



THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Minutes of the AMS Advocacy Committee on the 8th February, 2021

[8th March, 2021] [5:00 PM PST] on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/96991215514?pwd=NmFHYk9QOWRoYUdwUllKSWNVd0cwUT09>

Attendance

Invited: Georgia Yee, Kalith Nanayakkara, Laura Beaudry, Joshua Kim, Jackson Schumacher, Mathew Ho, Mahmoud Borno, Saad Shoab

Present: Georgia Yee, Kalith Nanayakkara, Joshua Kim, Jackson Schumacher, Mathew Ho, Mahmoud Borno, Saad Shoab

Regrets:

Recording Secretary:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:24 pm

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda

BIRT the agenda of the AMS Advocacy Committee on the 8th March, 2021 be adopted as presented

Move: Joshua

Second: Jackson

Approval of Minutes

BIRT the Minutes of the AMS Advocacy Committee on the 22nd February, 2021 be adopted as presented

Amended: Mahmoud

Move: Joshua

Second: Mahmoud

Agenda Items

Chair Remarks

Discussion (20 mins, 10 mins each)

1. Policy Review Bounceback

- a. **Mathew: According to governance committee, and Sheldon, any policy reviews of I-11 and I-12 just need to be finalized by us before being submitted to council.**
- b. **Georgia: I-11 does not require much amendments unless we want to discuss it.**
- c. **Georgia: For I-12, we need more discussion to revamp it. Especially because we don't have any policies surrounding it. I would be happy to table I-12 for next meeting. Did we bring any concerns around I-11?**
- d. **Mathew: Not much draft changes discussed in the last meeting.**
- e. **Georgia: Given we haven't looked through this in detail, let's make it the action item for today and make it an item for next meeting, and then we will make comments as to whether there are more aspects to look at as well. Document formatting got a bit wonky from last time but other than that, I think that's everything we need to discuss. Is there anybody we should propose to in order to consult with this?**

BIRT that the review and discussion of Policy I-11 and I-12 be tabled for the next Advocacy Committee meeting

Moved Mahmoud

Second: Jackson

Unanimous Pass**2. Any other topic**

- a. Joshua: just wondering if there is more work expected from AUA on anti-Asian racism.
- b. Georgia: Yes. We're still working on it. We are currently looking at setting another framework and statement and adding anti-racism resources to it, and we will have another post for this specific statement on anti-asian resources as well. We will follow up as soon as possible on this.
- c. Saad: Recent news, but the Provincial government has announced that September will be in person instruction.
- d. Mathew: What will happen to international students?
- e. Kalith: Up to the institution itself, international students are currently allowed to come study here, but we don't have that much info right now so won't assume too much. Vaccination plans for international students will be pushed in advocacy.
- f. Georgia: This will also depend on institution but I look forward to hearing more about that as well.
- g. Kalith: Here is some clarification on vaccinations. Anyone, even without a BC services card, is eligible for a vaccine currently. The AMS will push this, but government will also just need to also keep this in mind, as international students are vital.
- h. Jackson: Moving forward, assuming instructions will be in person, do we know what student asks are, and do we have any clear advocacy priorities, because we want to start asking for things early?
- i. Georgia: This is something we are putting together. I'm trying to find the reddit thread I've put up on questions about this but this was before this announcement went out. I've already discussed that there needs to be expanded rapid testing, not just at Orchard Commons, but this should also be expanded to

Thunderbird residences, and also across campus for testing. Last I checked, there are current plans for a vaccine clinic on campus as well, something that we are prioritizing and setting clear mechanisms before students return to campus. If they are not able to attend in person, how do they access the centre for accessibility and support if they need to talk with graduate supervisors if they not being able to work in person. These are some of the key asks going forward. We are also exploring learning improvements after covid, as we've heard from students on issues like lecture recording. Do you require mandating lecture recordings after the pandemic and return to in person? This is but one of the threads we have started on consultation with students. Some students have enjoyed flipped classroom and we are looking to create options as well. Basically Reddit has been one of the ways we have been gathering information.

- j. Jackson: I know the GSS ran a one off survey with specific questions, when we were thinking about funding issues and trying to make funding arguments. I'm unsure if the AMS does the same. I think Reddit outreach is great, but there are sampling problems, so doing some quick surveys for students if there are resources for that would be great.
- k. Georgia: That is something we can look into. There may be capacity issues, but I definitely agree with sampling problems, and we need to be making sure that it is representative of UBC population, and it's hard to point to people that we have a reddit thread as a way for advocacy. As a follow up, what would be some of areas you'd be interested in asking about?
- l. Jackson: I think you hit a lot of them. One thing I'm curious about are how comfortable students are in in person classes, if they just got the first dose, or various things like that. What

would international students feel about this, if they're not on UBC campus? Etc.

- m. Georgia: Noted. Will follow up on that.
- n. Mahmoud: I was wondering if you could specifically answer if the AMS has capacity to have vaccination centres in the Nest and other places in campus, or maybe collaborate with pharmacies on campus to do vaccinations around campus. If the university is reopened, students will come back and we will have a lot of social interactions, so we need as much testing and vaccination centres as available to be made. In Alberta, they are working with pharmacies around the province to distribute vaccines, so is there a similar structure on campus? For campus, in my opinion, I think the best approach for a return to classes is having online zoom meetings available for students who are not feeling comfortable coming to classes, but to do that we still need recorded lectures.
- o. Georgia: Yeah I know it's definitely something we've been asking, but I think right now they are following up on where the clinic would actually be. Would it be in the established pharmacies or if we could have a mass testing centre in the nest of some sort, (I mean vaccine clinic). It is something I can follow up on.
- p. Mahmoud: Second question is about the return to school and recorded lectures. Even if the university decides to reopen, I don't think all students will feel comfortable, and we don't want to force students to come back. Thus there is a demand of wanting recorded lectures. If UBC decides to reopen are we still going to have recorded lectures?
- q. Georgia: That's definitely something I can update on in next advocacy committee meeting because there's going to be discussion about a meeting tomorrow I will be having tomorrow

about learning after COVID and lecture recording and equitable access, topics we will be discussing as well. I can update on that next.

Portfolio Updates (20 minutes, 10 mins per item)

1. AMS VP External

- a. Kalith: Good news on advocacy. MLA Corlee oaks who is the ASD opposition critic, has brought asks from us to legislature. She has been having things from our advocacy read off on the floor, and has been tagging the AMS and GSS, showing how relevant they are. Having MLAs reading our off in the BC Legislature is great, and is something we would like to highlight. It has been a good boost for our team morale, especially because our advocacy fruits are usually hard to see in one year. Having spoken to 40 MLAs, having one of them taking our concerns to the floor, is a success. It's a good sign, especially when she is in the opposition.
- b. Kalith: We also made the decision to continue with UPass for summer and fall considering there is no debate surrounding it due to Upass ridership increases in the 2nd term, along with the fact more and more people are getting vaccinated. Thus, Upass is coming in summer . Other than that, we're just prepping for transition. Not much with me, because I haven't been able to access work email (with servers being down). With elections over, I now have a successor. Dope.

2. AMS VP AUA

- a. Georgia: A million things.
- b. Georgia: The SC17 committee is coming together, because we have the SASC manager ,which should free up capacity and allow us to be putting bodies into the positions and creating terms of reference.

- c. **Georgia: Work on the Vancouver scheduling project, as well as looking at different scenarios to make scheduling of classes more accessible and use classroom space to support pedagogy.**
- d. **Georgia: Also looking at the Affordability plan and what does return to instruction mean for students. Would like to update more later.**

AOB

Submissions:

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is 22nd March on Zoom

Adjourn

1. Moved _____ Joshua _____, Seconded _____ Mahmoud _____

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm

Action Items: I-11 Review, I-12 Review.