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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>UPass Suspension</b>
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>April 22, 2020</b>
<b>MOTION</b>	<p>BIRT Council approves a temporary suspension of the U-Pass contract for the months of May to August.</p> <p>BIFRT Council may vote to bring the program back in its original form for UBC students before August 31, after consultation with UBC and GSS, and it must give Translink 30 days notice to terminate the suspension period.</p> <p>Note 1: Process for how to refund students who did not use their U-Pass in April is still being determined. Council will be notified of the process.</p> <p>Note 2: Extension of suspension beyond the end of August may be considered at a later date.</p>
<b>PREPARED BY</b>	Cristina Ilnitchi, VP External Affairs
<b>DOCUMENTS</b>	N/A

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**DESCRIPTION &  
RATIONALE**

With social distancing measures in place and with bus fare (but NOT seabus or skytrain) being free currently, we had many students asking for a refund for their pass. Over the last few weeks we worked with student unions, post-secondary institutions, Translink, and the provincial government to negotiate a temporary plan to move forward with.

In keeping with the principles of the program, that it is universal and it supports student affordability, a number of options were considered for how to proceed. After negotiations and the agreement of all parties, it was determined that two things would happen moving forward: (1) short-term: a process would be determined to refund students who had not used their U-Pass in April and (2) longer-term: the UPass program would be suspended and individual schools, on a month by month basis, can decide when they want to bring the program back online for their students.

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**BENEFITS**  
Reputational,  
Financial,  
Sustainable, Social

Saving students money during a time where transit usage is substantially lower, travel is restricted, and many are facing financial hardship.

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**RISKS**  
Financial,  
Operational,  
Reputational

Some students (possibly essential workers, students who still need to continue to work, those taking care of others, etc) will still need to take transit and the cost for their pass will go from \$41 a month to \$98+. We will **not let those students fall through the cracks** and we are quickly looking at opportunities to increase subsidy supports for the passes students with financial hardship need in May and beyond during COVID-19.

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**COSTS**  
Financial,  
Resources, Lifecycle

Some students have increased costs but we're working on delivering subsidies. Important to note that the refund model for April is not a possibility beyond that month and this program needs to continue to be universal if it is to continue.

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**TIMELINE**  
Implementation  
Timeline

May to August, with the possibility of extension

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**CONSULTATION**  
Internal & External  
Groups

Advocacy Committee  
President  
UBC GSS  
UPass Advisory Committee (university representatives, student unions)  
Translink  
UBC

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**ATTACHMENT #1 – Attachment Name**