



**AMS Council - September 30th, 2020**  
Executive Updates

**Office of the Vice President External Affairs**

These past couple weeks have been increasingly busy with the processing of the U-Pass Exemptions and the calling of a snap election by the provincial government.

We are very excited to announce that the AMS will be partnering up with the BCFS, ABCS, UVSS, and the majority of student unions in BC on this provincial election's Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign. The aim of our GOTV campaign is to ensure that students are educated on the election, and have safe and accessible ways of voting.. The website for the Get Out the Vote campaign is now live at [www.takeitover.ca](http://www.takeitover.ca). This website gives you the ability to select your concerns after which it will auto-generate emails to your candidates. The AMS External Affairs Office will also be working towards potentially having a voting station in the Nest and that proper communication will be put out to ensure that youth and student voter turnout is optimized. Additionally, we will be exploring several options as to hosting a debate between the candidates of the Vancouver-Point Grey riding at the Nest. It is key that these candidates realize that the University of British Columbia, and by extension the members of the AMS, are a large part of their potential constituencies. Aside from these action items, we have many more such as the social media posts that we will be pushing along with reaching out to club and constituency presidents to collaborate with us on this campaign.

As of September 21st, the U-Pass Exemptions have closed. Those who lived outside Metro Vancouver (previously referred to as the "Lower Mainland") were able to apply for exemptions from the U-Pass fee. We have sent our final list of exemptions to UBC Enrollment Services as of September 25th. I would like to thank the AMS Staff and especially our Student Support Commissioner, Maia for her effort in processing these and ensuring the exemption process was efficient and effective.



In terms of all other external advocacy, we have been regularly communicating with the Associate Vice-President of Student Housing on best practices that we can make to the provincial leading practices subcommittee. Equity-based Grants have officially entered their research phase with the SEEDs Sustainability Initiative. The research charters have been officialized and sent out. We will be working SEEDs to recruit student researchers for this advocacy project. We will also be compiling a report of gaps in the Labour Readiness Plan by CleanBC in accordance with our climate action advocacy goals. UCRU bylaws have been approved by all member schools and are now entering legal consultation. Thank you to my AVP External Affairs, Saad Shoaib for spearheading the initiative on UCRU bylaw work behind the scenes.

Once the new provincial government has been elected, we will be continuing our lobby meetings and providing the provincial government with submission-oriented recommendations.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Cheers,

**Kalith Nanayakkara**

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