



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AMS Council - 10-27-2021

Hey folks, hope you're all doing well. We've had some interesting developments over the past few weeks.

We've been working with our federal partners at the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU) on preparing for our federal lobby week. This past week, UCRU finalized its recommendations around the following advocacy priorities: student financial aid- targeting the permanent removal of interest rates and permanent increases to the Canada Student Grants, mental health- working with the provinces to invest more into student-centric e-mental health supports and student employment- creating more opportunities for international students and investing more into Canada's youth-centric and student-centric employment programs.

We also completed the Fall 2021 U-Pass audit finalizing the exemptions list for this term. We'll be meeting with UBC's Enrollment Services team on the Spring 2021 U-Pass exemptions and what the infrastructure/dates will look like for that. The same U-Pass exemptions will be available to students in acknowledging that the pandemic is still ongoing.

The Office of External Affairs is also working on a partnership with research courses through SEEDS to gather more insights into the viability of equity-based grants. We'll be bringing an update as to the partnership in future council meetings.



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We've also been collaborating with AMS Services on our harm reduction campaign. We're working with the BC CDC, specifically with Toward the Heart, on establishing an advocacy relationship in order to lobby the provincial government to provide more harm reduction resources to post-secondary institutions in BC.

These are just some of the things that we have been working on throughout the past couple weeks. If any of you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at any time at vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca.

Thank you,

Saad Shoaib

AMS Vice-President, External Affairs