



**ams**

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**President & Managing Director Report**  
**2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver  
6133 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD  
VANCOUVER, BC V6T 1Z1  
[ams.ubc.ca](http://ams.ubc.ca)

## **Introduction**

On behalf of the AMS, we are excited to present the 2022 President and Managing Director's Report that will lay out the amazing work we've been able to accomplish. While recent times have 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**

The AMS has continued to be at the forefront of administering financial support to students. This support has taken various forms including through our U-Pass Subsidy and Exemption Program, continued funding wins coming from our advocacy to the University, fee waivers, and our various grants to Clubs, Constituencies, and student groups. This year, the AMS has strived to ensure our advocacy is relevant to students and achieves the priorities that students have outlined. To this end, the AMS has been pivotal in the development of a University-wide affordability strategy that outlines how the University will address the affordability concerns of students over the next several decades. This plan is among the first across the country and the AMS will continue to set the national standard through the Implementation Committee that has been established to ensure these affordability commitments are followed through.

While the increasing affordability crisis across the province has presented many challenges for students, the AMS has continued to be a leader in addressing the issues that matter to students. Through the AMS's tireless advocacy, the Provincial Government has set in place a 2% rent cap to ensure that landlords cannot take advantage of struggling students, drastically expanded the British Columbia Access Grant to ensure a wider breadth of students have access to larger amounts of needs-based aid, and we have led the national movement in the total eradication of interest rates on federal student loans.

The AMS also is making huge leaps in our organizational planning to ensure our Society is being thoughtful in its relevancy to students. Earlier this year the AMS created its first-ever Indigenous

Finance Guidelines to ensure we are acknowledging the unique forms of compensation for Indigenous communities that contribute their knowledge and labour to the efforts of our organization. The AMS has also made a commitment to the delivery of an organization-wide strategic plan that outlines the key priorities and objectives for the organization over the next few years to ensure we are maintaining continuity and stability in our delivery of advocacy, services, and programs to students. Further, the AMS is currently engaged deeply in an internal Governance Review that will help to reshape our Society for years to come so that our organization is more efficient, effective, and equitable.

The AMS has also ensured that we are contributing to a healthier and more collaborative student community on campus. Primarily through the execution of the largest-scale Clubs Fair our organization has ever hosted and the most important event of the year for clubs to grow their membership. From September 27 to 29, several brand-new event features were introduced to the UBC student community, including live music from 19 student artists, 9 SuperDogs shows, 6 specialty food trucks, and full tent coverage and infrastructure for 232 clubs (108 club booths per day). Additional elements included a TransLink engagement bus on-site, 14 campus partners, and 16 external partners per day.

The Society has been largely successful in fulfilling its primary responsibilities to students including advocating for student interests, increasing delivery of resources for EDI programs, accessibility needs, and better funding for student career services and food security programs. This has also translated into pushing for more funding for the Skytrain-to-UBC extension, international students, and equity-denied communities.

## **Managing Director's Report**

2021/22, although heavily impacted by the Global Pandemic of SARS CoV-2, and the aftermath which has shown labor shortages, supply chain issues, and dramatically rising food costs, showed an in year surplus of \$503, 863. This was influenced by our subsidization of the Health & Dental Plan, and a gradual lifting of public health restrictions.

Our businesses were impacted from a financial point of view, but we managed to increase wages, maintain student employment, and to contain price increases as much as possible.

With the departure of Scholars Catering from the market, our Conference & Catering division has made great inroads in securing that business for the AMS.

Our focus during 2021/22 continues to be 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, and a mask mandate which ended recently, to name but a few.

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.

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.

During the year, we also redesigned our website to promote easier access to information for our members, and we ran our first in person Block Party since 2019, welcoming over 6,000 members.

## **Conclusion – Looking Forward**

The 2022/23 Fiscal Year has been impacted by SARS CoV-2, and the return back to campus, 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.

**Eshana Bhangu**

AMS President

**Keith Hester**

AMS Managing Director

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