

Meeting called to order at 6:06

Kamil presents a land acknowledgement

Approval of the agenda

Moved :Mayank

Seconded: Anna

Approval of the Minutes

Moved: Tina

Seconded: Mayank

Vice Chair Election

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Tina be elected as the vice chair of advocacy committee until the the first fall meeting in September

Moved: Tina

Seconded: Kamil

Kamil: Typically the vice chair will assist in agenda planning and taking minutes and chairing the committee in my absence. I think what we should do is that those who are interested should put up their hands and then if there are more than one, we can hear a short speech from them and vote.

Tina, Mayank and Anna raise their hands.

Anna: I WOULD LIKE TO BE VICE CHAIR because I will bring my experience on the ukrainian club and I have ensured committees are on track to complete goals, i have done a lot of collab with AUA na d externals in the past

Tina: As VPX I would like to bring in my advocacy priorities and being a part of UCRU. I'm in a place where I can facilitate collaboration with UBC and I'd like to receive help in pushing forward my goals with the government. Great place to carry out advocacy goals.

Mayank: I was VP Academic of EUS last year and realized after running our last annual survey that there are a lot of issues that students are facing right now and some of those issues I brought to Kamil and I'd like to continue providing a different perspective as engineer students experience a lot of issue more harshly and i think having an eng voice will be good.

Updates from AUA and External Office

Kamil: We'll just share what things we're working on that are most relevant to the committee. So in the AUA office we're working on creating an undergraduate research fund called smurf and it

will help facilitate undergraduate research. We're asking for some money. The way it will work is that people will put forward proposals and then research support specialists will work as advisors to the researchers and then it will go to an adjudication committee that will make the final decision. Hopefully we'll be able to fund 35 projects. We used PAF, the fund in engineering as a model to inspire our work.

Tina: So a student named James shared with us that at a translink board meeting he wrote a letter and we also met with mayor brody and councilor mike classen who also said he'd be in touch which is encouraging to hear. We met with James to discuss our next steps and today we had a meeting with translink Tessa who is network manager. We had a one hour discussion and the main summary is that translink is financially constrained. I think I was there to support James' advocacy. I came from ubc perspective and we refuted their argument to james and were going to have continuous conversations with james and translink. We're also looking at making graphics to share. I'm also presenting on CASA tomorrow in council. I'm basically talking about why UCRU is unstable and not a good place for federal advocacy. Today Uottawa left UCRU and three of these schools are part of CASA observership program and its \$100/conference and there's 4 conferences per year.

Anna: Translinks main concern was finances?

Tina: Yes they said they are financially constrained but we have data from them showing that they continued certain lines and discontinued certain lines so we said that they should be prioritizing students.

Kamil: Do you know how much it would be to upgrade

Tina: Yea they just said it was super expensive

Anna: Do they need funding help?

Tina: that's for them to figure out as we don't have enough funding to help

Mayank: I love what work is being done

Salva: Could you clarify why UCRU isn't sustainable?

Tina: We don't have a centralized bank account and much of the funding comes from the executives so AMS will probably have to fund the AGM since we'll be hosting. The discussions are limited and schools are oftentimes not showing up. There is a lack of participation, lack of engagement. We did a new structural change and no one even ran for any position and some archives from sheldon show that UCRU was never meant to be a permanent thing.

Salva: i think in your presentation you should share how much it cost to be apart of UCRU because it seems like UCRU costs no money but CASA does

Tina: Yes so Casa does cost money and UCRU is free but to be apart of casa as an observer it is free but when you become a member it costs 100 per students so it would be 63k so we're definitely not joining this year but maybe paving the way for a future vp external and compiling data and info.

Kamil: Yes so we created the goals draft based on discussion but anna mentioned its very AUA focused so we can definitely keep working on it. We also left the professor's evaluation of the goals blank so maybe we could workshop that.

Anna: What's the point of the goal?

Myank: Professors, especially tenure often don't put in much effort for helping students and there're many professors who aren't doing what they should be. I wanted to see what other people have faced in other faculties and if there's anything we can do to emphasize how important midterm evaluations are to fill out and that they are being heard.

Salva: I think yes eng and science have similar issues. We have a problem with tenured profs being very bad. We need to push for tenure not being a free for all that you can do whatever and there needs to be more importance when many students are saying a prof is bad and not just when their tenure is being re assessed

Mayank: Yea i think students especially since covid feel that their opinions don't matter and that their voices are being heard. I think that's what midterm eval is for and can solve and if we can push for a more enhanced midterm evaluation that more people are filling out then they can use that to make changes in the second half of the course. I had a prof change turning in assignments to online and not just in person and that makes students feel heard and i think it can even be a place where you give

Kamil: maybe we can look at working with the provost office to see what can be done about midterm evaluations

Mayank: **Something we proposed last year was to make a template of a helpful midterm evaluation so they don't have to make a lot of changes** and if they want to learn something about the course in particular they can add things where they can.

Cynara: **Maybe a campaign from the AMS and VP academics about filling out evaluations**

Anna: I think a lot of teachers get very laid back after evaluations and post finals so maybe if **we could also have an evaluation post finals**

Mayank: **could we have a question on the AES regarding what students want to see for SEI.**

Tina: I think some additional goals we can add, for student affordability we can add launching advocacy campaigns also produce actionable recommendations for the implementation of an equity baked grant based on relevant research. This was passed down by the past 5 vp x so I think if this year we can actually make some recommendation that would be great. and for food security we were also advocating for a food security grant. This is something I discussed in the BC budget consultation and a policy paper on affordability for post secondary students with the aim of securing food security grants and another we could add could be. Also, Collaborating with external student unions to concretize the eleven minimal standards as part of post-secondary standards....

Meeting Adjourned at 6:42pm

Action Items

- Circulate AP related to Concessions for committee to review
- Bring Kevin from advocacy to share more about CFA issues as he has wide breadth of knowledge
- Revise goals and send to email for approval