

VP Academic

The VP Academic is the Donald Trump of the AMS organization: As the chair of the four Appointment Committees, whoever gets this job will fulfill the ego-boosting task of saying “you’re hired!” and “you’re fired!” to future AMS commissioners, service coordinators and the like. The VP Academic also sits at the head of a large handful of the AMS’s other 12 committees handling everything from the Budget to Safety to Campus Planning and Development. And, like all AMS executives, the job comes with a tidy annual salary of nearly \$21,000.



Jerry Fan Fan, left, takes down Captain Sustainable (Brendon Goodmurphy). Bruce Krayenhoff (absent) doesn’t know what he missed out on.

CASA vs. CFS

The battle rages on and on and on and on and...

University politics can be interesting. In fact, since 1995 there has been a quiet battle between Canada’s two leading Student Associations, the CFS and CASA.

In the midst of federal cutbacks on social programs and services such as education and health care in the mid 1990’s, inner fighting regarding policy issues and organizational structure led to the creation of CASA in June of 1995.

The CFS, founded in 1981 is still the largest student organization in Canada and represents more than 500,000 students in 80 universities and colleges across the country. It holds four annual provincial and federal congresses and its ultimate goal is to develop a “high quality, nationally planned secondary system accessible to all which recognizes the legitimacy of student representation and the validity of student rights and whose

roles in society are recognized and appreciated.”

CASA was created when some students deemed the CFS was involved in too many issues other than those directly affecting university students and these issues, including poverty, international human rights and anti-war activism were potentially divisive and distracted the group from the most important issue at stake: the post-secondary system in Canada. As a result, CASA was formed with a founding principle to focus towards post-secondary education and to lobby provincial and federal governments through policy development rather than social development.

Today CASA represents approximately 250,000 students and holds annual Winds of Change conferences.

Many worry the division between students created by this political power

struggle between Associations has been to our disadvantage and makes federal government lobbying efforts less successful.

UBC is a perfect illustration of student division since UBC Okanagan joined the CFS in 2003 even though UBC Vancouver has been part of CASA since 1995. As a result, government lobbying efforts have been awkward between the two schools even though many resources are shared between the two campuses.

In 2006 for example, when the AMS sent a letter to the Provincial Government asking it to amend the University Act in order to allow international students to sit on university boards, UBC Okanagan refused. However, the Act was amended.

This split between Canada’s student associations presents a threat to the credibility of federal student lobbying efforts and a more united student front certainly wouldn’t hurt.

VOTE FOR THE AMS ELECTIONS ONLINE BY LOGGING INTO YOUR UBC STUDENT SERVICE CENTRE ACCOUNT BY JAN. 29 @ [HTTPS://SSC.ADM.UBC.CA](https://ssc.adm.ubc.ca) AND CLICK WEBVOTE

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