

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The Kinesiology Undergraduate Society (KUS) has always worked closely with students, in the pursuit of creating the best undergraduate experience for those in the Bachelor of Kinesiology program. The KUS executive council firmly believes that Kin students deserve a place to call home. Over the past five years, we have supported and continue to support student and school initiatives to help make this goal a reality. Gone would be the days of trekking across campus in 10 minutes, and gone would be the days of getting kicked out of reserved study space. Little by little, student leaders have contributed to the concept of having our own space, but none more than the Make Your Mark (MYM) project.

At the grassroots level, the MYM project was an idea that took form of a student led initiative in 2011. Since then, different generations of the KUS have worked with student leaders and the School of Kinesiology to help design a functional program for this student space. Due to the large scope of the project, the KUS ultimately came to the conclusion that it did not have resources to inform, survey, and educate students on what this referendum meant for Kin students. In collaboration with the school, the KUS decided that if this were to be done right, we would require extra funding from the school to hire a student leader who could educate his/her peers, and ultimately run the referendum question.

In the spring of 2014, the KUS ran the referendum with an overwhelming turn out of 44%, and an 87% vote in favour of the fee levy. This movement secured funding that would contribute to student space within interdisciplinary health sciences building, the Community Health Sciences Centre (CHSC). However, of the many other health science disciplines, Kinesiology students are the only group to have moved forward with any paperwork. Our contribution represents a ~5% contribution to the overall cost of the project, which suggests that a lot more discussions are to be had regarding the CHSC building.

However, the appointment of our new director yields a different and refreshing perspective. The KUS and School of Kinesiology have an opportunity to move forward with a new building that has both momentum and traction. Conceptually referred to as the Kinesiology Research and Education Centre (KREC), this structure aims to be a hub for the Kinesiology discipline as a whole, with faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students, all under one roof. This building positions Kinesiology as the main and largest stakeholder, which allows for expedited processes and for decisions to be made in the interests of Kinesiology students, without having to answer to other disciplines.

On Wednesday, October 28, 2015, the KUS postponed the fee levy and referendum results approval at AMS council. Unfortunately, using the existing

memorandum of understanding concerning the CHSC would not be transferrable to the new building. The change in the location of the student space from the CHSC to the KREC, alters the intention of the question, which would render the MOU and referendum results nullified. However, in hindsight there are a few things within the MOU that students ultimately should not be ethically paying for. Informal learning space, bookable meeting rooms, food outlets, and an undergraduate society office, are things that all tuition paying UBC students should have access to. It is important to note that the CHSC building is still a high priority within UBC development, but the role that kinesiology plays in it will change as we move forward with our role in the KREC.

Without so many student leaders standing behind the entire MYM campaign, we would not be where we are today. The efforts of these individuals allowed the KUS to identify the needs of our undergraduate students, which provided us with the resources to meet those needs, regardless of where this student space is built. But most importantly, it has shown the lengths that Kinesiology students are willing to go, to show that we need a place to call home. The opportunity to be involved with the development of a hub for Kinesiology is an extremely exciting one. The KUS is driven to move forward with the all work that MYM has done, as we strive to make decisions that will provide the best experience for our undergraduate students.



Justin Tsang  
KUS President