

March Advocacy Committee Report to AMS Council

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Greetings and Salutations from the advocacy committee!

The Advocacy Committee meets bi-weekly on Mondays from 5 to 6 pm PST on Zoom; if you would like to join let me know!

As always, you can reach me at advocomchair@ams.ubc.ca or mathew_hoo@yahoo.ca .

Works in Progress (or on the Horizon)

- Policy I-11 Review: While not a review bringing major changes to Policy I-11 on tuition consultations, Policy I-11 is being reviewed and being updated to reflect the current coding of corresponding UBC administration policies, and proposed changes being done by the VPAUA's portfolio are expected to be finalized in April.
- UBC Endowment Fund Practices: There has been concern within the committee in regards to UBC's endowment fund practices in investing in mining, fossil fuel, and weapons businesses, with a lack of commitment to divestment, and in contradiction to UBC's supposed directions and values. Seeing that this is something that may require more attention, student voices, and action that stretches past this year, work on this has started but is not expected to finish by the end of this year.
- Resumption of UBC In Person Instruction: The AMS, with the VPAUA portfolio in particular, is working to support international students, and supporting ongoing COVID-19 related infrastructure such as vaccinations and testing in response to UBC's resumption of in-person Instruction plans in September. Work on exploring options to supporting students in the in-person instruction environment, such as recorded lectures, and other advocacy remains to be updated.

Work Completed this Month

- Code changes to Advocacy Committee, namely in Section V, Article 8(1)(d) of the AMS Code of Procedure, have been passed on the committee level, allowing for more student-at-large positions in the committee starting from the next academic year once approved by AMS Council
- Work on a statement on Anti-Asian Racism has been done on the committee level, with multiple consultations across several meetings, and is expected to be finalized, with the statement released.
- Advocacy Committee has received, and commented on work from the VPAUA and VP External's office, from breakthroughs in provincial lobbying on student needs by opposition MLAs to the commencement of the SC17 Committee