Minute of the AMS Advocacy Committee
5pm, June 21st, 2021

Attendance
Present: Eshana Bhangu, Emmanuel Cantiller, Saad Shoaib, Kamil Kanji, Rebecca Liu, James Cabangon, Jasmine Nadhira, Ben Morrison, Gabrielle Matheson, Lawrence Liu
Regrets: Jackson Schumer

Recording Secretary:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Saad  Seconded: Kamil

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.”

(Agenda Items)

1) Introductions
2) Vice-Chair Appointment
   - Ben Morrison Appointed as Vice-Chair - nominated by Emmanuel
3) VPAUA Updates
   - Working on lecture capture technology, 99.9% going to happen
   - asked for it to be in writing
   - food security: meal share funding
   - need-based scholarship for international students
     - advocacy needed for current international students
   - rapid testing eligibility: recently expanded to any member
   - hybrid learning vs in-person
     - ensuring academic planning in place for students no able to be on campus
4) VPX Updates
   - Sexual Violence prevention initiatives
     - no minimum standard around legislation
- advocating for standardization of policies
- working with housing stakeholders
- working with the attorney general and ministry of housing 2 billion dollar investment
- presenting to special committee personal information privacy act
  - student society should be able to collect personal information on students of Uni
  - Affiliate colleges pose a barrier (they miss important notices)
  - the way law is structured
- UPass in fall
  - take into account international students who won’t be present on
- Met with Attorney General, set goals/relationship building
- Update made by the ministry of immigration
  - 3 day hotel stay is no longer in effect for those who are vaccinated by Health Canada-approved vaccines
  - still unclear what that looks like for campus quarantine
- UCRU Vice-Chair
  - goal setting
  - e.g. complete removal of interest rate/more support for international students
- Executive goals will be on docket on council on June 23rd, 2021

5) Mask Mandate (Discussion)
-Kamil: item brought up within many students on campus
  - a lot of uncomfortability around optional mask decision by gov/UBC
  - maybe VPAUA/VPX can bring into discussion with government and UBC
Saad: changing narrative from restrictions to vaccine (government)
  - university will most likely follow public health recommendations
  - will try to bring up to province: they will be unlikely to budge (they want to change the narrative)
  - something that will be consistently brought up but unlikely
Eshana: University will most likely not budge
  - been made clear; will not happen
  - what we can do: ask University to mandate vaccine at areas with control
  - for example: student residence
  - a lot of faculty who is considered, older instructors
Saad: provincial government response: also want to take into account of mental health of students
  - vaccine mandate: will leave up to individual institutions
Eshana: PHO guidelines are bare minimum
Ben: Concern for mandate vaccine in resident
  - if put into law
  - could be a legal concern (especially in business and workplace)
Gabrielle: Support Ben’s idea that there are logistics to take into account
  - even contemplating vaccine: need to consider all contingency plans
    - e.g. religious exemptions
  - extreme difficult situation for it to be a coherent plan
Eshana: this is institution with billions of dollar in budget
  - UBC has ability to solve these problems
  - will be whether they want to act or not
Saad: UBC residential not covered under legislation
  - unless actual court dispute, vaccine mandate would not be issue for now
Eshana: logistically will be more of a task for UBC rather than AMS
  - AMS not responsible for coming up with contingency
  - appeal for health/cultural/religious/indigenous would be required
  - absolutely no evictions (primarily winter housing)
  - honour system?
Saad: general hesitance big thing to take into consideration
  - vaccine hesitancy is an issue we have to take into account
  - government: making sure vaccines readily available to people who don’t have access (international students)
Eshana: a lot of things that are happening in different areas in UBC student housing
  - something heard across student: people coming to own conclusion(speculations)
    - these could come into discrimination
Ben: What would happen if someone comes in who doesn’t want to get a vaccine? (no reason)
Saad: valid concern
  - logistics of this needs to be ironed out, a lot needs to be ironed out on the ground
  - U-Pass: we can’t ask for medical private information
Eshana: Great point
  - making clear to uni execs by sharing student concerns
Kamil: Has UBC residence committed to mandating vaccines?
Eshana: No, but some schools like Western have required vaccines in rez
  - really want advocacy efforts to go strong
Emmanuel: last senate meeting: question period for Ratner who was Vice-Provost
  - I asked question about international students
  - Answer: Vaccine will be open to any students on campus in fall
Will it be easily accessible to students on campus?

Eshana: advocating for more vaccine clinic on campus
- PHO who does it, UBC will need to take action

Saad: not a black/white situation, advocacy centred around mandating vaccines
Eshana: advocacy effort is this and that
- go full swing fighting for students in our advocacy

Eshana: Do we want to take this to council?
Saad: making motion to add as discussion item

Kamil: engaging focus groups and students on campus?
Emmanuel: Will advocacy have an opportunity to look at return-to-campus survey?
Eshana: Will bring to committee to give feedback, will be a brief survey, quick feedback needed.

Saad: Survey better to engage students at large, focus groups better for communication

6) Goal setting for Committee
Tabled to next meeting

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be on (date), (time).
Eshana: Once a month?

**Adjournment**

Moved: Saad Seconded: Emmanuel

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.