AMS Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda
[June 23rd, 2020] [2:00PM PST] on Zoom
https://zoom.us/j/99848447126

Attendance
Invited: Clara, Emma, Georgia, Joshua, Kalith, Mitchell, Saad, Morgan, Nevena (left at 3:00), Shivani
Present:
Regrets: Mitchell

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:05PM

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Minutes

BIRT the 02 2020-06-09 Minutes of the AMS Advocacy Committee be adopted as presented

Mover: Kalith
Seconder: Nevena

Chair's Remarks
1. Introductions
2. Committee Goals + Climate Change Consultation Talk Plan

Portfolio Updates
1. AMS VP External [Kalith]
Kalith: Not much has changed. Finalized the goals and BC budget submission due on the 26th, will be handing in on the 25th. Saad and Kalith will be recording the budget submission video today. Transitioned to relationship building with federal level now. Appointing meetings with different federal ministries. Equity-based grants work started.

Saad: Equity-based grants' problem is that it lacks research in a global context. Designed by Will Sheiling. Equity-based grants for provincial gov't to establish for marginalized communities in post-secondary education. Partnering up with AMS resource groups for a pilot program to lobby the provincial government. This pilot program would be a part of supporting a certain number of students with post-secondary education and will continue to next year's portfolio. Also, advocating for race-based data to the federal gov't.

Kalith: UAC has started to meet. UCRU chair was elected and Kalith running for chair of governance committee. Housing advocacy is being worked on and is talking to UBC VP Admin.
Working on UPass subsidy program budgeted at around $1 million. Relationship building with both the government and opposition parties.

2. AMS VP AUA [Georgia]

Georgia: Athletics and rec fee waived for 2020-21 year. Roadblock is that UBC IT system is old. Can’t generate revenue through concerts, etc and need to meet operation costs. The fee is being deferred for the second term, it will be assessed based on credits being taken.

AMS Fee has been waived as well. We are renewing empowerme in the fall as its last year is coming to an end - consistent mental health services (here2talk) provincial COVID 19 survey will close on the 28th AES report in the next few weeks Guiding principles for fall 2020 published on the keepteaching website → working with Kieran Forde to make a student-facing version to know what to expect Michael Korenberg (former Board Chair) has resigned due to questionable tweets endorsing racist values - we are navigating how to proceed with the interim board chair. What does this mean for our advocacy going forward?

Clara: Keep Learning website is not as engaging as they think - maybe use Canvas? Georgia: the Athletics and Rec fee from UBC is still being charged in the W2 even though there is a lack of accessibility for students being able to go the gyms. Yet we still need to endorse health and wellness programs. Current IT system → can change all or nothing for the athletics fee. Students will not have to pay until the second term but they will be assessed the full year in the second term. We are advocating for refunds for W1 to get a refund. It will not be possible to completely zero this - W2 they will be charged at the full amount. It will be credit based → they are planning on opening the pool and birdcoop in reduced capacity. Until we figure out a solution, students won’t have to pay.

Emma: what is the difference between AMS athletics fee and UBC rec fee?

Georgia: The AMS fee is 21$ and makes up 1 mill for the athletics and fee 232$ for full Rec Fee. They are relying on their expected fee to maintain operational costs due to the lack of concerts and events.

Emma: so it pays for facilities and staff? I see. I am sure the engineering executives will ask about this.

Georgia: we are currently looking at ways to reduce the athletics and rec fee.

Nevena; so they would have to do the reimbursement individually? I see.

Josh: Is there still an advocacy thing going on with the UNA?
Kalith: 2 weeks ago, we have worked with UBC to find a mediator - I can’t talk about it because everything is confidential. I will let you know as soon as I can ensure that student representation stays within the UNA.

Discussion

1. UPass Suspension

Kalith: We are setting up a subsidy to provide support depending on the application and need of the student. We don’t know what’s going to happen exactly but we have to work with UPass because the contract is constraining without a lot of loopholes.

2. Climate Change Consultation Talk + Statement on JustRecovery Principles

Josh: EUS clubs and organizations. Clara has been making changes on it but everyone needs to work on it. There is a google form being used if the AMS is publicly planning on endorsing principles. Please let me know if you are planning?

Kalith: Tomorrow morning we are having a meeting with Cole to learn more about the endorsement process.

Joshua: it might be better to endorse the

ACTION ITEM: we can bring this up to the AVP sustainability - KALITH

*** Shivani, our note-taker had to leave for another meeting so the transcript is missing for the second half of our meeting. Apologies for the inconvenience, but here is a summary of what happened ***

Joshua, Kalith, and Georgia are working on a statement to accompany the committee motion endorsing the JustRecovery principles that will be sent to the council soon.

Climate Change Consultation Talk plan will be continuously worked upon.

3. Campaign for Anti-Racism

Various ideas were discussed. Joshua, the chair, will be contacting Niki and Eric for a potential social media campaign to promote anti-racism educational resources that will be published on the AMS website for students to access.

4. Academic Freedom

Georgia brought up a statement that she’s been working on regarding academic freedom, freedom of speech, and what the university should do to create a respectful environment. There were discussions of what occurred during the recent BoG meeting regarding freedom of speech and academic freedom and what the university should do to actively participate in a movement to combat racism after their recent pledge.
New Business

Adjournment
Next meeting will be held ---

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18