfarenough Skytrain to UBC campaign
   i. Presenting to Advocacy Committee on this soon (what this will look like and how this will work long-term)
i. Prepping submission from AMS to UBC BoG Property Committee to formally look into building off-campus student housing

[Nevena]
  ● BC Access grants - in our previous conversation, we were considering how to include students who may not want to apply for loans in accessing grant funding. Where do we stand on this?

[Cristina]
  ● That was for our federal lobby asks.
  ● We were told that the government wanted to maintain consistent infrastructure to reduce barriers to how students access to grants which currently requires students to apply for loans to be considered
  ● Advocating for equity grants on provincial level (would not require applying to loans) as well as looking into other opportunities for debt-averse students

[Rashika]
  ● Can you elaborate on the Not Far Enough Skytrain Campaign?

[Cristina]
  ● We ran a small campaign similar to this last year
    ○ Meant to educate and revive media attention to this project
  ● This campaign will be to educate folks about:
    ○ Fact: current plan for Sky Train will end at Arbutus
    ○ Students will face problems getting from Arbutus to UBC
  ● Asking for clear commitment from levels of government for business case to progress the Sky Train to UBC
    ○ We need this funding to be infused by federal government - without it, the project will be delayed

[Nick]
  ● When do you plan on bringing this to the committee?

[Cristina]
  ● In two weeks.
2. AMS VP AUA [Julia Burnham]
   a. Special election timeline has been set for VPAUA role. Spending a lot of time this week/last week meeting with people who have questions/could be interested.
   b. AES still ongoing, reached 2000 survey completed as of today and we have a few more email blasts from constituencies planned. Need 3000 to meet our goal.
   c. Participated in adjudication for the Provost’s Education Renewal fund
      i. One time funding under Strategic Plan
      ii. Looking at ways to enhance programs - grad students were emphasized
   d. Met with CTLT to discuss plans for Open Champions 2020
   e. AVPAA + VP search committee meeting
   f. Met with Associate Deans Academic to chat emergency strategies to complete the term if campus needs to close down/go online due to COVID-19
      i. Adjusting syllabi, academic concessions, online exams....
      ii. Classes and professors re-equipped to complete their courses
      iii. UBC is being very proactive
   g. Able to fund honorariums for Indigenous speakers at the walk-out last week!

[Nevena]
   ● Tell us more about the Education Renewal Fund, especially grad students

[Julia]
   ● Looking at different MA and Doctoral degrees
      ○ How we can change these up to make them better
   ● Not so much academic/research, but professional readiness

[Nevena]
   ● Being seeing a lot of talk about preparing the student for careers instead of the academic route .

New Business

Update on Climate Strike support - Cristina

[Cristina]
   ● Spoke to AMS HR and Manager about giving staff time off to go participate
      ○ The same thing as last year - sending out an internal memo to employees, supervisors will accommodate this time off
      ○ Sending this out this week
   ● Spoke to AMS Communications Manager
      ○ Prepared to create digital content to promote the strike + UBC 350 communication
   ● Please read over the document from Michelle re: UBC 350 demands from the strike
[Nick]
- What groups have you invited? How are we planning on making this meeting an outcome driven meeting?

[Cristina]
- EUS, Indigenous Committee, UBC 350
- We want an outcome decision meeting
- We want the Council to endorse the outcome
- So many different advocacy situations we want flexibility outcomes (up to VPX and Executive)

[Brandon]
- What about UBC Social Justice Centre?

[Cristina]
- Yes, we can invite them as well.

AMS Advocacy Goals - Cristina

[Cristina]
- Two parts to this:
  - Advocacy Committee Goals
  - Long-term External Advocacy
- Long-term External Advocacy
  - VPX works on a long-term timeline for advocacy to achieve goals
  - We need consistency year-to-year to achieve goals
  - I've picked up a few things in two years as VPX that need continuity
- Four main topics:
  - Federal Advocacy Gap
    - Mainly graduate students (not included in UCRU)
  - Outline/Standards for Consultation
  - Work with Indigenous Committee on Advocacy
    - Creating a timeline for advocacy for the next year
      - Action items, meaningful consultation with the Indigenous Committee
  - Advocacy Timeline

[Nevena]
- I like timelines. We should get one at the start of each term.
[Julia]
- Need one for VPAUA as well.

[Nevane]
- Acronyms: would love some more context!

[Nick]
- Looking at the goals now (we need better transition for Chairs!), three of five goals are policy-based. With the lack of AMS Policy Advisor, we can hit the other two goals. I will make sure this happens.

[Cristina]
- I will keep to the Advocacy Committee updated on a possible draft partnership (MOU) with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations
  - They have much more influence in Ottawa
  - Would be a win for UCRU (more influence, esp grad students) and a win for CASA (200,000+ new students under their wing)

**Adjournment**
Next meeting will be held Monday, March 15th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm