

Prior to taking office, I worked with the outgoing VP External Stef Ratjen, transitioning for two weeks and preparing for the provincial election. On February 26th, 2009 I officially became the Vice President External of the Alma Mater society of UBC Vancouver.

What I have done:

- Began immediately planning provincial election

March

- The AVP-X (Rory Green), Government and Media commissioner (Caitlin O’Leary) and the UPass commissioner (Elisa Smith) were hired.
- Blake Frederick and I attended the CASA Annual General Meeting and Lobby Conference in Ottawa.
 - Before attending the CASA AGM and Lobby Con, the external office prepared an extensive letter to CASA outlining AMS concerns with the organization.
- The provincial election campaign plans and designs were solidified. This would not have been possible without the help of Adrienne Smith our policy advisor and Kelli Seepaul the communications manager. I cannot thank them enough for the tremendous effort they both put into the provincial election campaign.
- I met with representatives of VANOC and VISU to discuss the Olympic’s impact on UBC students, and received the sense that while trying to accommodate students with the security plans, that once finalized students would have no way of altering security plans.

April

- In April, the Provincial Election and Voting Referendum campaign was in full swing. 5 campaigners were hired to assist the external office in our outreach efforts, which included:
 - Handing out rave cards at bus loop
 - Election table at pit night
 - Tabling in residence
 - Classroom announcements
 - Handed out rave cards in the SUB during lunch time
 - Extensive pestering of campus buildings
- I had the chance to meet with many Provincial Election Candidates including: Jenny Kwan, Dawn Black, Kash Heed, Shane Simpson, Harry Bains, Shane Simpson,
- April 6-8 was Voter Mobilization week:
 - April 6th: SUB South Side Lounge
 - April 7th: Outside the SUB
 - April 8th: SUB Main concourse
 - Representatives from: Political Parties, Get Your Vote On, Elections BC
 - It was a great success, as our campaign team registered over 500 students to vote in 3 short days!
- The External Campaign team was also very present at the great farm trek and block party
 - Fram Trek:
 - Handed out rave cards and buttons
 - Block party
 - Gave out beads that had election buttons attached
 - All people entering block party got a “VOTE IN THE BC PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS MAY 12 2009” stamp!

May

- After classes were over, the campaign team focused on:
 - Calling students who had joined our contact list, reminding them to vote
 - Facebook initiatives promoting the election including:
 - “12 things about May 12”
 - BC Provincial Election Facebook Event

June

- I had the chance to both meet with the coalition of childcare advocates, Sharon Gregson, Vancouver School Board Trustee and attend the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC Annual General Meeting
- Blake and I attended the CASA Policy and Strategy Conference in Calgary

Ongoing

- The external office has received over 300 Upass subsidy applications, the subsidy committee will be meeting soon to go over them.
- We are continuing to work on our transit campaign: More Busses! More Often!
- The external office looks forward to working with our VP Academic, Campus RCPM, VISU and VANOC to make sure student rights are respected during the 2010 Olympic Games.
- The external office, in conjunction with the external policy committee, is working on formulating response to Translink's 10 year plan.

Looking Forward to:

- Meeting with Council to discuss CASA
- A well planned and well executed federal election
- Olympic campaigns and events throughout the school year
- A child care conference
- The continuation of Cinema Politica

That is all for now folks! As always, my door is always open, so please call (604 822 2050), email (vpexternal@ams.ubc.ca) or drop by if you have any questions/concerns/comments about YOUR AMS VP External Office.