



Office of the Vice President External Affairs
Written Update - Aug 2nd, 2023

Hi everyone, sorry I'm not here today :(Here are my updates!!

Goal 4 - Transit Accessibility

- **Action Item 4:** All summer transit subsidy applications have been processed and are ongoing as the August application opens. As the program is in its last month in 2023 - all student inquiries, questions, and related concerns have been answered. All eligibility criteria have been finalized for future years, logistics sorted out with UBC, and projected funds are ensured to be available for additional years to the program.
- **Action item 1:** We have discussed with the UAC the statistics and research behind negotiations with TransLink for the U-Pass contract renewal in 2025. We are also working on an idea of potentially adding new benefits for part-time students in partnership with other student unions.

Goal 10 - Transparency, Inclusivity, and Receptiveness

- **Action Item 1:** We have continued consistent meetings with external student unions and coalitions to share our priorities for the year. We are continuing our ongoing conversations about partnerships for lobbying weeks and federal advocacy opportunities; researching and hearing from the perspectives of other student unions in regards to CASA.
- **Action Item 2:** We have completed all bookings for SUDS, finalized every single aspect of the conference, and ensured ticket sales and communication channels are successful. All that's left before the event are minor busy work and logistics to sort out.
- **Action Item 3:** We are continuing our consistent meetings to plan out materials to put out when the school year starts on advocacy progress and spreading awareness on student-led campaigns, such as the 480 project and the #Access4All campaign.

Goal 9 - Accessible Learning

- **Action Item 1:** We have met with UBC DUC to discuss our campaign ideas for the school year, and we will be supporting them on their #Access4All campaign through digital and in-person campaigns, as well as connecting with other student unions and the provincial government.

Collaborating with UCRU, we have taken initiative on, researched, and submitted a federal budget consultation and a joint letter with the U15 schools across Canada pushing for the Federal Government to commit to the following recommendations:

Goal 5 - Wellness and Safety Resources

- **Action Item 4:** The Federal Government establishes a 4-year post-secondary mental health infrastructure fund, based on the existing local food infrastructure fund mode. This will provide direct capital and short-term operational funding to applicant post-secondary institutions and affiliate student associations to establish accessible mental health networks, supports, programs, and initiatives for students.

Goal 6 - International Student Support

- **Action Item 4:** The Federal Government amends the Canadian Experience Class (Express Entry) program such that international students are able to count part-time employment experience while they are full-time students toward their permanent residency.



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- **Action Item 2:** The Federal Government renews the Building on Success: International Education Strategy in addition to increasing the \$147.9 million budget and \$8 million per year ongoingly to \$165.6 million and \$8 million per year for the next 5 years to reflect the current numbers of International students in Canada.
- **Not an action item:** The Federal Government makes the one-year pilot program lifting the 20 hour work cap for international students permanent.

Goal 7 - Indigenous Student Support

- **Action Item 1:** The Federal Government continues to fund the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) beyond 2024.

Goal 1 - Financial Affordability

- **Not an action item:** The Federal Government maintains the increase to \$4200/year maximum on the Canadian Student Grants program from the previous pre-COVID-19 maximum of \$3000/year.

Goal 3 - Housing Affordability and Assistance

- **Not an action item:** The Federal Government develops an initiative to finance the construction of purpose-built student housing in the vicinity of postsecondary institutions with \$800 million in mixed funding models (\$560M in grants (70%), \$240M in loans (30%).

Thank you so much for reading, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca <333