

## **Executive Goals 2022/2023**

### **End of Term Update**

Vice President, External Affairs: Erin Co

#### ***Goal 1***

**Financial Affordability and Aid**

#### ***Goal 2***

**Housing Affordability**

#### ***Goal 3***

**Student Employment**

#### ***Goal 4***

**Wellness and Safety**

#### ***Goal 5***

**Accessibility and Transit**

#### ***Goal 6***

**Climate Action**

#### ***Goal 7***

**International Student Support**

#### ***Goal 8***

**Indigenous Student Support**

#### ***Goal 9***

**Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability**



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## Goal 1: Financial Affordability and Aid

**Action Item I:** Ensure that UBC students' voices are heard in the **Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review's** engagement process through advocating for more post-secondary institutional funding to be able to directly impact and **lower tuition increases**

**Status: Completed**

- As the government moves the Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review to the Future Ready plan, we've met with the Deputy Prime Minister to advocate for UBC students' interests

**Action Item II:** Federally advocate for a **permanent removal of student debt** by expanding the **Repayment Assistance Plan**

**Status: Completed**

- Federal win on increased income threshold (\$25,000 to \$40,000) and decreased repayable amount (20% to 10% of household income)
- Included in our provincial October AMS-GSS Lobby Week priorities

**Action Item III:** Publish a policy paper with recommendations on **the creation of Equity Based Grants** to signal the need for province-wide investment into research on systemic barriers to education faced by marginalized groups, with an emphasis on

**Status: Completed**

- Met with SEEDS to partner with a graduate student class, UBC IRES, to currently conduct research through interviews and a survey
- Policy paper is in first draft

**Action Item IV:** Advocating alongside the Undergraduates of Canadian Research Intensive Universities (UCRU) to make the **doubling of the Canada Student Grant from \$3000 to \$6000 permanent**

**Status: Completed**

- Federal win where it was expanded from \$3000 to \$4200
- Included in our federal November/December lobby week priorities under "Student Financial Aid"



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**Action Item V:** Through the BC Budget Consultation, advocate for both an increase in the maximum grant amount and expansion of the income eligibility threshold of the **BC Access Grant**

**Status: Completed**

- Included in our BC Budget Consultation in June
- The government's Finance Committee took up our recommendation in their report
- Met with members on the committee, Finance Ministry staff, and AEST Ministry staff in October to continue to push for it as budget is currently being worked on

**Action Item VI:** Work with the GSS to make the **BC Graduate Student Scholarship** permanent

**Status: Completed**

- Included in our provincial October ABCS Lobby Week priorities under "Student Financial Aid"

## **Goal 2: Housing Affordability**

**Action Item I:** Lobby for an **increase in the shelter allowance** of the **Student Living Allowance** program through the BC Budget Consultation

**Status: Completed**

- Included in our BC Budget Consultation in June
- Met with Housing Minister staff to discuss our recommendation further in October

**Action Item II:** Advocate for **additional funding to the BC Student Housing Loan Program** for post-secondary institutions to be able to build more affordable student housing for the next generations of students

**Status: Completed**

- \$575 million in student housing announced in the budget
- Included in our BC Budget Consultation in June
- Included in our provincial October AMS-GSS Lobby Week priorities
- Met with Housing Minister staff to discuss our recommendation further in October

**Action Item III:** Work with the Vice President Academic and University Affairs on **Campus Vision 2050**, promoting the creation of more affordable housing



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**Status: Completed**

- \$575 million in student housing announced in the budget
- Included in our BC Budget Consultation in June

## Goal 3: Student Employment

**Action Item I:** Advocating for an increased and permanent funding that will **expand co-op and work-integrated learning programs**, creating **more job opportunities for students**

**Status: Completed**

- Included in our BC Budget Consultation in June
- Met with various MLAs to discuss our recommendation further in October

## Goal 4: Wellness and Safety

**Action Item I:** In line with upholding the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act, lobby for **provincial funding dedicated to ending gender-based and sexualized violence** at post-secondary institutions and **concretize the minimum standards** for post-secondary institutional sexual violence policies

**Status: Completed**

- Included in our provincial October ABCS Lobby Week priorities under “Fighting Sexualized Violence”
- Met with Possibility SEEDS to discuss how to further advocate

**Action Item II:** Launch a campaign promoting **Here2Talk**, a free 24/7 mental health service to increase student awareness

**Status: Completed**

- Launched end of November/early December to align better with upcoming finals

**Action Item III:** Send a submission to and work with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training to recommend that **mental health services include targeted support for marginalized and undersupported communities**



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**Status: Completed**

- Included in our provincial October AMS-GSS Lobby Week priorities

**Action Item IV:** Advocate to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction alongside other student unions and groups to commit more **systemic support and harm reduction training** to campus groups

**Status: Completed**

- Worked with the VPAUA and UBC Wellness to have on-campus fentanyl testing

## **Goal 5: Accessibility and Transit**

**Action Item I:** Continue to work with UBC Rapid Transit to **secure capital funding for the Skytrain to UBC** extension, ensuring that it will be built as soon as possible to avoid the projected over capacity of the Broadway Extension

**Status: Completed**

- Included in Translink's 10-year Plan of it being built
- As the business case is currently in progress, meeting with municipal officials to ensure the project is gaining capital funding for when the business case concludes next year

**Action Item II:** Work with the U-Pass Advisory Committee (UAC) into exploring ways that the **UPass** can be more affordable and have an expanded exemption eligibility

**Status: Completed**

- Created a brand-new Transit Summer Subsidy for students without the UPass but working during the summer
- While the UAC gears up for the review of the U-Pass MOU with Translink, UBC, and the AMS, we've also secured funding for a temporary U-Pass Summer Opt-In Program

**Action Item III:** Lobby for **students with disabilities** to receive consistent and equitable recognition in their grant status and eligibility

**Status: Completed**



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- Included in our provincial October ABCS Lobby Week priorities under “Supporting Students with Disabilities”

## **Goal 6: Climate Action**

**Action Item I:** Hold the federal government accountable to its **2030 Climate Goals** through written submissions and working alongside UCRU

**Status: Completed**

- Spearheaded a letter with UCRU calling for more climate change research

## **Goal 7: International Student Support**

**Action Item I:** Advocate that the federal government include international students’ full-time work experiences to count in the eligibility for the **Canadian Experience Class Express Entry** (CECEE)

**Status: Completed**

- Included in our federal November/December lobby week priorities under “Student Employment”

**Action Item II:** In reference to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training mandate letter on “strengthening the tuition limit policy”, advocate for **tuition predictability measures** for international students

**Status: Completed**

- Met with the AEST Minister in June to discuss an International Education Strategy that will be launched next year
- Met with AEST Ministry staff to further discuss this

**Action Item III:** Through the BC Budget Consultation, include international students in the eligibility for government funded **co-op and work-integrated learning programs**

**Status: Completed**

- Investments to student employment in the provincial budget
- Included in our BC Budget Consultation in June



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- Included in our federal November/December lobby week priorities under “Student Employment”

## **Goal 8: Indigenous Student Support**

**Action Item I: Work with Indigenous individuals, representatives, and communities** on both provincial and federal lobbying priorities

**Status: Completed**

- Ensuring there is Indigenous representation in both provincial and federal lobby weeks

**Action Item II: Lobby the federal government for increased and consistent funding for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program** after the current investment ends in 2024

**Status: Completed**

- Included in our federal November/December lobby week priorities under “Indigenous Education”

## **Goal 9: Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability**

**Action Item I: In the upcoming Municipal Elections,** promote a Get Out the Vote campaign that is informational and accessible, as well as ensure that the student voice is heard

**Status: Completed**

- Ran both an in-person booting and social media campaign

**Action Item II: Host a successful Student Union Development Summit (SUDS)** where student leaders will be able to develop professionally and network with one another, creating stronger and more cohesive advocacy

**Status: Completed**

- Hosted the largest SUDS yet, with over 36 institutions and 130+ delegates
- Had delegates from across the country, in addition to UBC undergraduate society presidents



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**Action Item III:** Consistently engage with students through **social media** regarding advocacy progress, community consultations, and general updates on the External Affairs Offices' projects

**Status: Completed**

- Consistently post relevant information on AMS Social Media pages, whether it be on advocacy wins they can access, consulting for submissions, or sharing lobby priorities

**Action Item IV:** Send out a **quarterly update report** on the various projects and lobbying the External Affairs Office has done

**Status: Completed**

- To avoid flooding AMS social media pages, worked with the communications team to instead share relevant information to students through newsletters and social media posts

For any questions, please contact **Erin** at [vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca](mailto:vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca)