

## Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 Advocacy Committee Meeting

- Mimi presenting on External Policy Manual (EPM)
  - Presentation outline:
    - What the EPM is
    - Some things we need to think about for updating it
    - Then some recommendations for what we could do with it
  - Overview:
    - Please review the policies more on your own
    - Note that the first 2 policies are combined (aka internal)
    - The rest of the policies are strictly external
    - Note: E-7 and E-9 are in the active section of the EPM, but they're actually expired (ignore)
  - Now that we've gone through the policies, we should return to the question of "what's the point of having these policies"
    - This is an important type of document to have because...
    - So that's the purpose of the manual...
    - The EPM is mostly just positions/statements made in the form of resolutions
      - Not actionable, they're not policies, so this makes it just really difficult to use in the AMS's external work
  
- Other notes from the Meeting (discussion of EPM)
  - Saad: EPM should focus on expanding the scope (getting rid of the granular stuff)
    - Need these documents to guide the VP work
  - Matt: How would mandates work (yearly?)
    - When we're rethinking the EPM, how does it work with the execs and council?
  - Eshana: what if we just got rid of it
  - Gabrielle: how do VPs learn to do this work?
  - Eshana: some of the policies in the EPM are redundant (i.e. no exec would ask for increased tuition)
    - The policies can be limiting for execs to meet their own mandates
  - Gabrielle: this should definitely be drafted more broadly to ensure that execs can use their discretion in their work
    - More of a guidance doc (for specific issues!)
  - Matt: make it a broad doc reflecting the AMS's stance on things
  - Cole: note that policies are there for processes/guidance on certain topics
    - We don't have policies on "how to do advocacy"
    - Comment on Position statements/mandates: we could have a policy on creating new position statements/mandates
  - Overall feelings about EPM: might be better to start from scratch, and then consult
  
- **Updates from VPEX**
  - Provincial lobby week coming up (collabing with ABCS/GSS)
    - Representing 180,000 students

- Asks include: SFA (BC access grant, removal of parental contributions to student loans), mental health, GSFA (Access grant and BCGS), SV
  - Federal Lobby Week
    - Asks:
      - permanent removal of interest on federal student loans
      - increase Canada student grant, increase student employment opportunities
      - money to PSIs for mental health initiatives
      - supporting students with disabilities
  - UPASS exemptions open
  - UNA
    - UNA/AMS liaison committee being created (formed through last year's MOU)
  - Vancouver Tax Bylaw
    - Single use fees
    - VPEX is working with the uni to figure out who's charging what on campus
  - SASC
    - Approved by BC CDC as a naloxone distribution site
  - Here2Talk
    - Provincial mental health program enhancements
      - 24/7 mental health support
      - There are current issues with marketing and student consultation
      - Q. aside from standard asks, what other things make a good mental health service
        - A. scheduled follow ups, accessible (easy access), short wait times, different options to reach out
- **Updates from VPAUA**
  - Advocacy to move exams online (some exams for faculties were moved entirely on line)
  - Improve UBC's testing site
    - Feb 7 return date (making sure international students are supported)
  - SAAM collab with SASC
  - Ongoing budget consult with UBC
  - Campus safety audit report
  - Climate emergency work in feb
  - Academic experience survey
    - Work with insightswest
    - Have a lot of room to add more questions (Advocom = identify what questions we'd like to add)
- Matters arising: SPHR, Social Justice Centre

## Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 Advocacy Committee Meeting

- AES
  - any questions to add? (ongoing). Maybe add questions about harm reduction
  - Lawrence is in charge of AES this year
  - AES not strictly academic (more uni experience survey)
  - The AMS did a student experience survey in the fall, so we're not going to ask a ton of those questions
  - Saad will be asking more transit questions
  - Questions that are crossed out were added to the SES
  - Make suggestions on doc
  
- EPM
  - Having someone available to reinforce these docs
  - What is the involvement/relationship between staff and outgoing execs?
  - So much transition stuff (what does orientation need)
  - What does committee transition look like as well
  - Could brainstorm the transition process for VPEX and VPAUA (ex: PA could do lobby training, can provide historical context)
  - Mimi follow up: make EPM google doc (what things are we missing, what don't we do, etc.)
  
- Campus Vision statement
  
- VPEX Updates
  - Lots of MP support
  - Lots of support for international students and employment opportunities
  - Provincial lobby week next week
  - Some skytrain lobbying
  - City of Vancouver also doing transport stuff
  - UNA/AMS joint advisory committee
  
- VPAUA updates
  - Student senators lobbying for extended drop date (through faculties)
  - Campus safety audit
  - AES
  - SC17 advisory committee
  - Letter asking for multi-access education (sent to president/provost)
  - SAAM/SASC giveaways
  - Climate emergency week (working with UBC sustainability)