



AMS Council - July 15th 2020
Executive Updates

Office of the Vice President External Affairs

The past couple of weeks have been some of the busiest yet for the AMS External Affairs Office. From an 11 hour mediation meeting with the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) to the launch of the long-awaited Transit Subsidy Form, there are a lot of updates which will be given to Council in more depth in the form of presentations.

The mediation with the UNA while strenuous, helped us ensure the prevalence of a strong voice for students on the UNA Board of Directors. By securing a special representative status, amendments to their constitution, the creation of a special advisory committee and other changes, the AMS was successfully able to come to a tentative agreement with the UNA to prevent the organization from attempting to completely write off students from their board. This agreement is only binding however if the UNA Board of Directors, AMS Council and the UBC Board of Governors approve of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the two parties. We're excited to work with the UNA to ensure that students have an equitable way of accessing their Board and having their voices heard.

Another massive update is the official launch of the Transit Subsidy Form which is live on the AMS website. In order to financially support AMS members who use monthly Translink Passes, this form is administered by the External Affairs team. Reimbursements are credited to students' SSC accounts which can be used for tuition and such payments. You can access the form and find more information here: <https://www.ams.ubc.ca/transit-subsidy-form-2020/> . The form will serve students using transit during the months of July and August. We're also currently in conversation with



Translink and other U-Pass members through the U-Pass Advisory Committee to find a solution for the fall.

The team has also been working very hard on Equity Based Grants, the initial research phase has concluded, with consultation beginning on the 9th of July. Following the consultation period, the next steps include looking into a pilot program and using our findings to advocate to all levels of government to implement Equity Based Grants. Feel free to contact us for further information or insight!

All other advocacy has been going as usual, with the team splitting time between municipal, provincial and federal matters. From attending a roundtable discussion with Premier John Horgan, to speaking at City Council, we are working around the clock to ensure that the AMS's priorities are voiced in an effective manner. Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU) are on the road to formalization as well, with me (VP External Affairs) being elected as the Chair of the Governance Committee. More information to keep council educated on UCRU can be expected at the next Council meeting.

Meanwhile please reach out to our office for any further information or updates. For general queries please email vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca, for Transit Subsidy Form-related questions please contact prasscom@ams.ubc.ca. We would also like to thank the teams over at the Graduate Student Society and UBC for playing a key role in the establishment of the Transit Subsidy Form.

Warm Regards,

Kalith Nanayakkara ([he/him](#))

Vice-President External Affairs

AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver

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