



VP Academic and University Affairs Year-End Goals Update April 2023

Goal 1

Affordability

Goal 2

Sexual Violence Prevention and Awareness

Goal 3

Student Health and Wellness

Goal 4

Indigenous Student Engagement

Goal 5

Climate Justice

Goal 6

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Goal 7

Accessibility

Goal 8

Boost Student Engagement

Interim Highlights

Goal 1: Affordability

Action Item A

Represent student interests in the Campus Vision 2050 development process, advocating for more affordable and accessible housing for students.

Status: Completed

As part of the AMS advocacy on Campus Vision 2050 and the review of the Housing Action Plan, we have continued to push for the increase of the student housing production through the submissions made in June 2022, November 2022 on, and January 2023.

In September 2022, the VP AUA Office held a campaign to ensure that student voices are well represented and engaged in the CV2050 planning process. This resulted in the high amount of student representation in the Engagement Summary Report in which 73% of the 2,500 Fall 2022 survey submissions were classified as students. As a result, the University emphasised the building of taller buildings on campus which promotes more greenspace and limited mixing of student and neighbourhood housing, and the increase of mixed-use buildings for housing and academic purposes.

Action Item B

Raise awareness about the rising costs of learning materials and advocate for more investments into OERs through the Textbook Broke and OER Champions campaigns.

Status: Completed

As part of our advocacy to reduce the cost of learning materials and increasing access to education on campus, we updated the Open Letter to UBC.

Our annual Textbook Broke campaign engaged with over **500 students**. Similar to last year, we held a raffle for students to enter with the chance of having their textbook costs reimbursed for the semester.

On January 31st, 2023 we hosted our annual OER Champions Gala in collaboration with OpenUBC. We received over **80 nominations** and **selected 67 champions** for the year, 4 of which were student champions.

Additionally, we are pleased to share that previous efforts made by the VP AUA Office to set a cap for Digital Learning Tools Used for Assessment came to fruition with the passing of Policy V-131 at Senate in March 2023.

Action Item C

Work with the Food Security Initiative and the VP Students to develop a long-term food security strategy at UBC, prioritising student-led community programs and building a physical Food Hub on campus.

Status: In-progress

In October 2022, the AMS secured \$425,000 as additional one-time funding, for a total of \$750,000 budget for food security initiatives on campus for the 2022 academic year.

At the AMS Annual General Meeting held on October 31st, 2022, students passed a motion to call on UBC for sustainable food security funding.

In March 2023, UBC released its budget for the 2023/24 academic year which allocated \$800,000 to food security initiatives. The breakdown of this \$800,000 has yet to be determined. The AMS will continue to advocate for this funding to prioritise immediate relief initiatives.

Action Item D

Launch a food insecurity awareness and de-stigmatization campaign.

Status: Eliminated

Additional Deliverable

In August 2022, an Emergency Housing Toolkit was created in collaboration with AMS Housing Service. The toolkit was made for UBC students and community members who may be struggling to find stable and secure housing as a result of the growing housing crisis.

Goal 2: Sexual Violence Prevention and Awareness

Action Item A

Work with the SASC to launch an interactive exhibit in the Hatch Art Gallery as part of SASC's 20th year anniversary, celebrating sexual violence supports on campus.

Status: Completed by the SASC

The VP AUA Office was not included in the planning of any Hatch Art Gallery exhibition from SASC this year. However, in March 2023, the exhibit titled “Longing for What Might Be,” a group exhibition based on collaborative creative correspondence to the current women-led uprising happening in Iran, was presented in the Hatch Art Gallery as a collaboration between the The Global Lounge, UBC Arts & Culture District, and the SASC.

Action Item B

Work with the SASC and SVPRO to plan and execute social media campaigns and events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in February.

Status: Completed

During the UBC Sexual Assault Awareness Month in January 2023, the VP AUA Office worked with the AMS SASC and the UBC Sexual Violence and Prevention Response Office to create a SAAM Calendar on the AMS website, which helped students in accessing information regarding SAAM-related events.

We also worked with the SASC and the UBC Wellness Centre to distribute safer sex supply kits and fentanyl strips in washrooms in the Nest.

On January 19th, 2023, the SASC celebrated its 20th Anniversary and this event was initiated by the AUA Office in August 2022.

Action Item C

Represent and prioritize student interests in the SC-17 Implementation Advisoryn Committee, as well as the upcoming review of SC-17 in 2023.

Status: Eliminated

Goal 3: Student Health and Wellness

Action Item A

Work with UBC Housing and the VP Students to improve harm reduction efforts in residences, including developing an amnesty policy in housing contracts for students in cases of overdoses.

Status: In progress

We engaged with the Residence Housing Association to provide Student Housing and Community Services feedback on creating an amnesty policy. As of now, we are still awaiting for updates from the SHCS regarding their communication draft to residents on the decriminalisation, and a copy of the new contract is yet to be provided.

Action Item B

Perform a needs assessment for a permanent substance testing clinic on campus and advocate to UBC to commit to establishing one available to the UBC community.

Status: Completed

Our office also supported the FentaNIL project at UBC, which operates on campus to mitigate the detrimental effects of the opioid crisis through organizing naloxone training workshops and curating resources students can access.

We also supported UBC Wellbeing's efforts which now has regular substance testing clinics run by Get Your Drugs Tested with over 50 students attending the clinic on October 28th, trying to drive up student awareness.

The VP AUA Office also collaborated with the VP External Affairs Office to create a map of harm reduction services and supplies for students to freely access.

Action Item C

Advocate for more culturally competent mental health supports on campus.

Status: Eliminated

Goal 4: Indigenous Student Engagement

Action Item A

Bring back the Longhouse Lunch in the fall, engaging with Indigenous students and connecting on their priorities for our advocacy.

Status: On hold

In January 2023, we had a meeting with the UBC First Nations House of Learning and we were informed that their group is already at capacity for the year with Longhouse Lunches. Our recommendation to the next VP AUA is to set clear

intentions for their Indigenous student engagement, and to support the initiatives of the newly created AMS Indigenous Constituency.

Action Item B

Continue advocating for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff recruitment and retention.

Status: Eliminated

Action Item C

Prioritize Indigenous spaces and art in campus planning through Campus Vision 2050.

Status: Eliminated

Goal 5: Climate Justice

Action Item A

Support ongoing funding for the Sustainability Hub, which is responsible for implementing CAP 2030, and for the SEEDS program which supports sustainability research. This funding is important for staff salaries to drive this work as well as funding for engagement and educational activities across campus.

Status: Completed

In early March 2023, the budget for 2023/24 found on the Board of Governors' website shows that the University will be allocating a total of \$1.99 million funding towards addressing Climate Emergency Task Force priorities and achieving Climate Action Plan 2030. This budget includes support for the Social Ecological Economic Development Studies (SEEDS) Sustainability Program and the creation of 1.5 additional positions for the Sustainability Hub.

Action Item B

Ensure UBC continues to develop robust ESG principles for their investment portfolio, prioritizing disclosures as well as community reinvestments.

Status: In progress

On October 26th, 2022, the VP AUA presented the finalised ESG report to Council and emphasised the strategies that the AMS could pursue on advocating to the University. These strategies include conducting more advocacy research, providing education and encouragement through AES data, and taking direct

actions such as writing letters and meeting with the Board of Governors or running a referendum. This report will provide support and knowledge for the next VP AUA in regards with the advocacy on the University's investments.

Goal 6: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Action Item A

Ensure UBC is committed to the Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence (ARIE) Taskforce Recommendations and represent student interests in the implementation.

Status: Eliminated

Goal 7: Accessibility

Action Item A

Continue to work with students on establishing the Disability Taskforce to address accessibility issues on campus.

Status: Completed

In September 2022, the AMS supported the Disability Working Group in its "Calls to Action to Enable Meaningful Implementation of the Accessible British Columbia Act." As a result, the VP AUA of the AMS has now been given a seat to the Accessibility Working Group in UBC, which provides guidance for accessibility initiatives on campus, the development of UBC's plan for compliance with the BC legislation, and the creation of a new Accessibility Committee.

Action Item B

Advocate on prioritizing accessibility issues as part of the Campus Vision 2050 process.

Status: Eliminated

Goal 8: Boost Student Engagement

Action Item A

Develop and launch the AMS Engagement Principles, a guiding document for reciprocal, non-extractive consultation with students.

Status: In progress

The very first Engagement Principles were presented at the November 23, 2022 council meeting. These principles were developed to ensure that the AMS will meaningfully consult and engage with historically, persistently, and systemically marginalized groups in an accessible, non-extractive, and trauma-informed manner. The VP AUA Office will be working with the AMS Policy Advisor on ensuring that these principles are enforced and evident from the goals of the new incoming executives.

Action Item B

Launch a Student Engagement Campaign on UBC governance and how students can engage in our advocacy to the University.

Status: Eliminated

Interim Highlights

OER Champions Reception

The OER Champs Reception was rescheduled to January 31, 2023 after the November 2022 date was cancelled due to snow. A couple days after my arrival (my first day in-office was January 18, 2023), I was informed that not all the trophies for the recipients had been ordered. Additionally, I was hesitant to give the originally ordered trophies as they were not up to the historic standards. Celebrating OER champions has been a central part of our affordability advocacy. Thus, I decided to order higher quality awards for each recipient that would meet the standards of this important award.

Correspondence to the Board of Governors

Campus Vision 2050

In January 2023, we submitted correspondence to the Board outlining the AMS priorities for Campus Vision 2050.

On March 12, 2023, I presented to the Board's Advisory Committee on Campus Vision 2050 and Rapid Transit as the last push in the CV2050 draft phase to emphasize the importance of the AMS priorities.

UBC 2023/24 Budget

For the March 31, 2023 meeting, we submitted correspondence asking the Board to commit \$350,000 of the \$800,000 allocated to food security initiatives to the AMS Food Bank.

2023 Academic Experience Survey

The AES is distributed annually with the purpose of gathering data on student experiences at the UBC Vancouver campus. The AES is one of the most important projects of the year as it provides us with up-to-date data to support our data-driven approach to advocacy.

This year, we launched the AES in March and kept it open for 5 weeks. The 2023 AES received **3,359 responses**, which is a **32% increase** compared to last year's number of survey responses and the **highest turnout since 2014**. Additionally, I ensured that other AMS Offices were consulted and encouraged constituencies to ask constituency-specific questions.

CM3 Revision

As I began planning for the 2023 AES, I referenced policy CM3 to guide the process. However, it was more of a barrier than a tool with the limitations set. The goal of the AES is to capture students' academic experience and none of the questions in the appendix addressed that. In fact, the AES from 2019 to 2022 did not include any academic specific questions. Further, it didn't make sense to have a set of questions only asked every other year in addition to the yearly questions. Instead, it's an obstacle to shortening the survey, a recommendation that has been continuously made. To address these issues, I worked with the AMS Policy Advisor to propose amendments to CM3.