



# Sustainability Just Recovery Report

*Presented by AMS Sustainability & AUA Office*

## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

This Consultation happens at a moment of synchronization. The design of this consultation will be centred on the interests of the students and the environmental necessities we face. Additionally, it is innovation and solutions for the challenges we face collectively that we can expect to generate, especially surrounding the topic of Just Recovery.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

1. To create a dynamic consultation for everyone, reflection tasks and pre-work assignments prior to the session will help us get collective intelligence and strong connections.
2. An introduction by our expert speaker with relevant information about the topic.
3. A space for discussion, Q&A and to connect with peers, The Climate Hub and The AMS.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Reach a level of common understanding about how provincial and federal Just Recovery plans work.
2. Expose how can we make a Just Recovery happen with the development of solutions for the COVID-19 Crisis and climate emergency related issues.
3. Connect peers, encourage clubs to get involved and stimulate innovation for a just recovery at UBC.

## QUESTIONS

1. **What barriers currently exist for you that inhibit your access to health resources on the UBC campus? In Vancouver? What would you like to see the AMS do to advocate on making healthcare more accessible?**
  - Feeling unsure about what mental health services are/what happens at these services- increased transparency on the actionable students leave with from the reported services.
  - Disability advocacy.
  - Increasing usage of external accessibility audits that are student-driven or

consulted further upon.

- Lowering barriers of accessibility by increasing the number of respondents in respective offices- making sure there are lower wait times for students seeking support.
- A need for more compassionate grounds when it comes to accessibility needs and culturally-appropriate services/resources.

## **2. How can the AMS better promote and advocate for equity and inclusion in light of a Just recovery?**

- Decentering of whiteness in the university setting.
- Restructuring course curriculum to be mindful that course content is inclusive and does not merely centre whiteness.
- Appropriately addressing faculty dissent in course curriculum design and pedagogy.
- Hiring BIPOC folks at AMS for climate work (and other environmental work), prioritize inclusive hiring in general

## **3. What subsidies/bursaries should be made more readily available for UBC students? Academic/course material support? Food insecurity? Housing? Family/childcare support?**

- Financial subsidies available by the AMS and UBC should be made more clear, with increased transparency on funding available for students in emergency relief.
- There needs to be more rent emergency relief packages available for students.
- Increased OER usage across UBCV faculties.
- Impact on most people should be prioritized.
- Making a financial report available to students (UBC admin)
- Addressing the difficulty of students finding and affording housing
- Tuition in the COVID context (still paying for student facilities even though they are not being used, should be discounted)
- Providing food budgets to food insecure students
- Subsidies/bursaries are band-aids, if people don't apply to them already, having more of them might not help
- Increased transparency on how the endowment and student fees are used
- Support for off-campus facilities expenses, i.e. gym memberships (as those are often cost prohibitive when people move off campus)

**4. How can the AMS establish stronger transparency with the student body for financial support available for economic relief?**

- There needs to be more transparency on financial support available by UBC.
- There needs to be more user-friendly platforms outlining all financial support available to students and how to access them.

**5. How should the AMS advocate post COVID work opportunities for students and recent graduates? What are priority areas of interest for UBC students?**

- Working with CSIC for COVID-19 climate-specific workshops considering the job market, including tips and career advice on how to navigate professional endeavours in such a setting.
- Exchange opportunities
- Felt like UBC already does a decent job at connecting students with career opportunities

**6. How do you plan to advocate for change within the UBC in the inclusion of it's great community? How should the AMS go further to support their community development?**

- Developing courses to promote inter/multidisciplinarity, and including indigenous in all/as many courses as possible
- Hire students from historically oppressed communities to research and propose systemic changes
- Host more events like Sustainability Symposiums where student input can be received
- Call for all student housing to have access to a kitchen for people to cook and foster community events
- Support international students
- Widen the online platform on social media with videos, etc., dedicated online platform to these initiatives
- Better mental health coverage from UBC
- Helping to address the overall problem that students are expected to live on shoestring budgets and are funded accordingly. AMS should have a role in advocating for a universal livable income for students
- Create more far reaching programs that extend to students less likely to engage with AMS



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## **7. When emerging from the COVID 19 pandemic, how will you stay strong in continuing to fight for a substantive action plan within your community?**

- Work with community leaders to organize events that are at intersections of sustainability with other hobbies (like religious groups, clubs, etc.) - this helps to make sustainability “stick” in spaces where it might not be traditionally associated
- Getting involved with the institutions that are power holders, rather than continuing to rely on individual actions

## **8. What does resilience look like to you? What will it take to manifest your own vision of what community resilience looks like?**

- A transition that is resilient must also be sustainable and supports student initiatives on campus
- Community-driven initiatives, where discourse between multiple stakeholders is possible
- Requires non-discriminatory and open communication with set guidelines
- Continuing to provide funds and resources to students in diverse types of need (AMS food bank, SASC, etc.)
- Workshops that teach people how to deal with different situations and crises
- Taking advantage of the opportunity presented by crises (like COVID) to transform into positive changes that are more sustainable and just. Requires funding to leverage those ideas and prepare to seize the moment.