01 Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda
May 26th, 2020 at 2:00pm via Zoom

Attendees:
Invited: Joshua Kim, Mitchell Prost, Clara Sismondo, Emma Dodyk, Saad Shoaib, Kalith Nanayakkara, Georgia Yee, Shivani Mehta, Morgan Lorenz, Nevena Rebic
Present: Joshua Kim, Mitchell Prost, Clara Sismondo, Emma Dodyk, Saad Shoaib, Kalith Nanayakkara, Georgia Yee, Shivani Mehta, Morgan Lorenz
Regrets: Nevena Rebic

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:04pm

Land Acknowledgement

Chair’s remarks:
1. Introductions
2. Logistics
   a. Every friday there will be updates via email
   b. Email will be the preferred method of contact
   c. Shared drive will be sent shortly
3. Election of Vice Chair
4. Year plan and Committee goals

BIRT Shivani Mehta be elected Vice-Chair
Mover: Saad, Seconder: Kalith

Passed: Unanimously

Portfolio Updates
1. AMS VP External [Kalith Nanayakkara]
   a. BC Budget consultation coming up next month - finalization of document and a speech for that meeting is currently being prepared which entails two “asks”:
      i. First Ask:
         Support for OER - consulted with the provincial and UBC Christina Hendrix and Simon Bates on how to support OER, distance education, and increasing accessibility for students
      ii. Second Ask:
         Enrollment numbers are going to drop due to COVID19 - creates a problem for universities that rely on student fundies → UBC relies on international student funding to subsidize domestic student tuition costs.
As a public institution UBC should not be increasing costs, and need the provincial government to subsidize/support tuition. Reframing tuition costs as an investment and not a cost.

- International students are not included in programs such as CESB, therefore we need a mandate for all students to be receiving the support that they need. UBC is more reliant on student fees more than provincial money, but as a public education it should be the opposite.

b. Students need to access transit and they cannot afford it:
   i. The upass is suspended as of August 31
      - For upass to be in running we need every single student to be paying equal amount in, It costs 2,000$ a year for the 3 zone pass
      - We are currently setting up a subsidizing and budgeting program to be sponsoring students who need this money
      - VPEX is currently working with transit advisory council to establish this

c. University Neighbourhood Association Board
   i. Establishing relationships with other stakeholders, being able to advocate for the needs of students to these individuals

d. The VP External Goals rough draft has been created but will not be shared with the rest of the committee until the following meeting

Additional Comments:
- Right now uac is suspending the upass until Aug 31 but it does not impact the expiry day
- Signed papers (have been passed by council) in order to determine that UBC is allowed to restart UPASS agreement whenever as long as we give them an updates
- Every single student that is enrolled in classes at UBC will need to pay for upass, 4% of students can opt out of the upass is the cap because it doesn't apply for everyone
- Majority of students will not be in the lower mainland and so it isn't fair to impose this
- 31,000 students enrolled in summer courses, 8,000 grad students, 20% students in the lower mainland live with their families → budget is dependent on data that is outdated
- UVic has an opt in students society system but BC Translink operates differently, it has far less support than BC Transit does and therefore they must need to make enough money

2. AMS VP AUA [Georgia Yee]
   a. Will be publishing a COVID 19 survey specifically on UBC students because we do not have enough data, (it will be in addition to the Nest Survey and AES), currently working with GSS and UBC PAIR
b. 2 Submissions for the Board of Governors

i. **COVID19 student support**
   - Support student for the Athletics and Rec fee to be reduced in some shape or form (such as a credit back to your personal account SSC) ensuring that student fees being charged and reflecting the economic hardship that students are facing
   
   - Preservation of student priorities in the budget - hoping to get more coordination between ESA and the housing services team as well as making sure that UBC is willing to provide a similar program to the rental subsidy program for international students that do not qualify for the BCTRS
     a. Immigration post graduation work permits
     b. How student studying in different time-zones can be challenging
   
   - Academic integrity and access - the development of the gateway building which is going to be the new health services center, mental health and wellbeing resources, and online classroom practices

ii. **Policy SC17**
   - More information on this to follow, will be discussed in depth at the next meeting - Georgia had to leave at 2:34
   - No questions following Georgia's presentation, contact via email or message for further questions

**Additional Updates from VP External [Kalith]**

**Provincial Advocacy**
- The sexual violence and misconduct policy act does not have regulation or guidelines for post-secondary institution to implement in their policies) not survivor centric policies
- GSS and student housing → there is gonna be a lot of work for students to fall under RTA in case something like COVID happens again

**Federal Advocacy**
- Students not a part of student coalition or lobby group, we are part of certain organization like BCSF but now will be part of UCRU top national researchers
- If we formally become a part of this we may need to pass another referendum like are we going to leave UCRU like we did with Casa
- CASA had such diverse work and demographic that the priorities wouldn’t align as well a small school with 3,000 student population would have equal voting rights with UBC
which is 58,000 - also they have permanent policy members which add value and maintain consistency with student needs and relationship

New Business

1. Annual committee goals strategy planning for the next couple of years

[Emma Dodyk]: AMS and UBC is working towards long-term support for students, COVID has highlighted the cracks in the systems with student housing, and tuition costs
[Clara Sismondo]: 350 released its principles CFS endorsed it already and the ams would be encouraged to endorse it as well
[Mitchel Prost]: Online education, a smoother transition to have classes be accessible online
[Joshua Kim]: External Policy review (E4 and E10) and update the manual from 2018 rapid transit policy expired in 2018 is there a new version of the policy? This is something that will be brought up in the near future.
[Clara Sismondo]: taking a stand on the pipelines, ams stance on climate change and environment policy they were supposed to have a meeting in March and April but had to delayed due to the pandemic, something that this committee should look into again
[Emma Dodyk]: students having issues with proctorio being uncomfortable with being filmed
[Shivani Mehta]: Directly addressing proctorio concerns, Bringing up recommended programs that are more commonly used, Bringing the faculties attention to authentic assessment and what feels just, advocating for student comfortability as well as maintaining integrity

Action Item

- When we set these goals are there objective goals or quality goals on standards and expectations of this committee?
- Setting standards to make sure that we are specific in our goals and how we can achieve these goals (SMART goals framework)
- Review the External Policy from 2018 to see it can be updated
- Resources/Links https://justrecoveryforall.ca and https://www.ucru.ca

Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on June 9th at 2pm via Zoom

There will be no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2: 57pm