

# Executive Goals

## Office of the Vice-President External Affairs

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## Goal 1

### Financial Affordability

Affordability is an increasingly prevalent issue in the lives of students and Canadians across the country. The Vice President External Affairs Office will advocate for increased financial support in the form of an expanded BC Access Grant and continue to lobby the federal government for an Equity-Based Grant program.

#### Action Item 1

Demand for the **BC Access Grant** to be **expanded** through the **maximum grant amount** and the **income eligibility threshold**.

#### Action Item 2

Collaborate with the **GSS** to advocate for the **BC Graduate Student Scholarships** to be awarded **permanently**

#### Action Item 3

Advocate for an **increase** in the **Canadian Graduate Student Scholarship** award amount by recommending **government consultations** with **graduate and doctoral students** across Canada.

#### Action Item 4

Work with the **Vice President Academic and University Affairs** to launch advocacy projects supporting **increases in operating grants** to alleviate dependence on university funding.

#### Action Item 5

Produce a **policy report** of **recommendations** for the implementation of an **Equity-Based Grant** based on relevant research from the past five years.

## Goal 2

### Food Security

The External Affairs office at AMS acknowledges the vital role of food security in enhancing the overall well-being and academic success of students. In response to the significant 11.4% increase in food prices in 2022, our objective is to prioritize access to nutritious and affordable food. To achieve this, we will advocate for the establishment of a non-repayable food grant and engage with external organizations to ensure the sustainability of the AMS Food Bank.

#### Action Item 1

Propose and advocate for the establishment of a **non-repayable Food Security Grant** program for **post-secondary students** from **low- and middle-income backgrounds**.

#### Action Item 2

Publish a **policy paper** with recommendations to address the disproportional effects of costs of living on post-secondary students, with the aim to support the implementation of a permanent **Food Security Grant program**.

#### Action Item 3

Engage with **external partnerships** while **researching charity status** organizations and **their benefits** to **support the longevity** of the **AMS Food Bank**.

## Goal 3

### Housing Affordability and Assistance

With Vancouver being one of the least affordable cities in the world, supporting students in obtaining accessible and affordable housing is more pertinent than ever. The External Affairs Office will put pressure on government officials to contribute more financial resources to funding students' housing costs and make the Canadian Housing Benefit permanent.

#### Action Item 1

Advocate for the **Canadian Housing Benefit** to become **permanent and implemented annually**.

#### Action Item 2

Lobby for an **increase** in the shelter allowance within the **Student Living Allowance program**.

#### Action Item 3

Ensure that UBC students are benefiting from the **Homes for People Action Plan** by demanding that the provincial government **increase** the financial allocation dedicated to post-secondary student accommodations.

## Goal 4

### Transit Accessibility

The AMS External Affairs Office recognizes the critical role of transit accessibility in promoting mobility, convenience, and sustainability for its community members. By collaborating with the U-Pass Advisory Committee, advocating for the restoration of the 480 bus service, and engaging with TransLink and stakeholders, the External Affairs Office aims to enhance exemption eligibility and affordability of the U-Pass while ensuring the timely progress of the Skytrain to UBC project. Furthermore, the External Affairs Office is committed to actively enforcing and expanding the inclusive eligibility requirements of the Summer Transit Subsidy program, ensuring its long-term viability and accessibility for all.

#### Action Item 1

Collaborate with the **U-Pass Advisory Committee** to **enhance exemption eligibility** and **U-Pass affordability**.

#### Action Item 2

Launch an advocacy campaign to **restore** the **480** bus service and engage with **TransLink** and relevant **stakeholders**.

#### Action Item 3

Maintain a collaborative relationship with the **UBC Rapid Transit Team** to **ensure** that the **Skytrain to UBC project's timeline is on track**.

#### Action Item 4

Actively enforce the **Summer Transit Subsidy** program and **expand** its **eligibility requirements** to be more inclusive while **ensuring its longevity**.

## Goal 5

### Wellness and Safety Resources

Ensuring students feel safe and supported on campus is an integral part of their experience. The External Affairs Office will advocate for annual provincial funding for sexualized violence prevention offices at post-secondary institutions, collaborate with external student unions to establish minimum standards for institutional sexual violence policies, recommend amendments to mandate regular surveys evaluating policy efficacy, and propose the implementation of a bursary program for mental health services for post-secondary students. These efforts aim to prioritize student safety, address sexual violence, and support the mental well-being of students.

#### Action Item 1

Advocate for **annual provincial funding** to be dedicated to **sexualized violence prevention offices** at post-secondary institutions.

#### Action Item 2

Collaborate with external student unions to concretize the **11 minimum standards** as a part of the **Post-Secondary Institutional Sexual Violence Policies**.

#### Action Item 3

Recommend an amendment to the **Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act** mandating post-secondary institutions to **conduct regular surveys** evaluating the efficacy of their policies.

#### Action Item 4

Recommend the **implementation** of a **bursary program** for post-secondary students aimed at **covering mental health services**.

## Goal 6

### International Student Support

The AMS External Affairs Office recognizes and highly values the significant contributions made by international students, not only to the local community but also to Canada as a whole. To support their successful transition and academic achievement, AMS is committed to advocating for an inclusive and supportive environment, proposing a comprehensive review of the Building on Success initiative to address financial barriers. Additionally, AMS will also advocate for transparency in the funding expansion and the inclusion of full-time work experiences of international students in the Canadian Experience Class Express Entry eligibility.

#### Action Item 1

Propose and recommend an **amendment to the Tuition Fee Limit policy to add a cap for annual increases to international student tuition.**

#### Action Item 2

Recommend a review of the **Building on Success: International Education Strategy** to **mitigate financial barriers** faced by international students and ensure that **UBC student voices are heard.**

#### Action Item 3

Propose for **transparency in the BC Settlement and Integration Services funding expansion** and ensure it is addressing financial hardships faced by international students.

#### Action Item 4

Advocate for the **Canadian Experience Class Express Entry eligibility** to include the **full-time work experiences of international students.**



## Goal 7

### Indigenous Student Support

The External Affairs Office is committed to supporting Indigenous students in removing financial barriers and will advocate at the federal and provincial levels to make more funding accessible for Indigenous students pursuing post-secondary education.

#### Action Item 1

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

#### Action Item 2

Advocate for the implementation of a **bursary program in BC for Indigenous students facing financial hardships** with the aim of **lowering these barriers**.

## Goal 8

### Climate Action

The External Affairs Office will continue to bring attention to the climate crisis and seek accountability from the federal government.

#### Action Item 1

Ensure **accountability from the federal government to its commitment to the 2030 Climate Goals**.

## Goal 9

### Accessible Learning

The External Affairs Office is committed to promoting equitable opportunities for all students by advocating for inclusive practices such as increasing hybrid learning options and mandating lecture recordings. Recognizing the value of accessible learning, these initiatives aim to enhance the educational experience and foster equity and diversity within the university community.

#### Action Item 1

Collaborate with the Vice-President of Academic and University Affairs to **campaign** for an **increase** in **hybrid learning** and make **recording lectures mandatory** with the aim of supporting accessible learning at post-secondary institutions.

## Goal 10

### Transparency, Inclusivity, and Receptiveness

The External Affairs Office is aligned with the AMS guiding principles of acting with integrity and sincerity. Throughout the year, our Office will continue to foster meaningful relationships with external student unions, coalitions, governments, and, most importantly, students.

#### Action Item 1

Build and strengthen **relationships** with **external student unions and coalitions**.

#### Action Item 2

Host a successful **Student Union Development Summit (SUDS)**, ensuring student leaders are able to develop professionally and network with one another to create **stronger** and more **cohesive advocacy**.

#### Action Item 3

Consistently **communicate** and **engage with students** through social media regarding advocacy progress, community consultations, and other important updates on the External Affairs Offices' projects.

## Appendix A

### Campaign Platform Quotes and Related Goals

*Goals edited to reflect feasibility*

Quote	Related Goal
<p>I intend to <b>make affordability a top lobbying priority</b> and <b>expand UBC’s partnerships with external organizations.</b></p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Welcome!</i></p>	<p><b>Goal 1</b></p>
<p><b>Make food security a top lobbying priority.</b></p> <p>Increase new partnerships with external organizations to <b>create consistent and reliable food donations.</b></p> <p>Push to <b>expand the AMS Food Bank capacity</b> to provide students with healthy and hot meals.</p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Food Security</i></p>	<p><b>Goal 2</b></p>
<p><b>Increase student living allowance</b> to support students who have financial need.</p> <p><b>Work alongside UTILE</b>, a Quebec non-profit organization to examine more housing options.</p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Housing Accessibility &amp; Affordability</i></p>	<p><b>Goal 3</b></p>
<p><b>Push forward the business case</b> of the Broadway Subject Project.</p> <p><b>Expand the eligibility</b> for U-Pass exemptions.</p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Increase Safety for Commuters</i></p>	<p><b>Goal 4</b></p>
<p>Lobby the Provincial Government for funding to <b>expand the services</b> provided at sexualized violence offices at UBC.</p> <p><b>Expand the support</b> for the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act established in 2016.</p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Expand Sexual Violence Resources</i></p>	<p><b>Goal 5</b></p>

<p>Lobby for the current International Education Strategy to <b>provide additional grants and funding for international students.</b></p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Support International Students</i></p>	<p><b>Goal 6</b></p>
<p>I intend to <b>strengthen connections</b> by hosting regular office hours to <b>continue understanding the issues students want to be represented.</b></p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Welcome!</i></p>	<p><b>Goal 10</b></p>

### Campaign Platform Links

- [Campaign Website](#)
- [AMS Strategic Plan - The Next Quinquennial 2023-2028](#)

## Appendix B

### Removed Goals from Campaign Platform

Quote	Reasoning
<p><b>Develop a discounted food market, food recovery, and food redistribution program under the AMS.</b></p> <p><b>Re-develop aging upper-year residences with larger, modern accommodations.</b></p> <p><b>Expand the UBC Student Assistance Plan, and increase counselling services accessibility.</b></p> <p><b>Allocate more funding for the AMS Health and Dental Plan, and push for it to be catered to international students.</b></p> <p><b>Improve existing AMS Housing services to cater to international students.</b></p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Increase Food Security, Housing Accessibility &amp; Affordability, Support international Students</i></p>	<p>These action items are outside of the jurisdiction of the VP External Portfolio.</p>
<p><b>Lobby to instill the Residence Tenacity Act to apply to student housing.</b></p> <p><b>Support the referendum to increase access to pro bono at the UBC SVPRO.</b></p> <p><b>Implement more street lights, traffic cameras, and road signs along the UBC campus to discourage unsafe driving.</b></p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Housing Accessibility &amp; Affordability and Increase Safety for Commuters</i></p>	<p>These action items are outside of the jurisdiction of the AMS.</p>
<p><b>Expand and raise student awareness around the Here2Talk program.</b></p> <p><i>See: Campaign Website - Expand Mental Health Resources</i></p>	<p>A campaign was already launched in November 2022 by the External Affairs office.</p>