AMS Advocacy Committee
Agenda of January 17, 2019

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Yash Gurnani (Councilor), Riley Ty (Councilor), Andy Wu (Councilor), Juliana Craig (Student-at-Large)

Regrets: Cole Evans (Councilor)

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order
• 5:06pm called to order

Approval of Agenda
• Moved by Yash, seconded by Ty
• Unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes
• Moved by Max, seconded by Ty
• Unanimous consent.

VP External Affairs Update
• Cristina:
  o Federal advocacy: meeting with MPs that we didn’t get a chance to meet in Ottawa
  o Provincial Sexual Violence Working Group was created, had a consultation call with SFSS, AMS, and UVSS
    ▪ Got to give feedback on draft action plan
    ▪ Lots of work still needed, more voices need to be included
  o We’re meeting again with the provincial Student Housing Working Group
    ▪ Rent with Rights will be presenting at the meeting, having a discussion on student housing rental rights with universities from across BC
  o Equity Caucus
    ▪ Met with UBC’s Equity and Inclusion Office for consultation on the ToR, will be synthesizing feedback from groups and coming back to Advocacy Committee with that information
  o Transit
    ▪ Preparing for next steps at different government levels of Skytrain advocacy – municipal government will be engaging on conversations soon and we will be at those meetings
    ▪ Attending Rapid Transit Community Coalition to meet with other stakeholders
• Yash: Is the student housing legislation a part of the RTA?
Cristina: No, it was separated from RTA, understand that student housing is a special situation but that doesn’t mean rights aren’t needed

Andy: What’s insufficient about the SVWG?
  Cristina: Great that this group was created but draft plan needs a lot of work and timeline is tight, more consultation required going forward and longer timeline, we’ll be connecting with the group to let them know our thoughts going forward

VP AUA Update

Max:

- Engaged in budget consultations with UBC
  - Started in December, overview of Excellence Fund and VP Students and Provost offices, attended a student consultation and Associate Deans consultation meeting
  - Supporting the creation of an OER fund, undergraduate research, Integrated Health Centre
  - So far, advocacy is going well, we’re hopeful we got some of our asks in, it’s been a transparent process so far and we might successfully secure $7 million or more for our asks

Fall Reading Break

- Consultation response is great – over 6,000 people engaged
- There is adequate time for completion
- Report is coming for endorsement to Council on the position on Reading Break
- Student Senate Caucus position matters a lot in this conversation, driving initiative

Academic Concessions Policy Working Group

- March 1-31 is consultation period for community and students (most likely)
- Draft is almost done but needs to go to committee first

Mandatory syllabi policy was passed after years of advocacy

PURE pilot project

- Advocated for money to go to undergrad research experience program, it’s being funded $1 mil
- To be used for innovative way to involve undergrad students in research
- This is an amazing example of UBC Admin, Senate, and the AMS collaborating to impact student life in a major way

Stadium Neighbourhood

- Original plan was 1/3 rental but Working Group was favourable to change proportions
- Making it 2/3 rental hopefully UBC community (staff, students, faculty) housing – around 500,000 added square footage for rental if that happens
- Andy: is the UBC community housing rental?
  - Max: yes
- Riley: for the fall ready break consultation, many of my constituents were confused by the survey, didn’t realize it was only one extra day off
Max: we were explicit in the email and the models showed a 4-5 day break
- Jules: Have we discussed the concern that if it’s less than a 4-day week then people may not show up to other classes for the rest of the week?
- Max: We’re having the broken weeks conversation
- Andy: Why were people opposed to the syllabi policy?
  - Max: They wanted to change language around need to include estimated costs of textbooks, there was opposition to this because it would make language too vague and it would endanger the principle of what it was saying

Academic Experience Survey Consultation – Max
- Max: (spent the rest of advocom taking the committee through the entire question list)
  - Last year had best turn out, not changing incentives this year
  - Max made a presentation to the Committee on the AES
  - Andy: Are you including UPass awareness?
    - Max: No transit questions other than effect of commute on academics
  - Riley: Should questions about the AMS go last in the survey if we’re trying to be less AMS-centric?
    - Max: That doesn’t impact the survey results since we only look at completed responses
  - Yash: What if student click yes on the sexual violence questions and then decide they don’t want to do them anymore – can they leave?
    - Max: Yes – can click back
  - Yash: Should we include the accessibility shuttle in question about services/supports usage and awareness?
    - Max: Sample size isn’t big enough, won’t be traceable in the results, perhaps we will explore adding it in the future
  - Andy: What if the identification questions don’t capture what you consider to be your background – especially the East-Asian selection that may not include all nationalities?
    - Max: You can select all that you identify with

Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:07pm.
THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
Agenda of February 14, 2019

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Riley Ty (Councilor), Juliana Craig (Student-at-Large)

Regrets: Cole Evans (Councilor), Andy Wu (Councilor), Yash Gurnani (Councilor),

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order
5:13pm

Approval of Agenda
Riley, Jules
Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes
Cristina, Riley
Unanimous approval

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates
- Max:
  - Have been sitting on the Policy 3 Review Committee, we submitted our report with recommendations for the Policy. We were a strong advocate to remove the 1 year time limit on complaints and when they can be filed.
  - Met with VP Academic Caucus
  - Adjudicated for large and small TLEF projects (funds OER projects, expanding curriculum, enhancing teaching and learning)
  - Stadium Road Neighbourhood Committee: Seems that project will stay at current square footage, wanted more but main goal is not decreasing density, think they’ll go to 2/3 rental instead of 1/3 aka a million square feet of rental. This is a huge win for students to see an increase of 500,000 square feet of rental!
  - Finished fall reading break and extended holiday break consultation, still finalizing report, needs to be amended to reflect that AMS isn’t taking a stance
  - Went to a conference on career services, met with other schools’ career services and was great to see what other institutions are doing that we could be doing better
  - Academic Policy Committee met, consultation for concessions policy is moving forward, also discussed Peter Wall institute, and withdrawals
  - Called into an open meeting of the Board of Governors Housing Action Plan Working Group to discuss the stadium road neighborhood.
  - Doing Policy Advisor interviews
o Went to Indigenous Committee Meeting, discussed different funding options and potential referendum, the group decided to go forward with the fee referendum
o Working on UBC budget consultation, we’re in a good position to get at least $7 million funded for the student priorities we have advocated for, including work learn jobs, community work learn pilot perhaps, OER fund, integrated health center, funding to expand jumpstart, and more.

o It is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and we’ve also received an update related to Policy 131 that was sent to the Board of Governors. We are giving feedback on the proposed Policy Review process.

o UBC passed new Policy 15 on tobacco and smoking due to cannabis legalization
o Had monthly meeting with VP Finance to discuss budget and divestment, office is currently working on a divestment report
o Current ombuds person office is being reviewed and VPAUA office is engaging with it – we are supportive of it, hopefully getting more resources and reporting to more bodies

• Riley: How much money will Skytrain cost UBC? Have they decided how much they’ll give
  o Cristina: Conversations ongoing, they’re still working with other regional partners to figure it out, I am engaging in these conversations as they develop

• Riley: How did the Indigenous Committee get to that dollar amount?
  o Max: They had a private meeting and determined that dollar amount on their own. I fully support their independence to decide on this referendum on their own and I hope we all support the yes-side of the referendum.

• Juliana: So AMS isn’t taking a stance on Fall Reading Break?
  o Max: We are not taking a stance for a Fall Reading Break in 2019/20. We will actively be advocating for a Senate Working Group to review the academic schedule to make a Fall Reading Break possible in 2020/21, after community consultation.

VP External Affairs Updates

• Cristina:
  o Met with UBC VP External office to talk about copyright advocacy with U15 schools based on UCRU asks, how we can possibly work together
  o Max and Marium will be presenting to the UNA on our position on the proposed bylaw changes (student representation needs to be on their board) next week and discuss consultation moving forward
  o Calling Vancouver City Councilors to talk about Skytrain to UBC and other municipal student issues
  o Had another call with the Sexual Violence Working Group and connecting in with Minister Eby on it, asked to slow timeline down, said they are and bringing more people into consultation, I asked to be connected to the person from UBC that sits on the WG
  o Met with the Student Engagement Group (Translink) – we talked about student consultation on the Regional Transportation Plan
  o Preparing for Mayor’s Council tomorrow – will speak more to this in Transportation discussion
  o Student Housing Working Group met to talk about the Rent With Rights recommendations again and trying to find what the next step forward in this process is with other student unions we’re partnered with
Planning our transit campaign – in progress
- Has a conversation with BCCampus about OER advocacy both provincially and federally – how can we best continue our provincial advocacy on this and working with bigger group federally like OER Canada to do more ambitious work there

- Riley: How will the UNA consultation process work?
  - Cristina: Max and Marium will present, using feedback we got from Council, and then have a discussion with the UNA Board after to discuss what next steps look like

- Riley: What are the next steps for the Sexual Violence Working Group?
  - Cristina: I will continue to work with the group, particularly on what the first draft of their plan looks like, ask to bring more people into the consultation as work moves along

Transit Updates
- Cristina:
  - Exciting things happening with transit right now
  - Work on Skytrain to UBC is pushing ahead
    - Vancouver City Council – sent letters to all Councilors, spoke at meeting, their council voted in support of approving the project
    - Continuing to connect with Vancouver City Councilors in the aftermath to further develop relationship
    - Mayor’s Council – tomorrow the Mayors are voting whether to approve Skytrain as the technology for the project, sent all the Mayors letters, gathered student testimonials, will speak tomorrow and deliver them
  - Meeting with other student unions and Translink to talk about other student priorities around transit and how to best engage young people in this conversation
    - Talked about mobility-as-a-service and integrating platforms for different bus, car-sharing, bike-sharing services
    - Talked about how best to engage students in Regional Transportation Strategy
  - Preparing a Skytrain campaign
    - Important to continue garnering student support – dispel myths about the project, show community support, get students engaged

- Riley: Why are you using testimonials?
  - Cristina: They’re actually really important and effective, decision-makers want to know how these decision affect communities, a necessary part of compelling advocacy

- Juliana: What else are you advocating on to improve transit on Broadway?
  - Talking about beyond Skytrain to UBC, making sure that in the meantime there is solid bus capacity to bring students from skytrain at Arbutus to UBC until Skytrain to UBC open

Equity Caucus Updates
- Cristina:
  - Quick updates on this one because I’ll be bringing a full debrief to next meeting
  - Consulting on the terms of reference for the Equity Caucus
  - Lots of thorough feedback so far, want to continue collecting it
Definitely a lot of changes to be made that I’ll be bringing back to this group to figure out what the next steps forward are.

**Senate Updates**
- Max:
  - Talking to Senate about the AMS resourcing the Senate working group on fall reading break
  - Consultation on a senate issue shouldn’t end up on students
  - There was a lack of consultation with other affected stakeholders from Senate, didn’t consult with faculty staff and internal units
  - It would set an irresponsible precedent if it’s done without full consultation
  - Could affect people’s contracts TAs and employment contracts
  - Way forward - pushing for working group: disappointment, students won’t be able to see action on issue they see interest in, working group model has been successful, it will happen next year
- Riley: Were there any issues with the fact that AMS was in contravention of University’s Act with our elections?
  - AMS Elections are not within the purview of this committee. This is a matter to raise with AMS Elections Administrator or the UBC Senate Secretariat Office.

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

Adjournment at 6:13pm
AMS Advocacy Committee Minutes
March 7th, 2019

Present: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Riley Ty (Councilor), Andy Wu (Councilor), Yash Gurnani (Councilor)

Present via Phone: Cole Evans (Councilor)

Regrets: Juliana Craig (Student-at-Large)

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order:
5:04pm

Approval of Agenda
green shirt
Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes
Cristina
Unanimous approval

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates: Max
- UBC budget conversations, had call with Santa recently, budget is basically finalized, about 90% of our asks are being funded this year (e.g. work learn positions, work learn off campus, blue and gold campaign, blue and gold campaign, empower me used for all students, jumpstart, open educational resources [likely to get funding])
- Gender equity amongst athletics
- Policy #3 review, submitted a report for that, wrapping up
- Tuition consultations
- Academic concessions policy is out for consultation currently (compassionate grounds within the policy, SASC and SVPRO recognized
- Fall reading break report is close to being finalized

Questions
- Andy: question about finalization/make-up of working group for fall reading break
- Max: someone from senate will be appointed to this group, proposal will likely come to January 2020 meeting to be implemented for 2020/2021
- Riley: Academic concession policy review?
- Max: reviewed by academic concession policy committee (Max is chair), town hall is happening soon, advocacy committee will be having a meeting, consultation goes until March 31st

VP External Affairs Updates: Cristina
- Minister of advance education will be giving a budget echo announcement next Thursday in the nest, important to recognize a government that is responding to student issues
- Professional governance act, gathered information packet to better drive conversation next week (trying to get a date set for that meeting),
• Equity caucus: send out information document to other stakeholders, hoping to learn more
• UCRU: taking a leadership role in this, we need better governance, social media, website, get people engaged so we can develop better policy. discussed everything from mental health, sexual violence, climate advocacy, future skills development, loans, indigenous issues – trying to keep it broad and explore different advocacy areas
• Connecting with other higher education lobby groups to create a submission about open education – response was that it’s still really important to send feedback
• Collaborating with the sustainability collective around Clean BC and to do an event about how to best collaborate – want youth to be a big part of this plan
• Met with student housing working group, talked about rent with rights recommendations, how can we better understand what
• Mental health research for how we as student unions to better connect students to services and supports

Questions
• Andy: federal copy right act, consultation period has closed, what’s next?
• Cristina: formal feedback process for INDU is closed, but that doesn’t mean that there’s no room for political influence, especially with the elections coming up – answering copy write advocates concerns
• Andy: clean BC clarification, does it involve public institutions like UBC?
• Cristina: Clean BC will affect UBC around cleaner buildings, etc. – it demands UBC to step up along with other institutions – our goal is to have student a part of the process

Professional Governance Act Discussion: Cristina
• Document gives a brief summary of Professional Governance Act, gives opinions from government and other self-governance bodies.
• A lot of the details are being developed over the next couple years, next steps will be what the implementations and reality of this act will look like – I was mandated to connect with interested student groups to gather their feedback. I will connect with faculties and student groups who want to be a part of this process.
• Clarifying scope: it’s not in our best interest to get into the nitty gritty of this act and specific regulations, better to focus on the bigger ideas that will impact more significantly

Questions
• Andy: clarifying who this act falls under
• Cristina: Attorney General’s Office and maybe the Ministry Of The Environment
• Andy: any specific concerns from student?
• Cristina: haven’t heard any specific concerns yet, this will be happening at the round table, will bring this to the next Advocacy committee

Equity Caucus Review Discussion: Cristina
• When governance review happened, it wasn’t getting up off the ground and nothing really came out of it. Lowering the barriers to participation was an issue raised, there’s still something that we need to do to include marginalized communities.
• Had meetings with Equity and Inclusion Office and others, and outlined what the initial consultation looked like and some of the issues that were addressed throughout this process (e.g. what are the structural issues that prevent people from engaging)
• Proposal: we need to listen to students in this situation, there’s clearly a missing piece here and more consultation is needed (need a more thorough evaluation).
• We haven’t gone through a proper consultation process since 2016, we need a new and up to date version–student consultation will be key

Questions
• Max: likes the idea of creating an Equity and Inclusion framework, but it’s also important to give existing groups a seat at the table. Just going to the student body on this might be an issue, we should go to specific groups who are already doing this work.
• Cristina: Important to get a balanced and holistic interview of all perspectives
• Andy: points out how late we are in the year already, we can start consultation now but there’s a whole new group of leadership and they might not continue this work.
• Cristina: There has been in depth conversations about why this group might not be working, but we can lay a good foundation. Is aware that it’s not right to start engaging students on this and then drop the effort.
• Max: There needs to be some step forward –that is necessary so there needs to be follow through.
• Cristina: Can create a document with a plan of action going forward and context.
• Andy: should pass something binding in council to ensure this gets worked on with new council
• Cristina: should ensure council has the proper information
• Max: AMS could require that every constituency should have a framework, but there needs to be accountability will this.

Fall Reading Break Update: Max
• Report is almost done, still unsure if there should be a third party reviewing the data (leaning towards no) – doesn’t think it’s worth it to do this
• Report will be finished within the next two weeks but student senate caucus still needs to review as well.
• Creation of working group has been approved by committee, one seat will be graduate and other should be VPAUA (especially if they are a senator too) and one seat will be undergrad

Other Business

Adjournment
6:13 pm
THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

AMS Advocacy Committee
July 3, 2019

Members: Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External), Julia Burnham (VP AUA), Tanner Gjosund, Michelle Marcus, Nevena Rebic, Nicholas Harterre, Lindsey Palmer

Guests: Conor Doherty

Regrets: Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Harterre, Lindsay Palmer

Recording: Will Shelling, Neha Tadepalli

Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at: 11:20.
- Meeting is not quorate.

Approval of Agenda

- Moved: Tanner Gjosund
- Seconded: Michelle Marcus
  - That the agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

VP External Affairs Updates

- Planning SUDS
- Met with President of Universities Canada – talked about the federal election and possible areas of collaboration.
  - Works with CASA and really supports students.
- Presented in-person and sent in our submission for the BC Budget consultation (attached)
- Attended a meeting with the Moving in a Livable Region (MLR) group to discuss federal election efforts around transportation and Translink’s Transportation 2050 plan
- Met with provincial student union partners, meeting soon with BCFS and ABCS
- Met with UBC to discuss transit advocacy for this year, plans to collaborate on events early in Fall
- Went to monthly meeting between AMS/Santa Ono to discuss the U7 organization
  - Michelle: Excited about the U7 Alliance. Do you have any other information on this?
    - Cristina: New initiative, takes place once a year with university presidents attending, first meeting is next week in France. We’re putting together a letter with a proposal to have student engagement in this group.
- Met with Student Housing Working Group to move forward work on shared leading practices document on student rental rights/responsibilities
  - Tanner: How did the meeting go?
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of July 3rd, 2019

• Cristina: Myself and Andrew Parr put together a proposal for one of the recommendations. It will be shared with government, student housing units in institutions. Going from there, it was well received and others will be taking on writing the other recommendations. By the end of the summer, we’ll have the draft proposal ready for feedback and be presented to other groups as well. Presenting as “this is the direction that we want student housing to go toward”.

• Won election for UCRU chair

VP Academic and University Affairs Updates

Committee Meetings:
• Thrive Advisory Committee
  o Becoming a month, instead of a week, this year (November)
• Scheduling Project Steering Committee
• Learning Spaces Advisory Committee
• Ombuds Advisory Committee
  o Also joining the search committee for the Ombuds Officer vacancy
• Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Diversity and Inclusion
• Property Planning Advisory Committee
  o Voted to endorse a new site for the Arts Student Center
• Stadium Neighbourhood Planning Advisory
• Sexual Assault Awareness Month Planning
  o Kick-off meeting for January 2020
• Board of Governors
  o Full board meeting June 13th, Chris and I attended in audience
• SVPRO Director Search Committee
  o First meeting to create a shortlist of candidates
• Food Insecurity Action Plan
  o Neha attended as a proxy to the first session

Administrator Meetings:
• Been arranging many meetings with university administrators to introduce myself (alongside Chris, or my staff) and discuss our goals for the upcoming year.
  o Santa Ono, President
  o Ainsley Carry, VP Students
  o Matt Dolf, UBC Wellbeing
  o Andrew Parr, SHHS
  o Chad Hyson, Student Safety
  o Michael White, C+CP
  o Patty Hambler, Health Promotion
  o Joanne Proft and Aviva Savelson, C+CP
  o Peter Smailes, VP Finance
  o Duke Indrasigamany, Student Communications
  o Heather McCaw, VP Development and Alumni Engagement
  o Robin Ciceri, VP External

Projects:
• Open Scholarship Award
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of July 3rd, 2019

- Working with CTLT and the Library to discuss creating an award to recognize faculty, staff and students excelling in Open Scholarship at UBC

- OER Funding Proposal
  - Working with CTLT and the Library to draft a proposal that outlines the distribution of the new OER Fund ($1 million/4 years) from the Academic Excellence Fund.

- Academic Experience Survey (AES)
  - The AUA staff team is hard at work compiling the data from the 2019 AES and creating a report with recommendations to share at the July 31st council meeting

- Textbook Broke
  - Neha is working hard on our annual Textbook Broke campaign, set to launch in September

Advocacy Committee Goals Finalize

- Cristina: Any thoughts on the goals?
  - Michelle: Overall I really like the goals. One other idea I saw is having student engagement being twofold, engaging the ones who are already involved, and educating students how to get involved in advocacy and teaching them how to advocate.
    - Cristina: can add a line in there about how Advocom members can engage with our community to get involved in our campaigns. To note: specific topics around CERT and student grants are issue based, and are embedded into the goals.
  - Tanner: Is this in line with other years?
    - Cristina: More thorough, builds on previous years and adds on.
  - Tanner: Likes how the goals are a bit broad as it allows the committee to have a wide range of actions they can take through the year.
    - Cristina: I will get more input from the other committee members and it will go to Steering Committee.

BC Budget Submission

- Michelle: UBC also did a submission?
  - Cristina: Yes.
- Michelle: Didn’t know BC was that bad on grants.
  - Cristina: Yes, BC is really lacking in a comprehensive grant structure
  - Tanner: Alberta’s grant system is a lot more put together.
- Cristina: Any other additions for lobbying provincially going into this year?
  - Michelle: We should include students more in the process, it would increase how powerful it can make the work.
  - Tanner: The engagement issue is with students who aren’t present on campus. It’s easier for on campus, domestic students to get involved and be engaged.
- Cristina: Any thoughts about what more we can do? How else to engage students?
  - Michelle: Something a bunch of environmental groups can do is sending letters to ministers and having a tool to easily do it.
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of July 3rd, 2019

○ Tanner: making the information advertisable in a sense. If you don’t see the info you don’t necessarily see if something is wrong. If students can see that BC is an exception in regards to some services (ie grants), they may become more engaged.

Federal Election “Get Out the Vote” Campaign

● Presentation by Conor Doherty, AVP External
● Cristina: Want thoughts on the big 4 issues; reconciliation, climate, housing, students and education/students/post secondary. Our overall message is that students are voting, and we want to provide detailed information about this topic. We honed in on topics that are important to students and those they are passionate about on campus. Any thoughts on these? Anything that’s big that’s missing?
  ○ Michelle: I was wondering about health and mental health specifically. Tanner may be able to speak to this more?
  ○ Tanner: Being so provincially based there is not much variation on the policies the party can come out with. I don’t seem as much variation, as MSP is provincial based, I don't know if there would be as much stuff to engage in with that.

● Cristina: We wanted to pick things that students could strongly engage with. For example with housing students have visceral experiences with this (high rent, roommates, living with parents). So talk about where each party stands on housing etc. Climate & Reconciliation are widely discussed on the campus and will drive dialogue.

● Cristina: There are some things we can do to include issues without putting them in the big four. This is included in the presentation (which is to come). We'll have web pages about the big four, but can also link to party stances on other issues.
  ○ Tanner: Immigration and Refugees as a topic of conversation for the election?
  ○ Conor: Also difficult to hone a specific plan as the parties haven’t released detailed policies yet. So our rollout about policy-specific messaging will roll out more late August. So we don’t have to lock in a detailed framework now, but need to have a basic structure

● Michelle: How will you compile info from the parties in a way that is fair & balanced but not so fair & balanced that it becomes unbalanced
  ○ Conor: I have been researching policy platforms, and looking at what the parties are saying. How I’m thinking about going about it is looking at the colour of the parties. Colour code the issues, (orange NDP under climate action), while also bullet pointing their policy stances and quotes from leaders underlining the party’s view. That way it is easy to look at but the information is also there. We’re basically going to display what the parties have highlighted in their platforms as their main strategies, and what the federal leader has also said on the matter. So if you care a lot about this issue you can easily see with confirmed info what each party says and plans about it.
AMS Advocacy Committee

Minutes of July 3rd, 2019

- Tanner: Who is included? Smaller parties, independents, etc
  - Cristina: We have a criteria. Going to include the top four, based on debates, polling etc.
  - Conor: From a logical sense, Canada has had four main parties (liberals, conservatives, Greens, NDP), and who knows what will change later this year but right now there are four nation-wide parties.
  - Cristina: even in the past when we did our municipal election campaign, we got pushback from students that we weren’t being neutral. We replied with our methodology and we actually got responses back from the students who then understood how we were going about it. We want to tell students info to be able to empower them to get informed and vote but not tell them how to vote.
  - Conor: Not to say we won’t have options for smaller parties to have a voice. One of our ideas was to hold campaign days for various parties to come in and campaign in the Nest. Have a three hour block to campaign. 4 days for the four major parties, and the fifth day could be for smaller parties.

Quebec’s Bill 21 Discussion

- Cristina: Quebec passed a law that prevents public sector workers from wearing religious symbols. Prevents muslim women from wearing hijabs, people from wearing crosses etc. The reason why I bring this up is how controversial it is and the public response it is provoking. Students in Quebec, specifically the Mcgill student union, have reached out asking for our support in a letter they are writing to the federal government. They want to talk about the effect on post-secondary instructors, the disproportionate effect on already marginalized communities. They are dissatisfied with the provincial government’s actions/responses. What do you think about the AMS signing on? I don’t think that this is something that we need to necessarily hesitate to sign onto, it’s students exercising their voice. We don’t do this very often but it is something important we could do it for.
  - Michelle: Could argue that it is justified by our values of inclusion and equity
  - Tanner: And our student pop from Quebec
- Michelle: What effect will this letter have? What is the federal government going to necessarily do?
  - Cristina: These are the questions I have too. Have a call with the Mcgill student union, going to see an early version of the letter and I will check in with those questions. I’ll will provide more info as it comes.

Other Business

- Michelle: are we having the Equity plan discussion?
  - Cristina: We will, coming up in the next 1-2 meetings

- Michelle: Rodney came to council speaking about Indigenous students’ representation at Council. I thought what he was saying lends a pathway to of course discussing
indigenous representation, but also the broader scope of representation on AMS Council and how to make more voices heard there. Who is in the room absolutely impacts what is being discussed and the decision making. Having a broader chat about representation and including indigenous representation within that would be a good way to tackle the broader issues and Rodney’s concerns

- Cristina: I think that is definitely going to have a dual home in governance committee and advocom. Governance committee looking into what it would look like to have Indigenous representation specifically on AMS council, so on our end, we could have a broader conversation at the equity plan working group

Adjournment
- The meeting will adjourn 1 hour after the meeting is called to order.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:51pm
AMS Advocacy Committee
Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2018

Members: Max Holmes (Chair – VP Academic & University Affairs), Cristina Ilnitchi (VP External Affairs), Andy Wu (Councilor), Kate Burnham (Councilor), Hannah Xiao (Councilor), Dylan Braam (Councilor), Daniel Lam (Student-at-Large)

Recording Secretary: Julia Burnham (Academic Campaigns and Outreach Commissioner)

Guests: Michelle Marcus (AVP Sustainability), Roshni Pendse (AVP Academic), Jason Tockman (Policy Advisor)

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order
6:05pm

Approval of Agenda
Max Moved, Andy Seconded, unanimous consent

Approval of Minutes
Max Moved, Daniel Seconded, unanimous consent

VP Academic & University Affairs Updates
● Max:
  o Been away on vacation for the past little bit
  o Having discussions on tuition increases over the next year
  o Lots of work on policy and the Academic Experience Survey report
  o VPDAE search is now over
  o Almost done VP Finance and Operations search
  o Will be sitting on the UBC AVP Health and VP External Affairs search committees

VP External Affairs Updates
● Cristina:
  o Been working on the municipal election with the Get Out The Vote campaign and materials
  o Meeting soon with the mayoral candidates and ensuring we are bringing up student issues
  o Currently in contact with other student unions about Iranian student PR delays
  o Exploring millennium line extension advocacy, presenting to council
  o Meeting with Darren Fernandes about student financial aid
  o Research on affordability for post-secondary education to develop discourses for a one-day summit at UBC for student associations
  o Finalizing submission for the Copyright Act review

● Dylan:
This is the first meeting of Advocom since the SASC decisions. I would like to note that this was absent in both of your reports. Please provide an update.

The Chair noted that there will be a fulsome discussion of the SASC decision at the July 11th Council meeting and that councilors questions will also be addressed there.

- Max:
  - A decision was made, there was a discussion with council about the decision. We’ve learned we need to improve on consultation and reaching out to communities.
  - We realized quickly it was the wrong decision, which is why we reversed the decision.
  - The town hall was a good first step, a document of minutes and progress will be sent soon.
  - There’s been lots of outreach recently with the resource groups and the SASC moving forward.
  - We’ve learned we need to reach out to the membership more on matters like this and to continue to create structures for marginalized groups.

- Cristina:
  - We recognize we made a lot of mistakes throughout the process and that it was flawed.
  - We heard our membership and we are thankful that they were able to call us out.
  - We recognize there was a lot of hurt that came out from this decision.
  - We have a lot of action items moving forward so that we do better in the future.

- Kate: What action items?

The Chair, with consent from the committee, asked members to pose all further questions at Council on July 11th. It was noted that if there was time this could be added as a discussion item for the committee but there was an extensive agenda that the committee already approved for their official business.

- Andy: Is there an update on the copyright review? What is the main point of contention?
- Cristina: We wanted to include the importance on open educational resources for students and entrenching their importance within the act.
- Dylan: I would look into the regulations as well.
- Jason: The government is doing a review of the act right now and is soliciting feedback on this. We are seeking to make sure that OERs are not rolled back.

Approval of Committee Goals

- Max:
  - We did not get a chance to do key performance indicators yet, but can discuss this as a committee.
  - This was emailed to everyone ahead of time.
  - We have some routine goals first. In code, there’s very little aside from advocacy and keeping the VP Academic accountable.
  - I think Cristina and I should be bringing something to this committee every meeting for review.
  - Are there any comments or KPI suggestions?

- Cristina:
We can bring more presentations to you and make sure you are an active part of our advocacy work

- Daniel: That would be great. If there’s anything that you want to consult us on, bring it up in updates.
- Kate: A good KPI would be the amount of documents sent out and the amount of time the members had to review them in order for us to give proper feedback.
- Andy: It would be good if we knew what the discussions happening were in order for us to give feedback.
- Cristina: We could send out the updates preemptively?
- Max: Changing ‘assistance’ to ‘oversight’ in terms of code. Will also be sending committee documents well ahead of time, including information relating to executive updates.
- Kate: Could we specify the amount of time?
- Max: Code says 48 hours ahead of time, we can write this.
- Max: The next goal is to hold the AMS accountable to engage with more diverse student groups. This sort of ties into the next two goals. This should be a routine goal for this committee.
- Hannah: It says hold the AMS accountable, we can word this better since this committee is part of the AMS.
- Max: Next goal, “Revitalize the Equity and Student Issues Caucus to take on a more meaningful role within AMS advocacy efforts”
- Max: This was supposed to be formed two years ago and have struggled. KPI could be that every spot is filled and starts meeting in September at least once a month.
- Cristina: We have had a difficult time trying to find people to fill these spots. KPI could be the active ways to disseminate this.
- Andy: Why don’t we ask the resource groups to fill positions?
- Max: A good idea, but we have some positions that don’t have a resource group – i.e. commuter students.
- Max: Need to add a KPI to make this a low barrier process.
- Max: Next goal, “Work in partnership with Indigenous student communities to establish a structure for increased, autonomous Indigenous representation on campus”
- Max: This should be a goal within the AMS as a whole.
- Dylan: Then that completely takes away what is meant by the word autonomous. The AMS is a parliamentary supremacy.
- Max: There are autonomous Indigenous groups on campus. Indigenous representation within the AMS, perhaps for wording.
- Max: KPI – we should create something made by Indigenous communities by September.
- Max: Last goal, “In consultation with UBC student groups, take a stronger position on social issues that would directly or indirectly affect UBC students’ wellbeing”
- Roshni: For every issue brought to advocacy committee, we could draft a letter or response? Could be hard to represent all students.
- Cristina: I could bring our stance on referendums, Trans Mountain Pipeline etc.
- Kate: AMS should be representing on things that are appropriate to speak to on the student experience, a focus on student priorities.
- Max: Yes I agree, but also we could stand alongside moral values of our membership.
- Kate: Yes, but you can’t play favorites for different views on campus. Need to be cautious when there are dissenting opinions on campus, there’s a place for referendums on this too.
- Cristina: It’s important to be flexible on these things
• Dylan: The more you make statements, the more it dilutes your convictions. Each policy you take a stand on is another opportunity to alienate students. All it takes is one or two issues.
• Max: It’s a good goal, some wording can change. This is a conversation that we can have in more depth.
• Max: I will send this out with the KPIs for approval.

**New External Mental Health Advocacy Policy**
• Max: These policies are for consultation, they will go for approval at the next meeting.
• Roshni: We wanted to formulate this policy to direct where we are advocating for stronger mental health supports. We have consulted VPAUA, VPX, Speakeasy, Policy Advisor.
• Max: Do we support the idea of this policy?
• Dylan: This is an example of a policy that is very pertinent to students. This is a great opportunity to push UBC.
• Daniel: I like the intersectional approach to mental health in this policy, e.g. point 5
• Max: We will bring it back to committee for approval, there are a few more internal consultations to do. We can look at maybe external consultations with student groups.

**New External Environment and Climate Change Advocacy Policy**
• Max: This policy has changes that aren’t reflected in the emailed version. It came originally from a policy on UBC divestment from fossil fuels, which we are mandated by referendum. Climate change advocacy and zero waste are new from a policy standpoint.
• Dylan: I think that the document does a good job of this, but we need to highlight that the divestment of fossil fuels cannot be removed. Putting it in a policy with things that can be changed could run the risk of this changing. We could change divestment into a reference point, or a separate document that cannot be touched.
• Max: We can make this more clear in the history section of the policy. AMS Sustainability, Sustainability Collective, VPX, VPAUA and Policy Advisor have been consulted on this policy.
• Dylan: Footnote edits needed for the hyperlinks to preserve them for the future if links are broken.

**Trans Mountain Pipeline Statement Discussion**
• Cristina:
  o We’ve been talking to students to see the movement that the sustainability collective has lead over the past year taking a stand on climate justice.
  o This is part of a larger discussion on the AMS being active on social justice movements that affect students.
  o This came from the action in the media of Canada purchasing the Kinder Morgan pipeline. There has been a lot of dissent on this.
  o I understand that we don’t want to put a statement out there that won’t be actionable.
  o This statement was going to be framed as an opposition to the pipeline, but a call to action for students to get involved in the conversation about climate action on campus.
  o We are opposed because of environmental damage, the burden on students and youth. We stand in solidarity with students speaking up against climate change.
  o This pipeline will be running through the backyards of Indigenous communities and the fact that Canada supports UNDRIP says that we value the consent of Indigenous peoples on the policies that affect them.
  o The AMS as a whole is working on reconciliation efforts and to better include Indigenous voices.
There is obviously a lot of contention on the Trans Mountain pipeline, but I think that at the end of the day dozens of Indigenous communities did not give consent to the pipeline and that it does disproportionately endanger their communities.

Lastly, a call to action to get students involved in climate change.

Kate: I think it would be really inappropriate for the AMS to make a statement on this right now. As you said, it’s a really contentious issue. As per census polls, the majority of Canadians in BC support the pipeline.

Max: AMS has taken somewhat of a stance on this in the past. Jude Crasta, former VPX, did take a stance against the pipeline. The AMS has taken stances on issues that don’t necessarily have great public approval, i.e. gay marriage when it was divisive. That’s not the same issue as this one, but we shouldn’t limit ourselves from action if we think it’s divisive.

Kate: Definitely different now that the federal government has purchased the pipeline. Not a straightforward political move. I recognize there’s a social responsibility, I still don’t think it’s the place for the AMS as a small group of people to make this decision. You also represent a lot of students who work in this industry and have different perspectives on this. The AMS had a referendum on this similar discussion with the divestment, which could be more appropriate.

Dylan: I don’t want to attack the strawman, but to distinguish this from the gay marriage debate, public polling was not indicative of a divisive issue. In terms of Canada as a whole, over two thirds of Canadians support the pipeline. In Lower Mainland 50% support the pipeline, 39% oppose. I think it would be irresponsible to advocate on a position that was not in an electoral platform. There are particular aspects of this project that engage more of the AMS mand. There are several legal challenges of this pipeline, i.e. federalism. There is a lot of concern that First Nations rights were steamrolled through. The requirement for consultation with Indigenous peoples has now skyrocketed that federal government has purchased this as a public project. We could speak of our support for Indigenous rights in this. Need to be careful that we are framing this as a student issue.

Cristina: There are a couple pieces to this, the environmental piece, the support of Indigenous rights and the call to action for climate action. If we could frame the statement with the specific discourse about Indigenous peoples and their rights and ensuring its about the level of consultation that needs to be had, would that be more along the lines of what you are thinking?

Michelle: I think that making a statement opposed to the project would be consistent with the new environment and climate change advocacy policy and the fossil fuel divestment policy that the AMS is mandated to have. I think the framing of the statement is more around solidarity with nations who were not consenting to this and solidarity with students standing up for this. We could also include a recognition that the oil and gas industry in Canada is important economically to a lot of people and to include people employed in these industries in these conversations.

The Chair noted that the divestment policy only applies to UBC’s Investments and that the Environment and Climate Change Advocacy policy has not been adopted yet by the AMS.

Jason: Obviously the AMS should be accountable to their membership. Ideally, we would bring it forward to referendum, but I don’t think there’s time for that based on the court timeline. I don’t think the judges are going to be influenced by a student society’s opinion. There’s about 3-4 months for this to happen, time is of the essence. The only guide that we have for how
students feel is the divestment of fossil fuels policy, which was supported by 74% of the student body in the referendum.

The Chair encouraged committee members to try and not assume student support for a government advocacy position based off of a referendum about a university advocacy position that wasn’t directly related to the topic at hand.

- Andy: There’s more consultation to be done with students at large. We need to include not only the environmental groups on campus. I don’t agree that we need to have a referendum. Situations like these happen and we as a society need to take stances on social issues like this. Not doing any sort of advocacy work on this would be against what we’re talking about. It’s ultimately up to us.
- Kate: This group is maybe being a little shortsighted about what sustainability means on a global scale. The divestment decision happened four years ago. There are a lot of complicated facts about this pipeline re: construction and repair. As a blanket statement, there needs to be careful wording and scientific accuracy rather than a generic student liberal perspective.
- Cristina: I agree that there’s a lot of nuance in this conversation and that there would be opposition. There’s a standalone discussion about how Indigenous communities are implicated in this expansion of the pipeline, which I think is separate from the economics of it.

The Chair ended the discussion in the interest of time since the committee had gone over its allotted time by almost half an hour by this point.

- Max: We should continue this discussion in the future. It’d be good for us to come to consensus when possible. Cristina, if you could bring more information to the next meeting. Indigenous consent is probably the most important issue here. We want to make sure that we’re making an informed statement if we’re going to be making any statement.
- Cristina: I can draft up a couple different statements and what they’d look like and discuss further then.
- Andy: If we include every single perspective, it’s going to be so eclectic that it doesn’t matter.
- Kate: I would like to see it be factually based with links to sources. Indigenous rights should be more highlighted than contentious takes on climate change.
- Michelle: I want to point out that this would not be a policy about the AMS’s advocacy stance on the issue. This would be about bringing up discussion on a major social issue.
- Andy: Given this conversation, we should perhaps take another look at the environment policy. I’m not comfortable with the AMS using student resources to advocate on issues that do not directly pertain to students.
- Max: Please bring me back comments on the policy. There has been a lot of work and consultation that has gone into that policy. I am interested in opinions about the line about actively opposing fossil fuel extraction without the consent of Indigenous people line.
- Dylan: I am for it.
- Andy: I am not.
- Daniel: Probably yes.
- Kate: I disagree as long as actively stays in the wording. Lots of nuance with permitting process.
- Max: We can look at the word actively.
- Kate: You could change to morally.
Other Business
Adjournment
Next meeting two weeks from now. Adjourned 7:32pm.
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
02 AMS Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda
October 7th, 2019 at 4:00pm in NEST 3511

Attendance
Invited: Tyra, Cristina, Julia, Alireza, Brandon, Nevana, Nicholas, Michelle (non-voting)
Present: Tyra, Julia, Will Shelling, Alireza, Brandon, Nicholas, Nevana
Regrets: Cristina, Michelle (non-voting)
Recording Secretary: Will Shelling

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 4:05PM

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Minutes
BIRT the 2019-09-30 Minutes of the AMS Advocacy Committee be adopted as presented
Mover: Nicholas
Seconder: Julia

Chair’s Remarks
1. Introductions

Action Item Recap + Outstanding Business
1. Committee Year Goal Review
   No comments; everyone in agreement on goals
2. Update on Saudi Activist

Portfolio Updates
1. AMS VP External [Cristina Ilnitchi]
   Deferred until the next meeting
   Come out to the Federal Debate watch party downstairs!

2. AMS VP AUA [Julia Burnham]
   ● Tuition consultation has now started and is open until the end of the month
   ● Policy 131 review
     ○ Last meeting this week
   ● LT Leadership Team
   ● Met with BoG/GSS/AMS leadership
   ● VPS Advisory Board
- EIO/AMS Meet and Greet
- Meeting with Athletics regarding fee MOU
- Senate

[Alireza]: Update on allegations in the Frats?
[Julia]: All we can do at this point is to let the community be aware of SASC’s services. VP Admin is having a discussion in OpsComm about this at the council, but we’ll have to see what happens.
[Alireza]: Is it true that Frats have training for sexual violence?
[Julia]: Yes, this Wednesday, but I need to discuss this with the SASC, and the SASC training was newly added to the bylaws.
[Alireza]: Why was it added?
[Julia]: Systemic training.

New Business

1. Tuition Consultation + Budget [Julia]
[Tyra]: Last year it was 2-3% for international?
[Julia]: Last year it was 3%

[Nevena]: Can you give me an example of the Academic Excellence Fund?
[Julia]: One time funding for Jumpstart and collegia is an example, mostly focused on different student priorities.

[Julia]: Big conversation on the board is food insecurity.

[Alireza]: What if we don’t take part in that consultation?
[Julia]: I think we lose more than we gain by not taking part in that.

[Tyra]: Do we know the number for participation in the consultation?
[Julia]: Would need to look into it

[Nevena]: What can we do to get more involved?
[Julia]: I am thinking of doing a joint submission with GSS, UBCSUO, and AMS.

2. Open Educational Resources (OER) [Julia]
- Nominate faculty that use the Open Educational Resources
- Santa Ono may sign onto the letter
- May also be an article in the Ubyssey soon

[Brandon]: How are students supposed to go about nominating?
[Julia]: There’s a link we put out on the agenda and online, we advertise it on the AMS pages.
[Brandon]: Are students expected regularly to check for stuff like this?
[Julia]: No, this is one of a million things that go out.
3. Housing Survey Update [Cristina]

Adjournment
Next meeting will be held on October 21st, 2019 at 4:00pm in NEST 3511

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM