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AMS Presentation to the UNA on Proposed Bylaw Changes

Presented by Mariam Hamid, AMS President, and Max Holmes, AMS VP Academic and University Affairs

Why Are We Here?

The UNA has voted in principle for proposed bylaw changes.

- These proposed bylaw changes will change the AMS (students) and UNA relationship.
- AMS and student were never consulted on these proposed bylaw changes.
- AMS Board of Directors and Executive Committee have requested a thorough consultation with students before any changes.

Student and UNA Relationship

- Students have always had a seat on the UNA Board.
- The AMS appoints the student Board member (often the AMS VP External).
- Anywhere from 2,000 to 3,000 students (according to the UNA) live in the UNA.
- Students are rarely elected to the UNA Board.
- UNA Residents benefit from UBC Facilities that are often subsidized mostly by students.

AMS Position

- Keep the position of a voting Student Board Member on the UNA Board.
- AMS can explore with the UNA how this student member is appointed/elected.
- The AMS receives the same level of consultation and a separate agreement as was already done with UBC.
- Better inclusion of student voices on committees and more outreach to students.
- The UNA Structure needs to be more Student Friendly.

Why This Matters?

- “Democratizing” will not help the silent minority of 2,000 to 3,000 students living in the UNA.
- Consultation should consider all stakeholders – not just the majority or the most vocal members.
- A good relationship with students benefits the UNA (i.e., UBC Community Services Grant, discounted rates at UBC Facilities).
- Without an agreement on a way forward the AMS will oppose any UBC Funding or Facilities usage for UNA (non-student) members.

The Community Engagement Advisory Committee

The Community Engagement Advisory Committee will assist the Board to improve civic and community engagement.

UNA Board approves Terms of Reference of the Community Engagement Advisory Committee

To provide the Board of Directors with advice and assistance on matters relating to:

- Mechanisms to improve civic and community engagement in the University Neighbourhoods, with a view to improving participation in addressing neighbourhood issues, improving the understanding of the structure and limitations of the UNA governance mandate.
- Encouraging residents of the University Neighbourhoods with the appropriate skills to get involved in Community Advisory Committees and Working Groups.

To work with the Board and staff to advise and assist with:

- The recruitment and organization of residents with the appropriate expertise who are interested in participating in Community Advisory Committees and Working Groups to address specific challenges facing the UNA.
- Finding ways to improve community engagement between the Board and University Neighbourhoods residents.
- Finding ways to improve the level of civic engagement of residents in the governance of their community.
- Finding ways to encourage and improve the levels of resident participation in community life.
- The delivery of specific programs, including assistance with organizing Working Groups of volunteers who are interested in participating in the delivery of programs to University Neighbourhoods.

CORRECTION

In a briefing note to the Board, UNA Executive Director Johanne Blenkinsop suggested some modifications to the templates of committees provided in the UNA by-law. The Fletcher report – approved by the Board in July 2018 – said that administrative support and resourcing of the advisory committees are the keys to their success. At the next meeting in March, the Board will discuss the Terms of Reference for the Land Use Advisory Committee aiming to establish it in the fall.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MANDATE

To provide the Board of Directors with advice and assistance on matters relating to:

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- Finding ways to encourage and improve the levels of resident participation in community life.
- The delivery of specific programs, including assistance with organizing Working Groups of volunteers who are interested in participating in the delivery of programs to University Neighbourhoods.

CORRECTION

In January issue, the Bylaw Working Group Report: under the heading Term of Office of Directors, in the Committee section, item (a), there is a reference to “January 2018”. That should read “November 2018” as follows:

(a) That directors elected in November 2018 will have their term extended by one year.
Excessive, and they do not favour it. And unacceptable. Even C+CP admits that it is.

Option 3 is, to say the least, shocking and fied by a smaller stadium footprint.

compared to the 2017 proposal being justi-

increase

increase

Overdeveloping a small parcel of land

UBC is already the fastest-growing elec-

terra district in Metro Vancouver, and the

environment, and a reasonable availability

of amenities, and present a way to develop

the lands within the scope of the approved

Land Use Plan for the common good of all.

the Pipeline of developments already approved

will strain local capacity. Proposing an

increase to a Land Use Plan that has al-

ready facilitated meteoric growth is absurd.

Overdeveloping a small parcel of land

beyond the guidelines of what even UBC

has said is appropriate will have long term

reputational impacts for UBC. There is al-

ready a perception that UBC has become

a rapacious developer. In a Feb. 3 Op-Ed

in the Vancouver Sun, UBC was called “a
development corporation rather than an

educational institution”.

As a leading research institution, UBC can

and should do better. There are other mod-

eIs that can help achieve the same goal of

a sustainable community of and for UBC

(as per the Land Use Plan) that do not en-
tail raising capital by selling 500,000 sq ft

of exclusive real estate marketed as “Van-

couver’s most anticipated address” and

increasingly unaffordable to anyone who

actually lives and works in the community.

An alternative would be the shared equity

model pioneered by University of Cali-

fornia Irvine, in which the university con-

tributes land, and faculty and staff fund the

development corporation rather than an

educational institution”.

Letter to the Editor

High Density Will Make UBC

Undesirable Place to Live

Murray McCatcheon

Hawthorn Place resident

In a Jan. 3 letter, Board Chair Michael Ko-

renberg wrote that UBC is now consider-

ing the Stadium Road Neighbourhood

(SRN) divided as one-third leasehold and

two-thirds rental housing, with the rental

fraction equally split into below-market

housing for faculty and staff and market

rental. The shift away from luxury mar-

ket condos is laudable, given the housing

challenges faced by UBC faculty and staff.

However, it does not address the concerns

of residents, faculty, staff, and alumni who

are amongst the 1,500+ petitioners asking

UBC and the Province to respect the cur-

rent Land Use Plan.

At a meeting of UBC’s reconvened Hous-

ing Action Plan Working Group on Janu-

ary 29, UBC’s planning group (C+CP) put

forth three options for the development of

SRN. In addition to C+CP’s preferred

proposal of 1.55M sq ft, with four towers

up to 32 stores (Option 1), two additional

scenarios are being considered:

• Option 2 – 1.28M sq ft, with four towers

no higher than 22 storeys, and

• Option 3 – 1.8M sq ft, including towers of

34, 38, 38, and 40 storeys in height.

Option 2 would apparently fall within the

approved Land Use Plan, the 30% increase

compared to the 2017 proposal being justi-

fied by a smaller stadium footprint.

Option 3 is, to say the least, shocking and

unacceptable. Even C+CP admits that it is

excessive, and they do not favour it. And

yet, it is now on the table.

It defies belief that a single development

site could be asked to fulfill as many fund-

ing buckets for the university as SRN. In

addition to funding faculty and staff hous-

ing and a new $50M stadium, SRN is also

expected to contribute $100M to the Edu-

cation Fund, help provide student housing,

and even help fund the approved Skytrain

link to UBC (as has emerged in recent weeks).

What next? Is it any wonder that attributes

such as livability and environmental impact

receive short shrift?

There are many reasons why people want to

live at UBC, but two factors feature promi-

nently: proximity to nature and the sense

of community. SRN will be detrimental to

both if either Options 2 or 3 is pursued.

Increasing density is not compatible with
ecological sustainability. The proposed

heights are particularly problematic. Such

buildings will be visual monstrosities that

will tower over the surrounding forest, cast-

ing shade over the existing neighborhood

and gardens and imposing on the natural

environment. Moreover, tall towers are not

conducive to building community, and the

research suggests they’re not good for rais-

ing young children (see Vancouver Sun,

Oct 6, 2009).

Both the 1.55M sq ft and 1.8M sq ft options

represent intensive developments (far dens-

er and higher than elsewhere on campus)

that will inalterably and adversely impact

the character of Stadium Road and, because

of the requisite Land Use Plan amendment,

future developments at UBC.

UBC is already the fastest-growing elec-

toral district in Metro Vancouver, and the

pipeline of developments already approved

will strain local capacity. Proposing an

increase to a Land Use Plan that has al-

ready facilitated meteoric growth is absurd.

Overdeveloping a small parcel of land

beyond the guidelines of what even UBC

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of exclusive real estate marketed as “Van-

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increasingly unaffordable to anyone who

actually lives and works in the community.

An alternative would be the shared equity

model pioneered by University of Cali-

fornia Irvine, in which the university con-

tributes land, and faculty and staff fund the

building construction. It needs to be seri-

ously considered alongside other models

of affordable housing. It would balance

UBC’s need for housing with the require-

ments of a livable community, a preserved

The Stadium Road Neighbourhood

Plan Area (indicated by red dotted line)

in the southern part of UBC campus

bounded by East Mall, Stadium Road

and 16th Avenue. Photo credit: UBC

Campus and Community Planning.
Dedicated Volunteers Make Lunar New Year Celebration Success

Emily Chen
2019 UNA Lunar New Year Coordinator

I never thought my volunteer experience during 2008 Beijing Olympics would help me do something for the UNA community so soon. It did.

My first volunteer experience started with the UNA 2019 Lunar New Year celebration. When the UNA Multicultural Committee (MCC) put out a call for volunteers last November for the 2019 Lunar New Year Working Group, I responded. So did another 30+ interested residents. After several meetings with MCC members and UNA staff, we came to understand the history of the UNA, its organization of cultural events, and strong community interest in celebrating Lunar New Year.

2019 is the Year of the Pig, representing an auspicious, honest and hardworking year. We, a group of new volunteers, wanted to present something new for the celebration.

A collaborative volunteer group

Showcasing both Chinese and Korean culture is a unique feature of the UNA Lunar New Year celebration. Eustina Na, a member of the UNA Multicultural Committee, coordinated Korean volunteers, activities and performances. Nico Xu and myself, coordinated the Chinese side. The MCC members and UNA staff provided strong support and mentorship to the new volunteer group that consisted of many talented UNA residents, Chinese visiting scholars at UBC, and other artists and professionals from Vancouver. Volunteer training and orientation was conducted to ensure quality delivery of the event. As the event coordinators, we were pleased to see a successful, happy and safe event with 800+ people in attendance, and we are happy to hear comments as such: “What an impressive event was put on and largely organized by volunteers. There was a great group of volunteers who brought in their skills, diligence and a high degree of professionalism.”

Wealth, good wishes, harvest and peace

February 9 was the fifth day of the Lunar New Year, a day when Chinese people welcome arrival of the God of Wealth – we had one for this year! A volunteer God of Wealth in full costume became the mascot of the day that brought much fun to the crowd. Our young team of greeters of ten Golden Boys and Girls at the main entrance welcomed every guest with red envelopes.

Of all the amazing performances, Korean solo Tae Pyung Dance performed by Ji Young Kim was a gem. Tae Pyung Dance is a traditional folk dance that has a history of over 100 years. The dance represents the desire for an abundant harvest and for peace in the country. The dance is delicate and elegant, but powerful in nature. With fluid movement on the floor, the performer floated on stage. It was really enjoyable to watch.

Chinese Guzheng Ensemble and Korean Children Choir were also two new performing groups presented by children from the UNA community – kudos to their great presentations and hard work they put into practice. As usual, Lion Dance and Korean Drumming brought exuberant energy to the room and the Year of the Pig.

Cultural mosaic and Kids Zone

Sixteen cultural booths were organized this year showcasing Chinese and Korean folk arts and traditions. We kept the previous years’ Chinese paintings and calligraphy, Chinese and Korean lantern production, Chinese and Korean tea tasting and snacks, and added several new booths, including “Pi Ying” doll production, Beijing opera mask painting, Cheongsam painting and Chinese board game. The Chinese traditional costumes photo booth attracted many residents – many went home with amusing snapshots on their phone and in their memory.

The Kids Zone for children under 18 months was particularly popular among parents. After the event, a mother commented: “My favorite booth is the Kids Zone. A small arrangement gives a big help for us! Thanks!”

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to our two wonderful Masters of Ceremonies Ying Zhou and Dorota Mann; to the UNA staff and the MCC for their support to the Lunar New Year Working Group; to all the performers, artists, and volunteers who contributed their talents and time; to our two guest speakers Joyce Murray and David Eby.

Wishing everybody a Happy New Year and all the best!
Dear friends and neighbours,

In my May 2018 Campus Resident column, I discussed the importance of rapid transit to UBC, and I shared that the UBC Board of Governors had approved an advocacy strategy aimed at accelerating the extension of the Millennium SkyTrain line from its approved terminus at Broadway and Arbutus out to our Point Grey campus.

I am pleased to report that much progress has been made since then, and I am optimistic that SkyTrain to UBC is possible by 2030. The October 2018 municipal elections injected new energy into the extension when a number of candidates made it a campaign issue, and it continues to be a top priority for Vancouver’s Mayor Kenney Stewart. We are working closely with the mayor and TransLink to build the necessary support to bring our vision of regional connectivity to fruition.

Recently, on January 30, 2019, Vancouver City Council voted 9-2 to endorse SkyTrain as the preferred technology to advance to the next stage of project development, including development of concept designs. This decision sends a very strong signal to the provincial and federal governments that SkyTrain to UBC is a well-supported regional project. The timing is critical as the upcoming October 2019 federal election presents a window of opportunity to advocate for new infrastructure funding.

Recognizing that Metro Vancouver transit projects are typically cost-shared between three levels of government (regional, provincial and federal), UBC continues to explore ways to make a material contribution to the regional share of the project without diverting any funding from its academic or share information and benefits of the project with your friends, family or co-workers. You can also submit your transit project with your friends, family or co-workers.

We are still at the beginning of a long process, but I am excited about the forward momentum that we are experiencing. The emerging partnership between UBC, a major research university, MST, a First Nations development corporation, and the City of Vancouver is particularly exciting because it is both groundbreaking and important to the success of the project. SkyTrain to UBC will not only connect the University to the Metro Vancouver region, but it will also connect residents of the growing campus and neighbouring communities. Once in place, you will benefit from the convenience, speed and comfort of rapid transit as well as the environmental and financial benefits of not having to rely on your car.

The next stage of work will include engagement with stakeholders and the public, which will be led by TransLink and is expected to begin in early-mid 2019. You are encouraged to get involved and share your thoughts. We will provide information on opportunities to participate in information and consultation sessions in the coming months.

Our advocacy work will continue as we believe that SkyTrain to UBC will support regional prosperity, affordability and sustainability by connecting research, health, innovation, employment and housing destinations.

There are a number of ways that you can support our efforts. You can write a letter to your local, provincial or federal government representative, talk to the local media or share information and benefits of the project with your friends, family or co-workers. You can also submit your transit story to our new SkyTrain to UBC website.

To learn more and stay informed, visit skytrain.ubc.ca

Best wishes
Professor Santa J. Ono
President and Vice-Chancellor
Wesbrook Mall Re-Design is Underway: Upgrades Will Improve Safety, Traffic Flow

Re-design will introduce new intersections for pedestrians, new bike lanes and dedicated bus lanes

UBC is in the midst of upgrading its main road – Wesbrook Mall.

In an Open House in January, UBC gave the public an opportunity to learn about planned improvements on Wesbrook Mall and the first phase of construction between 16th Avenue and Chancellor Boulevard.

The improvements for the full Wesbrook Mall corridor are being done in collaboration with the University Endowment Lands, the University Neighbourhoods Association, TransLink, Metro Vancouver and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be implemented in phases, as funding allows.

The first phase of construction is planned to be completed by Fall 2019, and the work will be done in two parts.

**Winter-Spring 2019**

Several improvements will be made between Student Union Boulevard and north of University Boulevard:

- A new intersection at Student Union Boulevard
- A new pedestrian crossing at the Bus Exchange
- Narrowing the road to create more room for generous universally accessible sidewalks, landscaping, lighting and bike lanes.

**Spring-Fall 2019**

Roadwork will continue on Wesbrook Mall north of University Boulevard to 16th Avenue and will include:

- A complete redesign and rebuild of the University Boulevard and Wesbrook Mall intersection
- A new dedicated bus lane in the south-bound direction along Wesbrook Mall between University Boulevard and 16th Avenue
- New bike lane southbound from Student Union Boulevard to 16th Avenue
- A new pedestrian signal in front of the Centre for Brain Health will also be installed to provide a safer, controlled crossing.

New dedicated bus lanes will be implemented in time for the launch of the new 41st Avenue B-Line bus service to UBC in Fall 2019.

To introduce a new bike lane, a bus lane and bus stops, sixteen parking spots will be removed on the west side of Wesbrook Mall between University Boulevard and Agronomy.

At the University Boulevard intersection, a feature crosswalk – designed in collaboration between UBC and Musqueam – will be added. The design features the UBC and Musqueam crests woven together, acknowledging that UBC Point Grey campus is situated on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

The design vision for Wesbrook Mall was developed with input from the campus community in 2015 as part of the UBC plan for the University Boulevard Precinct – a key gateway to the campus which will include the future University Boulevard Neighbourhood.

Currently, Wesbrook Mall between Student Union Boulevard and University Boulevard is fully closed to all traffic, cyclists and pedestrians until May 31, 2019. Buses are being accommodated on Wesbrook Mall during construction.

For a detailed construction and detour map, please go to https://transportation.ubc.ca/home-page/detours/.

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New B-Line to UBC will Open in Fall 2019

New 41st Avenue B-Line to UBC will provide shorter wait and travel times between UBC and SkyTrain Joyce–Collingwood station.

UBC is working with TransLink and the City of Vancouver to implement a new 41st Avenue B-Line from SkyTrain Joyce–Collingwood station to UBC, the second busiest bus corridor in the region after Broadway.

The new B-Line will replace the current 43 bus route promising 33% more capacity compared to existing services and 50% less waiting compared to the 43 bus route. The express buses will run every 3.5 minutes during peak hours. There will also be frequent service at night, with a bus coming every 15 minutes until 1 am.

To ensure the faster and more reliable new 41st Avenue B-Line, streets will be modified: dedicated bus lines and changes to traffic signals, bus stop locations and intersections will be introduced.

Along with discontinuing the current 43 bus route, TransLink will implement the service changes to buses 41 and 49 that currently run to UBC.

- Bus 49 route will be adjusted to serve Wesbrook Village. Additional late night and early morning service will be provided on weekdays.  
- Bus 41 route will be shortened and run from Joyce station to Crown Street only. Frequency will be reduced to every 15 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes at night.

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**RCMP Stats Show Local Crime Profile**

Annual report is issued by Commander of University Detachment; University Neighbourhoods is one of four areas policed by RCMP from detachment on Wesbrook Mall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total calls for service</td>
<td>4,194</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total violent crimes</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assaults</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex assaults</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total property crime</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break and enter to both residential and commercial property</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Frauds</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auto thefts</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Thefts from autos</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theft under $5,000</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike theft</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causing a disturbance</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intoxicated in public</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic collisions</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kids Are Back in Business at the Second Annual Kids Takeover UBC**

On Sunday, February 17, kids seeking a fun family weekend decided to take matters into their own hands. The second annual Kids Takeover UBC celebrated young artistic minds with this year’s event drawing over 250 families, some coming all the way from Maple Ridge to take part in activities planned across UBC.

As with previous years, the Museum of Anthropology ran a plethora of activities for kids and youth including lessons on how to restore artifacts and art tours. Opera performed a family-friendly version of Mozart’s ‘The Magic Flute’ with stage tours and dress up. Groups of families were treated to theatre games and exercises at the Frederic Wood Theatre and the “The Story of Two Wolves” told by Jaymyn La Valee of Skwaw̓ muł̓tes, Kwïkwasut’inux̓, and ‘Námíiq descent at the Belkin Art Gallery.

New to this year were two popular events including kids-led tours and stories in the First Nations Longhouse and an instrument petting zoo at the School of Music where UBC Music students helped kids get familiar with the ins and outs of various instruments. This whole day of arts was followed by drop in skating and family hockey at the Doug Mitchell Arena.

In the spirit of kid empowerment, students from local schools were trained to run the registration desk while some chaperoned guests to the different venues, ran the social media channels, captured the event through photos and sat on panels at the MOA. Some kids even got a chance to work on their interview skills when City TV and Global News showed up to cover this fun family event that is sure to become an annual tradition at UBC.

Photo credits UTown@UBC.

**International Women’s Day at UBC: Festival Explores How Art and Creativity Can Power Up Gender Equity**

The festival kicks off with a party on March 7 at 7pm: ‘Sound House: The International Women’s Day Edition’ at the Museum of Anthropology. Biting your friends and dancing shoes for this line-up of local women musicians who will wow you with jazz, funk-soul and hip hop. The artists this night hail from all over the world and bring diverse traditions and inspirations to create vibrant, inclusive artistic communities right here in Vancouver.

Friday is a day of free programming 2pm - 7pm in the UBC Life Building with workshops on race and gender and healthy masculinities, booths and lively activities such as a feminist fashion show from students in Dr. Mary Chapman’s English 490 US Suffrage Literature class. The day will end with powerful performances from local and student artists.

Saturday offers a festival pass for a wonderful array of performances and workshops. The full program can be found at arts.ubc.ca/turnitup. Tickets: $10-$25 Student, faculty, staff, and UBC resident discounts.

*Turn It Up and Disrupt is an arts festival spearheaded by UBC Arts and Culture District, Community Development (Campus and Community Planning) and the Centre for Community Engaged Learning, that will inspire positive change by educating and mobilizing the UBC community to creatively tackle gender-based inequities.*
Online rental, marketing, and social-interaction platforms are transforming the way many of us live. Our regulatory systems, however, are locked within an outdated vision of the world more comfortable in the 1950s than in 2019. We need to bring our planning and zoning frameworks into the 21st century. We can see this quite clearly in the discussions around online home and room renting platforms where worry and anxiety underlies much of the discussion and position papers tend to be tendentious or nonexistent.

Many people express worry about security that can be summarized as follows: “Short-term rentals can present challenges in terms of noise, security, property damage and theft, and littering.” There is no evidence, for example, of this happening at UBC.

It is easy to find news articles about offending short-term rental operators – in North Vancouver, in Yaletown, everywhere but UBC. Even when stories can be found, they are rare events. The worries about safety and disruption aren’t accurate in general and are incorrect in terms of the UBC area.

Who are the guests who frequent short-term rentals at UBC? UBC is quite a commute from the busy urban core and the heart of tourist attractions. If a person wants a short-term rental at UBC, they typically have a UBC-related reason.

From what I have learned, most guests are people such as a faculty member coming to teach a short-term course, scholars attending conferences, medical practitioners completing upgrade courses or writing exams, parents and grandparents visiting family attending UBC or visiting UBC to see if this is the right place for their child to enrol.

From all the evidence that I can see, there is no problem at UBC with short-term rentals – yet, there remains a general worry about disruption by strangers. Short-term rental guests are normal people like you and me. How are these people really any more of a disturbance or threat to community well-being then we ourselves already are?

There is more noise from neighbourhood children (which I enjoy), the sports teams cutting through the UNA public realm to UBC Thunderbird Precinct (arguably one of the great things about campus) and the UBC marching band blaring down main mall than there ever could be from a short-term rental guest.

Our neighbours at Totem Park can be boisterous, and occasionally, the young men in Fraternity Village turn up their speakers too loud. All sporting events and concerts and student dormitory events produce far more traffic from ‘unknown’ people than any of the couple dozen short-term rentals on campus could ever do. Misuse of UNA visitor parking passes creates more parking issues than any guest might. Many of us live in multi-unit housing complexes where it is very unlikely we actually know (or even recognize) all our immediate neighbours. Yet the persistent fear of short-term rental guests as strangers persists.

We live in a complex dense urban environment that is filled with all kinds of disturbances. The net effect of a short-term rental is negligible in real material terms.

The more fundamental problem is the way contemporary planning places increased density ahead of all other concerns: that’s the real problem we all face and the source of much of the anxiety people express. But this is a societal, not a local problem. Fixating on one small attribute won’t solve the fundamental problem of overcrowding in urban communities.

There does need to be a place for short-term rentals on campus. Right now, they exist in a grey zone – not explicitly banned, not clearly supported. It’s time for UBC to step into the 21st century and create the regulatory framework to ensure short-term rentals have the place they should in our cosmopolitan urban community.

Part of what contributes to a vibrant community is the mix of people. UBC constantly talks about the benefits of diversity – that diversity should include diversity of housing options that clearly include short-term shared rentals.

Mike Feeley, a campus resident and professor of computer science at UBC, has confirmed he will step into the post of Director Following Abrupt Resignation of Justin LeBlanc. Mike Feeley, a campus resident and professor of computer science at UBC, has confirmed he will step into the post of Director Following Abrupt Resignation of Justin LeBlanc. Mike Feeley, a campus resident and professor of computer science at UBC, has confirmed he will step into the post of Director Following Abrupt Resignation of Justin LeBlanc. Mike Feeley, a campus resident and professor of computer science at UBC, has confirmed he will step into the post of Director Following Abrupt Resignation of Justin LeBlanc. Mike Feeley, a campus resident and professor of computer science at UBC, has confirmed he will step into the post of Director Following Abrupt Resignation of Justin LeBlanc.

Editor’s Note: The opinions expressed here are those of the writer alone and are not to be inferred to represent UNA or UBC policy.

The discussion about short-term rentals at UBC – started by The Campus Resident in August 2018 issue – continues.

UBC is not within the jurisdiction of Vancouver and is not subject to Vancouver short-term rental regulations. There is no provision for licensing a short-term rental business in typical strata residential properties in UBC Neighbourhoods.

Stratas can create bylaws to limit or ban short-term rentals.

Charles Menzies

Campus resident, former elected UNA Director, member of UBC Board of Governors

21st Century Housing Includes Short-Term Rentals

It’s time for UBC to step into the 21st century and create the regulatory framework to ensure short-term rentals have the place they should in our cosmopolitan urban community.