AMS-GSS MOU On External Advocacy

Presenters:

Alireza Kamyabi - 2020 VP External, GSS
Saad Shoaib - 2021 VP External, AMS
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.

June 2020

- UPass Negotiations - Secured AMS/GSS Transit Subsidy
  - Worked collaboratively to ensure equitable access to transit for undergraduate and graduate students at an unprecedented time + created AMS/GSS Transit Subsidy for students

June - Sept

- Jan 2021

- GSS/AMS Lobby Week 2021
  - First joint lobby week of its kind between AMS/GSS. Met with 50+ MLAs and Ministers to convey undergraduate and graduate student priorities
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.
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.

Questions?