

# AMS-GSS MOU On External Advocacy

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Presenters:

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# A New Advocacy Partnership...

## The AMS and GSS of UBC



### Collaboration on 2021 BC Budget Submission to BC Select Standing Committee of Finance & Governance

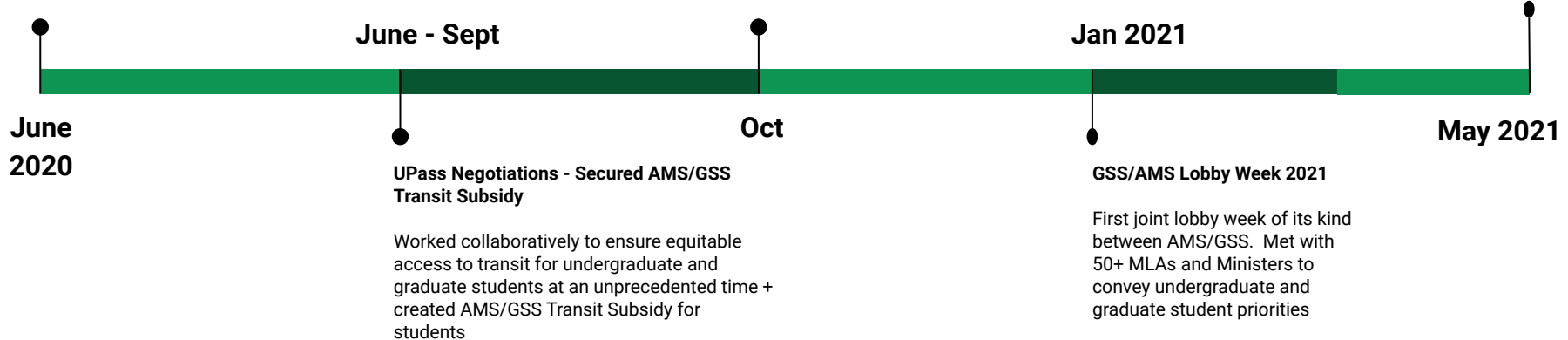
Aligned recommendations to maximize impact.

### AMS/GSS #TakeItOver Campaign

Organized first AMS/GSS All-Candidates Debate - only student led live debate in the province

### AMS-GSS Memorandum of Understanding

AMS and GSS formalize external advocacy relationship.



# A New Advocacy Partnership...

## The AMS and GSS of UBC

- UBC AMS and GSS - largest undergraduate and graduate student society in the province
- Advocating in a collaborative manner has:
  - **built a unified front** to advocate on behalf of graduate AND undergraduate students.
  - **expanded the advocacy impact** of both societies
  - **opened new opportunities** for advocacy



# A New Advocacy Partnership...

## The Memorandum of Understanding

- **Solidifies the relationship** that the AMS and GSS will have in terms of external advocacy
- **Cements collaborative practices** that were established this past year for future VP Externals to carry forward.
- Ensures that in the event **UCRU** (the AMS' federal advocacy organization) implements an official fee structure, **GSS members will not pay for the fee.**



### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EXTERNAL ADVOCACY

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as the "MOU") is made and entered into as of June 15, 2021

**BETWEEN:** Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver  
3500 - 6133 University Boulevard - Vancouver, British Columbia  
(hereafter referred to as the "AMS")

**AND:** Graduate Student Society of the University of British Columbia  
225 - 6371 Crescent Road - Vancouver, British Columbia  
(hereafter referred to as the "GSS")

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties"

#### PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize a mutual understanding between the AMS Office of the Vice-President, External Affairs and GSS Office of the Vice-President, External Relations on external advocacy efforts.

This MOU is limited to advocacy efforts of the Parties to external stakeholders and government bodies, as overseen by the AMS Office of the Vice-President, External Affairs and GSS Office of the Vice-President, External Relations.

#### BACKGROUND

The AMS and GSS have had a historical relationship throughout the past year and as a result, new initiatives such as the AMS GSS Provincial Advocacy Week were established between the Parties. The Parties plan on continuing this mutually beneficial relationship and as referred to in the Purpose and Scope of this MOU, will continue their collaboration in good faith.

The AMS is a member of the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (hereafter referred to as "UCRU") which is a federal coalition of student unions whose mandate it is to advocate for the affordability, accessibility, equity, diversity, and inclusionary interests of students across Canada.

UCRU is a registered not-for-profit organization under the *Canada Not-for-Profits Act*. In understanding that federal advocacy organizations similar to UCRU require a budget to operate



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# A New Advocacy Partnership...

## The Memorandum of Understanding

- Ensures that the AMS and GSS will continue to **advocate on mutual student concerns** of affordability, accessibility, and EDI in a joint and collaborative manner.
- Certifies joint responsibility to hold collaborative **federal and provincial lobby weeks**.
- **Builds and strengthens channels of communication** between the two societies.
  - The GSS will invite the AMS to Council and Academic and External Committee Meetings (as a guest) to facilitate discussion on mutual priorities.
  - the AMS will invite the GSS to Council and Advocacy Committee to facilitate discussion on graduate student issues.

**We are turning the page to a new chapter of collaboration between the GSS and AMS by working more closely together to strengthen our mutual advocacy efforts on behalf of undergraduate and graduate students.**

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**Questions?**



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