



RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOLKIT

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Background

UBC is home to over 400 student run clubs and societies on campus, consisting of a variety of culture clubs, recreation clubs, and undergraduate constituencies. Clubs and groups allow like-minded students to pursue their interests in fun ways, such as hosting events for their members throughout the year. These student run groups rely on UBC facilities, resources, equipment, and support to make these events possible and also successful.

The purpose of this toolkit is to empower those student groups, improve access to recreation for UBC students and community members, and to advocate for the wellbeing initiative at UBC. We have chosen to assess clubs under the Alma Mater Society (AMS) as well as non-AMS student-run organizations such that the toolkit reflects the needs of a majority of UBC students.

Methods

We conducted several qualitative semi-structured interviews with six student leaders representing the following organizations: Sisu Girls of UBC (2), the Party Calendar UBC and Dive Into UBC (2), the Kinesiology Undergraduate Society (1), and Generockcity Vancouver (1).

Directed interview questions were designed to guide conversation towards those barriers, inefficiencies, support systems, and available resources available to leaders of campus organizations. Interview responses were then analysed for common themes amongst participants in order to establish cohesive results.

Results and Themes

Communications - participants outlined the importance of direct communication with booking services and locations, both on and off campus. In addition, several participants mentioned difficulty communicating with the AMS and its services.

Event Spaces and Bookings - participants noted the competition that is present for event spaces, as well as the lack of present information available for all spaces available for booking on campus. In addition, participants noted difficulty with the current bookings system in the AMS Student Nest. For those non-AMS organizations, fees associated with event-space booking was a major limiting factor.

Inter-Club Collaboration - participants noted the necessity for more collaboration between similar clubs to enrich student experience.



The AMS Student Nest is a space a majority of campus groups utilize to run programming for students, and where fierce competition for booking spaces occurs.

Discussion

After interviewing participants and analyzing the responses, it is evident that there are several inefficiencies and barriers that AMS and non-AMS affiliated clubs face. The majority of these revolve around communication involved with the AMS. Both AMS clubs interviewed noted the apparent lack of communication within the AMS bookings system involving untimely or even lack of responses. This dysfunction, as well as high competition for event spaces makes it difficult for student groups to run effective events. Furthermore, a majority of participants noted that running events on campus is more convenient for students, outlining the importance of improving services for organizations.

Another issue around event-space bookings revolves around the different bookings system in use around campus. The AMS currently can only book spaces within the AMS Student Nest, whereas other services must be utilized to use other spaces on campus. The lack of a centralized booking system is additionally problematic for student-groups.

Several participants also noted the lack of collaboration between similar clubs on campus, either within the grouping of AMS-affiliated or external clubs on campus. These participants indicated that enhanced collaboration, through AMS-initiated socials and events, could lead to better communication and pooling of resources, allowing groups to more effectively implement programming. In addition, this may also lead to decreased competition for event space.

Participant Quote: "[It] would be handy to have a toolkit that has everything in one place"

Recommendations

One

An interactive database aimed at providing students with the locational options available around campus. This resource would include information about which spaces are best for certain types of events, availability of these spaces (via integration with recommendation three), rules for using these spaces, and the proper contact for booking services.

Two

An AMS directory of all the types of clubs on campus, not just those affiliated with the AMS, in one central spot that is easy to access by all UBC students. In addition, this would include other helpful contacts, such as room booking services and AMS executives. The effect of this is twofold: helping clubs with similar interests collaborate, as well as providing resources at which questions and concerns can be directed. As a result, we hope that this resource will reduce the frustration that a majority of the participants have identified.

Three

Changing the platform for shared calendars amongst campus groups. This would involve making a more accessible and user-friendly design that could be distributed to all campus groups, regardless of AMS affiliation. In addition, having more information, such as event locations and times such that double booking of event spaces can be avoided.