



President & Managing Director Report
2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 28th, 2021

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
6133 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD
VANCOUVER, BC V6T 1Z1
ams.ubc.ca

Introduction

On behalf of the AMS, we are excited to present the 2021 President and Managing Director's Report that will lay out the amazing work we've been able to accomplish over the past 18 months. While the past year and a half has been one of the most challenging times in recent history, the strength and perseverance of our UBC community has not only kept us motivated to keep providing great services for students but also inspired our teams every day. While it's impossible to outline every piece of work that we've completed in this short report, we hope that it can offer a glimpse into some of our biggest successes.

President's Report

Last year, the AMS was able to coordinate and administer over \$5 million worth of student support for our UBC community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This support took various forms, including fee waivers, our UPass Subsidy and Exemption Program, and funding wins coming from our strong advocacy to the University. This student support during the pandemic has also been complimented by a ton of work with UBC and within our own organization to ensure that student safety has remained a top priority. This year, the AMS was at the forefront of advocacy to see a mandatory mask rule reinstated on campus as well as new mandatory vaccine and testing requirements that keep our community safe as we get through the final stages of this pandemic.

While the pandemic presented many challenges, it also created many opportunities for the AMS to engage better with our members. Last year, our first ever virtually held Annual General Meeting reached quorum for only the second time in 40 years, with a turnout of over 1600 students. Our marketing and communications teams have also seen substantial growth in engagement on our social media platforms, meaning that we can reach larger portions of our membership in a way that is easier than ever before. The AMS also saw record survey response rates, leading to a stronger collective student voice when speaking to the university administration and government.

The AMS is also making huge strides in strategic planning to better approach a number of issues. In 2020, the AMS passed our AMS Sustainable Action Plan (ASAP) – a comprehensive strategy based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals that will guide the Society's sustainability operations for the next decade. This year, the AMS passed our first ever AMS Equity Action Plan (EAP) which sets bold

targets to truly embed principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) within all aspects of the organization. The AMS EAP was developed in partnership with contributors from equity-seeking communities from across campus. The Society has also just begun planning for a first-ever standalone, organization-wide strategic plan. This plan will set a student-centered, service-driven approach for the whole organization to ensure that we can continue to serve our members to the best of our abilities.

The Society has also been successfully fulfilling one of its primary responsibilities as a fierce advocate for student interests. The AMS has pushed UBC for a greater focus on student affordability through a comprehensive plan, increased resourcing for EDI and accessibility needs, and better funding and programming for student career services. This advocacy success has also carried over to our relationship with various levels of government, where the Society has successfully pushed for more funding for a Skytrain-to-UBC extension, international students, Indigenous students, and equity-seeking communities.

Managing Director's Report

2020/21, although heavily impacted by the Global Pandemic of SARS CoV-2, was a strong year financially for us, making a surplus of \$5.5m. This was heavily influenced by a refund of unused premiums in our Health & Dental service, a Government subsidy on Wages, as well as a shortfall in spending on several of our Funds and Services.

Our businesses were severely impacted from a financial point of view, we opened several of our Food & Beverage outlets, our coffee shop, Blue Chip Café, Honour Roll, our Sushi restaurant, and our Gallery restaurant & patio, more as a service to our members, who were experiencing social isolation due to the pandemic, than from a desire to make a financial contribution.

Our focus during 2020/ 21 was on member safety, and we had many great initiatives during the year, including free masks, sanitization of all outlets, and the building numerous times each day, daily health checks for all staff, to name but a few. As we now had a largely remote workforce, we instituted new measures to connect us all, such as regular All Staff Meetings, regular check-ins with all staff, and team projects.

We also transitioned all of our Services to our members online, and, cognizant of food insecurity, prioritized and expanded the operations of our emergency Food Bank.

Our Fossil Fuel Free investments continue to outperform the market, delivering an amazing return to students of 6.4%

With the added investments in our Services area, we are in the process of implementing enhancements to the already great range of Services that we provide our Members

Conclusion – Looking Forward

The 2020/21 Fiscal Year has been impacted by SARS CoV-2, and the shift to online classes, but we continue to be fiscally responsible with the monies that our members have entrusted to us, and we continue to enjoy the benefits of a dedicated workforce, and to advocate strongly on our members behalf. With the achievements we have been able to gain and with the voices of students, we hope that we can continue this year with greater strides for engagement and support within our community.

Cole Evans

AMS President

Keith Hester

AMS Managing Director