

AMS Services Updates – November 12th, 2020

SSM + ASSM Updates:

- Emily + team did a great job with filming and photography for Peer Support and Tutoring. An almost-final cut will be shown in Council. Next up will be Safewalk and Food Bank, in the coming weeks. If you want to be a part of this, let me know!
- Promo for the Services is a big focus, and so I've been working with Lamisa (the Services Social Media Associate) to create social media ads for Peer Support, Tutoring, and Safewalk. Starting with Instagram, Facebook, and Reddit for now, and will be hopefully be moving into other mediums as well.
- Also looking into other ways of advertising: Rish from AMS Events filmed a video with the Food Bank team for their Food for Fines event (see the main AMS Insta Account); we'll have Safewalk info displayed on the plaza outside the Nest each night (<https://planning.ubc.ca/news/lights-lee-square>); and posters are being put up around campus + residence for Tutoring.
- 2 big projects that had come up after the start of my term was to work with WorkLearn more re: funding and training for Services staff; and to work more with Alumni UBC to have a better "alumni network" of Services volunteers. Conversations around both these topics happened this past week, so expect updates on these in the weeks to come.

Safewalk:

- Our new TrackTik Software is now fully onboarded. We can more accurately track where students/Safewalkers are through GPS, navigate to obscure buildings on campus, and see statistics that can let us know more about our operations. I'll be spending a little more time with their dev team to make some further tweaks, but overall, things are smooth as of now.
- Some athletes on the UBC Swim Team reached out to Riley a few weeks ago to volunteer, have they've started to do so. In the past, these partnerships didn't work out well as athletes have pretty demanding schedules and staying up till 2 AM is rough, but looks like the athletes that volunteer get to skip their next practice, so this might work well.
- In case you haven't seen/heard, we're getting 2 of these for Safewalk: <https://gem.polaris.com/en-us/e6/build/?selectedmodel=passengerlsv>. These will replace our current Safewalk car which is in rough shape, but will take 12-16 weeks. Emily is keen to do a naming contest for the vehicles when we get them in – feel free to think of promo you'd like to do with them as well!

eHub:

- RBC Get Seeded is coming up on November 26th: <https://www.facebook.com/events/879258022613030>. While online, going to be a great time again this year!

Tutoring:

- Mostly operational updates: Tutoring is doing a small round of hiring; requesting more promo materials; getting feedback from Tutors on their experiences so far + the Nimbus app; and so on.

One cool thing they started this year is “shadowing” of tutors, where Tutoring Team Leads will oversee how a Tutor helps a client, and will then provide feedback on how they’re doing.

- The Tutoring team and I are also still in negotiations for the Nimbus app we use – really hoping to have that wrapped up by end of November.
- Sheldon and Faraz have also done a great job in reaching new groups we haven’t worked with recently/before, and adjusting our operations to meet student needs. As an example, a recent survey went out in the AMS Newsletter, asking for feedback on what types of Review Sessions they should hold, and in what time zone – they received over 300 responses, which was cool to see.

Peer Support:

- The Education and Outreach team (headed by Mayra) are off to a good start with events and collabs – a campus-wide Kahoot event brought in about 25 people, they’re in the midst of planning another event with [UBC Arts & Culture District](#), and they’re creating posts for super relevant topics such as election-induced anxiety.
- The Support team saw a great first couple weeks with 16 appointments so far, with people seeking support from outside Canada as well!

Advocacy:

- Angus has supported 2 students at the [PACSD](#) recently – while not ideal for those students, it’s great that we’re able to provide support to them.
- October and November have been seeing higher usage, with 18 clients served in October and being on track to see similar numbers this month as well.

Food Bank:

- Cali and the Food Bank team are starting up some annual fundraisers that occur, such as Food for Fines (<https://www.facebook.com/events/639515036734172>), the Add a Dollar Campaign (where people buying food from the outlets can add a dollar to their bill for the Food Bank), etc.
- Kaela is doing a mid-term check-in/review for the FB volunteers, to see what’s going good/bad, what can be improved, etc. This is a great initiative and part of the Services larger framework of developing a good work place environment.
- Will be hiring a 3rd “assistant” in the next few weeks to manage a new Hubs program for the Food Bank (<https://careers.ikrut.com/c1a0c131-5aca-49b1-a0ca-f9ca990897ce/0/jobs/a/67770>) – keep an eye out if you know someone who could be a good fit!

Housing:

- Mitchell is continuing with applying for funding to hire two people: one to develop the eventual housing database, and to do research on tenancy rights, etc.
- He’s also reaching out to/working with different UBC folks to potentially collaborate in different areas, such as having UBC residence sublets listed on whatever platform we come up with.