



Submission to the UBC Board of Governors regarding Housing Action Plan Update

Dear Board of Governors,

This submission is written on behalf of the Alma Mater Society in response to the Housing Action Plan update. The AMS has been an active participant in gathering the voices of undergraduate and graduate students regarding the issue of housing affordability.

The AMS commends the University's decision to commit to the provincial rent freeze as an interim measure to alleviate housing insecurity and provide stability for student renters. Given that over 11,000 students are currently housed in UBC residence¹ and are not subject to the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA), it is vital that the University matches the provincial mandate in order to provide support to these students' financial and mental wellbeing.

The AMS recommends that the University continues to respect the provincial mandate surrounding rental increases. Considering the impacts of the volatile job market due to public health restrictions since the COVID-19 pandemic began, it is important to note that the effects on students' income and therefore financial insecurity will extend further into 2022. Thus, in alignment with the 2% cap on rent increases as outlined in the Housing Action Plan, the AMS hopes to see this reflected in next year's rates.

As the financial insecurity continues into the next year, students will benefit from increased awareness and a more accessible platform for the UBC housing bursary² available to first and second year students living in on-campus housing. Currently, the process of application for the housing bursary is achieved through Enrolment Services, which most students are not aware of as information about the bursary is scarcely available on any digital platform. In order to ensure

¹<https://vancouver.housing.ubc.ca/getting-started/prospective/#:~:text=UBC%20houses%20more%20than%2011%2C000%20students%20in%2013%20residences>

² <https://www.ubyssey.ca/news/ubc-general-bursary-2020/>.

that students who are in need of the housing bursary are given a fair opportunity, the AMS recommends that the housing bursary is expanded to upper year undergraduate and graduate students, as well as bolstering University communication strategies regarding the housing bursary.

The AMS recommends that appropriate resources and funding are allocated to achieve the goals outlined in the Campus Vision 2050, including affordable housing, campus planning, specifically in relation to historically marginalized communities. The AMS hopes that in the development and execution of stakeholder engagement surrounding Campus Vision 2050, key participants' voices³ are heard regarding their experienced realities of affordable housing and how it interacts with green academic space, child care, and Skytrain to UBC.

Kind Regards,



Cole Evans
President



Morgan Lorenz
AVP University Affairs

³ Such as, but not limited to: *Campus and Community Planning, Sustainability Engineering, Student Housing and Community Services, University Sustainability Initiative, Faculty Association, AMS, GSS, Musqueam Nation, Indigenous Communities on campus, University Neighbourhood Association.*