AMS Elections Info Session

January 14th, 2021
Isabelle Ava-Pointon, Chief Electoral Officer
Agenda

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Intro to AMS Elections:
   a. Who
   b. What
   c. Where
   d. When
   e. Why
   f. How
3. FAQs
4. Prize Draw!!!
5. Q & A Session
Land Acknowledgement

UBC and the AMS are based on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam Nation.

I am speaking to you from the neighbourhood of Kitsilano, which is named after a Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) chief. This land is the traditional, shared, and occupied territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

The internal contradictions of practicing democracy on stolen land should lead us to listen, learn, and act in ways that promote Indigenous sovereignty and land rights.
Who are AMS Elections Committee?

- Chief Electoral Officer: Isabelle Ava-Pointon
- Chief Returning Officer: Stanley Omotor
- Events Officer: Mona Zilinskaite
- Communications Officer: Siddharth Khandelwal
- Polling Officers: Emmanuel Ruba & Arjav Shah
What are AMS Elections?

1. The 2021 AMS General Election is how all AMS members vote to decide who gets key student positions:
   a. 5 AMS Executives
   b. 5 Student Senators-at-Large
   c. 2 Board of Governors Student Representatives
2. There might be referendum questions too!
3. The ballot also includes voting for the Ubyssey Publications Society Board of Directors.
When are AMS Elections?

Three Periods:

- Nomination Period: Depends on the position! (AMS Exec, SLFS, BoG/Senate)
- Campaign Period: February 20th to March 5th, 2021
- Voting Period: March 1st to March 5th, 2021
AMS Elections Timeline

- **January 11th**: Nominations open for AMS Execs, BoG, Senate
- **February 5th**: Nominations close for Senate/BoG
- **February 20th**: Campaigning period starts (all positions)
- **March 5th**: Voting for all positions ends
  - Unofficial results released
- **January 27th**: Nominations open for SLFS
- **February 12th**: Nominations close for AMS Execs and SLFS
- **March 1st**: Voting starts (all positions)
Where are AMS Elections?

- Everything is Online!
- Voting link (for all UBC students): https://amsvoting.as.it.ubc.ca/
- Website: ams.ubc.ca/get-involved/elections/
- Facebook: @electionsAMS
- Instagram: @ubcamselections
- Twitter: @ams_elections
By electing the AMS Executives, you get a say in how the AMS will be run. The AMS plays a huge (but often ignored) role in your student life:

- **Food**: Food outlets in the Nest, AMS Food Bank
- **Transportation**: negotiates U-Pass program
- **Health**: negotiates extended student health and dental insurance, runs health support services through AMS Peer Support
- **Safety**: SASC and AMS Safewalk
- **Studies and Skills**: EHub, AMS Tutoring
- **Clubs**: funding for clubs, AMS CampusBase

**Fun Fact:** the AMS has an annual budget of around $22,000,000!
Why do AMS Elections Matter? Part Two

- Electing the Student representatives on UBC's highest decision-making bodies.
  - **UBC Senate**: The UBC Vancouver Senate is responsible for all academic matters at UBC-Vancouver. This includes topics such as admissions, examination policy, academic discipline, and student awards. The Senate also approves course curriculum and new departments and confers degrees.
  - **UBC Board of Governors**: The Board of Governors is responsible for all non-academic matters at UBC. This includes topics such as tuition policy, the university budget, and campus buildings.

- Recent examples of their important decisions:
  - **UBC Senate** is the group that decided to extend our Winter Break this year.
  - **UBC Board of Governors** approved funding for a seismic upgrade of the Museum of Anthropology.
Why do AMS Elections Matter? Part Three

YOU get to choose who gets elected to these positions:

- **AMS President**: head and spokesperson of the AMS
- **AMS VP Admin**: in charge of AMS facilities (Nest)
- **AMS VP Finance**: manages AMS finances
- **AMS VP External**: works with outside orgs like govts
- **AMS VP Academics**: lobbies UBC on behalf of students

**Fun Fact:** All AMS Executives have a 40-hour work week and earn an annual salary of $38,000!
How to get involved...

- Run for a position!
- Volunteer for someone else's campaign!
- Start, sign or support a referendum petition!
- Be an active and informed voter!
- VOTE!
FAQs

- **What forms of campaigning are allowed?** Only virtual, more details to come.
- **When will we know election results?** March 5th 5pm we announce UNOFFICIAL result, they become official on March 10th when presented to Council.
- **What do I do if I see a candidate breaking elections rules?** Get some proof (photo, screenshot, other witnesses) and email elections@ams.ubc.ca
- **Can I start campaigning now?** NO, you must wait until the campaign period starts on Feb. 20th.
- **How much can I spend on my campaign?** Spending limit is $375 if running for one position, and $600 if running for two positions. All campaign expenses are reimbursed.

**Fun Fact:** The FAQ section on our website will soon have many more questions and answers!
Prize Draw!!!

Two lucky attendees will win a $25 Visa Gift Card!

If you are picked by the Wheel of Fortune, please message your contact information privately to Isabelle in the Zoom chat, and we will send you your prize!
Any other questions?

Three ways to ask:

1. Type your question in the Zoom chat!
2. Click the "raise your hand" button in Zoom if you want to ask out loud!
3. Ask anonymously on Slido: Go to slido.com and type in code #28791

And you can always email me with general questions: elections@ams.ubc.ca