

# Candidate Answer Transcripts

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## Sumedha Sharma

### **1 - What one experience of yours will prepare you most for the Board?**

I had an extensive experience on campus in dealing with UBC Administration such as the President of Science Undergraduate Society; but if I have to pick one experience that prepares me for the Board-I would say that my current experience as the Board Rep and the learning would prepare me most for the board. I understand the way work gets done on the board, how to seek information to be able to understand an issue and to be an effective representative for the students.

### **2 - What current weakness would require the most growth to be optimally effective on the Board?**

I feel that I need to work on being more socially active on social media outlets to be able to engage students better. At present, UBC BoG has a twitter account but Other than social media, I want to be able to connect better with the student organizations on campus so I can engage students and gauge their concerns

### **3 - How does work get done on the Board?**

Structurally the board is divided into different standing committees which meet, usually a week prior to the board meeting and issues are deliberated upon heavily during this process. The board members can ask for additional informational or ratification of certain motions before it is brought to the entire Board's attention during the board meeting, where these are approved. However, a lot of work on the Board gets done outside of the formal meeting. An effective board member has to be able to inform and educate herself of the issue and asks the right questions of the administration, the students, and the parties involved. It requires knowing when to bring up causes of concern, suggesting items for discussion in opportunities like Reflections or creating strategic discussions for items.

### **4 - What are the two most critical resolutions passed in the past year on the Board and why?**

One of the most critical resolution at the Board was the Student Housing Endowment Fund last year. This was a huge win for students and its important that more students and even candidates running for the election learn about it. The Student Housing Endowment Fund is allowing the University to pursue student housing objectives ( the BoG goal of housing 50% of FT undergraduate students on campus as per the Land Use Plan Amendments) without incurring the extra cost of market borrowing that is normally required because student housing projects are not funded by government. At present 29% of undergraduate FT students live on campus.

A critical resolution was also the density allocation amendments of the Wesbrook Place Neighborhood. This resolution was critical because of the precedence it set regarding consultation processes. It also brought to the Boards consideration many of the concerns regarding the "Area Under Review", which is an important issue to consider for the incoming student representatives.

Also, a critical but a momentous resolution on the Board this year was the Phase 3 approval and funding release of the new Student Union Building. To me, it signified the actualization of the hope and effort of past and current AMS executives, coordinators, staff and all the students involved.

### **5 - What was the most critical discussion in the past year on the Board and why?**

One of the most critical strategic discussions on the board were regarding student financial assistance and the role UBC

needs to play especially when it comes to allocating merit-based versus needs-based awards. There is always a concern among the student population regarding lowering tuition fee or addressing the disparity between unmet need. With the UBC Place and Promise Plan focusing on giving the students to gain “E3’s” or “Enriched Educational Experiences” – there is certain challenge in helping students achieve financial security as they work towards gaining these experiences.

Another one I believe was a critical discussion was regarding the role of universities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and increasing access to post secondary education. The discussion was focused on consider delineating between work/study opportunities that have “needs based “ value and work/study opportunities that contribute towards enriching education experience, and considering analysis of debt repayment by UBC program versus national averages. The board got to make recommendations for increased communication/collaboration on the issue of access between student governments, students, UBC Administration, UBC Board of Governors and their equivalents at other post secondary institutions.

**6 - How do the commitments, goals and actions in UBC's strategic plan relate to your campaign goals, and how will you leverage them on the Board ?**

As a board member, I have had to refer to the plan several times to understand it to be able to keep the Administration accountable and ensure we are moving towards the vision we strive for. The parts of the Plan that resonate with my campaign the most are the ones about student learning, especially community engagement.

Community Engagement: In one of my campaign goals, I highlight that I want to be able to create a strategy for a “gold standard” consultation process for engaging students; not just for campus planning but for engaging them on other issues as well. During the past year, I have realized the importance of building relationships with stakeholders such as the AMS, the UNA, Faculty Associations. Issues related to campus and communities planning seem to carry an ambiguity with them, and unless students are getting paid to work for them as an AMS employee or if they are interested in understanding the issues, it passes the larger number of students by. As highlighted by a few incidents this year, there is a need for more transparency and accountability in the planning processes. There is a definite need to be able to communicate the Board’s thought process and I want to be able to engage student discourse in that process.

Student Learning: The underlying mission of an organization like UBC’s Board is to remember that this is a University and its main mandate is to create an environment that enhances student learning and research excellence. Initiatives on my campaign platform such as creating a strategic plan with the UBC Admin and the AMS to lobby the Provincial Government and pushing for addressing role of the University in unmet Financial need. We also need to address the issue of affordability of housing on campus for students and also for attracting the best faculty and staff to aid in providing world-class education.

**7 - Allies are critical to achieving any initiative on a governing body of UBC. Which individuals on the Board will you look to support your initiatives, and to what end? Why those people?**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

# Tagg Jefferson

## **1 - What one experience of yours will prepare you most for the Board?**

My involvement with the Engineering Student Centre (ESC). The ESC is a student-generated and student-lead project that necessitated gaining allies among staff and faculty every step of the long process from initial concept to our current Board 1 approval status. Finding the most suitable location, size, and programming of the building took extensive consultation with students, alumni, and faculty stakeholders, and has resulted in what I feel is the overall best design: a \$5.2M, 10,000 square foot building in the heart of the engineering precinct. The building is intended to last for decades of engineering students to come, and this careful planning, coordination of administration allies, and gathering of many stakeholder voices is exactly the way that I will approach the Board of Governors.

## **2 - What current weakness would require the most growth to be optimally effective on the Board?**

My current weakness is a non-comprehensive connection to the student body. I lack direct connection to some student groups on campus who have opinions or concerns that should be addressed at Board, and without improving the communication between these groups, their voices wouldn't be heard. Recognizing this weakness, I have made a campaign promise that I will sit down with as many clubs and organizations across campus as I'm able during my term. I can't promise milk, cookies, and weekly get-togethers, but I will commit myself to reaching out beyond the standard meeting requirements to undergraduate societies, the AMS executive, student interest groups, Greeks, and any other group that may approach me.

## **3 - How does work get done on the Board?**

Board is a large body in an even larger bureaucracy: work is done methodically and with great focus on correct implementation. A student member on the Board serves a much shorter term than other representatives, and the student seats need to focus on gaining allies in the administration who will still be able to further particular initiatives after their one-year term has ended. This may often be done outside of formal meetings, and it is important for a Board member to actively pursue chances of informal networking. Board requires a balance to be struck: a student member who is overly abrasive or overly passive will not gain the long-term support they need to advance an issue through the University bureaucracy.

## **4 - What are the two most critical resolutions passed in the past year on the Board and why?**

Both of my choices reflect my interest in effective student and alumni participation in capital projects.

### **(September, 7.7) Alumni Centre (UBC Vancouver) Authorization to seek Provincial Approval of Ground Lease**

This was a highly critical resolution because it established precedent for what I believe is proper for space on campus: namely, that the governing agreement associated with the building be reflective of the building's users' interests. The alumni who have worked so hard fundraising and designing the building want--and deserve--significant control over their building, and it is only fitting that they are granted the privilege of the rare UBC lease.

### **(December, 3.1) Student Union Building (UBC Vancouver)**

Who doesn't want more space on campus? Board 3 approval for the SUB was not a particularly contentious issue, nor was it at all unexpected, but it was critical in the sense that it was a new milestone in increasing student space.

Approval was granted with a few achievable 'To-Do' items, indicating that construction is right around the corner. The New SUB will be a wonderful addition to campus, and, with the upcoming Alumni Centre, will give a complete facelift to the heart of campus.

**5 - What was the most critical discussion in the past year on the Board and why?**

One of the most interesting discussions was on UBC as a Living Laboratory (June, 9.2). As a firm proponent of energy efficiency and alternative power generation, I believe this initiative as a whole is important not only to UBC but the global community in its entirety. Though not present at the discussion, I'm familiar with other areas of this surprisingly diverse initiative. The list includes academic courses that propose new green designs campus or study existing systems; construction of new on-campus biomass power generation facilities; workshops about green technology; and even securing the support of National Research Council groups. UBC has firmly established itself as a leader in the field of sustainability, and UBC as a Living Laboratory has engaged students, faculty, and outside industry in the program.

**6 - How do the commitments, goals and actions in UBC's strategic plan relate to your campaign goals, and how will you leverage them on the Board?**

One of my interests, Enriched Educational Experiences (E3s), is directly outlined in the 'Student Learning' commitment portion of the UBC Plan. I think E3s have the opportunity to become a wonderful mechanism through which to recognize students' involvement in campus life. As a major commitment, the university has an interest and responsibility in investing significant time and funding to the program. Currently, planning and discussion for E3s is happening at the middle-administration level, and I would look to work with the others currently developing E3 program to learn how I might best leverage the UBC Plan at the Board level to help jump any hurdles or bureaucratic tangles.

**7 - Allies are critical to achieving any initiative on a governing body of UBC. Which individuals on the Board will you look to support your initiatives, and to what end? Why those people?**

[Redacted]

# Mike Silley

## 1 - What one experience of yours will prepare you most for the Board?

I have had many experiences that have prepared me for the Board position; however the one that has most prepared me was my role as AMS Vice-President Administration. The VP Admin role is unique in the sense that you are extremely well connected to student activities while at the same time having the opportunity to build relationships with senior UBC administration and the community at-large. I have had a breadth of experiences in doing everything from helping individual students form clubs, organize floats for the Pride parade, managing and resolving complaints between clubs, to submitting RFP's, hiring consultants, helping institute strategic frameworks for organizations, and overseeing the new Student Union Building project; a \$103 million building project. All these experiences and more have allowed me to keep my finger on the pulse of what students want while at the same time being able to relay these ideas to the University.

## 2 - What current weakness would require the most growth to be optimally effective on the Board?

Like any job, in order to be in order to be optimally effective on the Board, one would have to serve multiple terms in order to maximize one's impact with the position. My greatest weakness is that I will (fingers crossed) be graduating after my term on the Board. However this is a testament to one of my greatest strengths. I have been heavily involved on campus for over 5 years, and in that time I have been able to meet the movers-and-shakers. Most importantly, the Board consists of a group of the best and brightest British Columbia has to offer. This may seem intimidating to some. As a result, some students can sometimes feel hesitant to lend their voice to discussions of importance to Students. On the other hand, some student feel like joining the board "guns a-blazing" is the best way to be heard and get things done. In my time on campus, I have learnt what discourse to take with which people in order to best achieve the goals of Students and the University at-large.

## 3 - How does work get done on the Board?

Most work on the Board is done behind the scenes. Like any organization, I plan to entrench myself in committees, forums, and one-on-one conversations with Board members and University officials alike. I am coming to the end of serving as VP Admin, which cut 40-60 hours per week of time out of my schedule, so I am not afraid to roll up my sleeves, build relationships, and work quickly to make a difference in my term.

\* Sitting on the board is thought by some to be a balancing act. You have to represent students while representing the best interest of the University. Unfortunately, some people think these interests are sometimes in conflict with one and other. However, I firmly believe that they are not. It is all too often that students feel like the board needs to be approached with some sort of political grand design. It is all too often that students feel like if they, as the student representative, go against what the majority of the board wants, political capital will be lost. I hope to change this view by passionately discussing student viewpoints in an honest and forthright manner. The highest governing body at UBC deserves students who represent students in this manner, and I am confident that members of the board are intelligent and understanding enough to see that when an idea is respectfully conveyed to them with passion and meaning, if they may disagree, they would not hold it against me by "not being my ally" in future endeavors of merit.

## 4 - What are the two most critical resolutions passed in the past year on the Board and why?

Move forward with south camous plan

Hospice

The Board approval of Ponderosa Hub (now called Ponderosa commons) as it virtually ensured the creation of over 1100 new student beds on campus. The hub concept is an exciting new idea that the University is looking at which essentially will act to decentralize the campus by creating multiple large hubs, each containing student housing, academic, research, study, and leisure space.

The Board approval of the Order of St John Hospice was especially critical. It was a sensitive topic that has been at the forefront of discussion for the better part of 3 years. Many residents were in opposition to the proposed location of the Hospice, and many students were in opposition of its original proposed location. In the end, the Board decided that it would go forward with the development of the Hospice regardless of the concerns of the residents. This discussion comes down to the basic idea of what this University should be. After careful deliberation, the board sided with the research and educational goals of the project over the residents' concerns. I believe it will set the tone for any future discussions of similar matter that may pit resident against research.

Other critical resolutions that affect Students (which I will not to go much into detail with, but feel free to ask me), are the transference of density from the Westbrook Place neighborhood plan and the Board approval of the New Student Union Building development. Both of these decisions could have a lasting effect on the future of Students on this campus.

### **5 - What was the most critical discussion in the past year on the Board and why?**

I think the most critical discussion that has NOT happened in the past few years is affordability with a particular emphasis on tuition. It's no secret that most students on campus feel as if tuition is currently too high. It is also no secret that the University (and the students) would like this university to be the best it can be. Instead of forging forward, I would like the Board members to sincerely think about what it wants as an institution and at what costs that comes with. This is why I plan to vote against any proposed tuition increase. For the amount of students who strongly feel tuition is too high, at the very least one student representative should echo this sentiment.

### **6 - How do the commitments, goals and actions in UBC's strategic plan relate to your campaign goals, and how will you leverage them on the Board ?**

The Strategic plan's commitments, goals, and actions fit very well with what I seek to accomplish. By working within the framework, I am confident that I'll be able to turn the positive ideas of students from ideas into reality. For example "Be the place of choice for outstanding faculty and staff." could be the catalyst for a push for more housing reform on campus. After all, if outstanding faculty and staff choose other universities as a result of unaffordable housing on campus, the board may need to continue to tackle the problem of housing on campus (as it is doing now) .

"Support student well-being, personal development, and positive affiliation with UBC through outstanding campus life programs and service excellence." It is all too common to hear that students are upset with UBC in one way or another. Furthermore, it is even more common to hear that on controversial issues such as development and affordability, the student voice is said to get ignored. Whether or not this is true, it show that there is a problem in the way which the University and students share ideas on "community." I would like to make this a priority of mine. I would like to not only make planning processes as open and inclusive as possible, I would also like to work on a way in which this data can be better collected and synthesized to better satisfy students.

### **7 - Allies are critical to achieving any initiative on a governing body of UBC. Which individuals on the Board will you look to support your initiatives, and to what end? Why those people?**

████████████████████

# Justin Yang

## 1 - What one experience of yours will prepare you most for the Board?

1. Working with high-level administrators at the Senate-level -- it's given me a much stronger perspective on the direction that the University is taking and the areas where it interfaces with the Board of Governors gives me a chance to see how the two can work together.

## 2 - What current weakness would require the most growth to be optimally effective on the Board?

2. I think most people might consider me a little too acquiescent but those with whom I have worked closely will tell you that I can stand on principle -- for example, when I was Director of Finance for SUS from 2009-2010, it was my responsibility to seriously address a major case of misappropriation of funding, a job with which I could mince no words. I am growing to take firmer stances on issues of conscience but I have never been one to back down on issues that students have sincerely and collectively expressed.

## 3 - How does work get done on the Board?

3. Much of the work of the Board is done through its committees or through informal conversations with administrators and officials. Some important discussion occurs at Board proper but much has already happened before then.

## 4 - What are the two most critical resolutions passed in the past year on the Board and why?

4. Certainly the Student Housing Financing Endowment and the earlier approval of the Land Use Plan amendments. Both involve issues of housing and, indirectly, will affect issues like financing and density which will both cast long shadows into future development plans.

## 5 - What was the most critical discussion in the past year on the Board and why?

5. I think discussions of the Land Use Plan have been extremely formative in terms of discussions of housing density, locations, finances, and future development plans. Not having served on the Board, I can only glean from the minutes but I see a lot of those conversations inflected in discussions even in something more recent such as the Westbrook Place amendments.

## 6 - How do the commitments, goals and actions in UBC's strategic plan relate to your campaign goals, and how will you leverage them on the Board ?

6. Having worked on the Student Learning portion of UBC's *Place and Promise* deeply for the past 2 years, I am interested in understanding the ways in which a role on BoG can interface with my previous work while also offering new opportunities to support students in a wider number of modalities. Of chief importance to me is the issue of affordability of post-secondary education and the ways in which BoG can work to address increasing concerns from both students and administrators.

## 7 - Allies are critical to achieving any initiative on a governing body of UBC. Which individuals on the Board will you look to support your initiatives, and to what end? Why those people?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



# Sean Cregten

## 1 - What one experience of yours will prepare you most for the Board?

My two years as AVP Academic. I have dealt with a large number of issues that the board has also dealt with over this time, and it has given me a strong pro-student perspective on some of the issues that are still going on, as well as a knowledge of the important players and the way the wider UBC administration operates.

## 2 - What current weakness would require the most growth to be optimally effective on the Board?

My low campus profile. The biggest barrier to me being effective on the Board is the election process. CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

## 3 - How does work get done on the Board?

By Sean Heisler. Or in Reflections.

## 4 - What are the two most critical resolutions passed in the past year on the Board and why?

This is almost foolhardy to answer, because a lot of the most critical resolutions are done in private or well before the general UBC community gets to see the final product. No one but the current Board members can adequately answer this.

## 5 - What was the most critical discussion in the past year on the Board and why?

Again, a foolhardy thing to answer. I would hope that the Gage South conversation was of some importance, since Board members did play a role in that process, but it was not the most critical by any stretch.

## 6 - How do the commitments, goals and actions in UBC's strategic plan relate to your campaign goals, and how will you leverage them on the Board?

My campaign goal is to win and to bring a strong, reasonable and effective student voice to the Board. UBC's strategic plan is a tool to be used to support good ideas and to postpone bad ideas. That is my campaign in a nutshell.

Winning. From Here.

## 7 - Allies are critical to achieving any initiative on a governing body of UBC. Which individuals on the Board will you look to support your initiatives, and to what end? Why those people?

[REDACTED]

# Matt Parson

## 1 - What one experience of yours will prepare you most for the Board?

Over the last year I served as the Vice-President Academic & University Affairs of the Alma Mater Society. Half of this portfolio deals extensively with issues that fall under the purview of the Board of Governors such as campus planning (and at current, quasi-municipal governance) and student housing & hospitality services (as an ancillary revenue generating entity with the mandate to plan, construct and manage student housing) to name but a few areas of overlap.

## 2 - What current weakness would require the most growth to be optimally effective on the Board?

Although my previous experience as VP Academic and University Affairs of the AMS is one of my greatest strengths, it also is a weakness that concerns me. By that, I'm referring to the high likelihood of being typecast as uncompromising and unwilling to work collaboratively. It is likely that the Board will assume I have a certain agenda and may be unnecessarily weary of my contribution to discussions. This will require me to work harder to prove my understanding of the fiduciary duties required as member of the Board and to build trust with those around the Board table.

## 3 - How does work get done on the Board?

With bodies such as the Board of Governors at UBC, where unity in the public sphere is highly valued, most dialogue, disagreement and compromise takes place during closed sessions (in the case of our Board, the lunch sessions). Having said that, by the time a resolution finds its way onto the open Board agenda, little to no changes are made as a result of discussion (delaying resolutions are somewhat more common) as the resolution would have passed through a rigorous screening process employed by Board management & permanent staff. As such, shaping the work of the Board is largely a function of working with the bureaucrats/administrators whose portfolio is responsible for the work in question. Active, constructive participation with administrators (and coordinated lobbying efforts with other groups, be it the AMS or other concerned parties) ahead of Board consideration is key to achieving results.

## 4 - What are the two most critical resolutions passed in the past year on the Board and why?

Choosing two resolutions, from what was an active year for the Board, is quite challenging. That aside, two resolutions from the December meeting definitely catch my eye as critical, especially with respect to what students have been talking about for the last two to three years.

1) The amendments made to, and the subsequent approval of the Wesbrook Place Neighborhood Plan (WPNP) (formally known as South Campus Neighborhood Plan): The resolution approved the creation of the largest neighborhood on campus with an additional 12,500 people expected to become a part of this community. This adds further complications in the ongoing quest to attain a harmonious campus for both students and non-students, and more broadly speaking, UBC-affiliated and Non-UBC affiliated residents.

Beyond just changing the landscape of the University's population, the Wesbrook Place Neighborhood Plan has been previously brought up as a parallel process to Gage South plan. When the topic of density at Gage South has been brought up, it was framed such that the 300,000 gsm of Gage South density had to be included in one of the two places. What was also interesting about this false dichotomy we had apparently been forced to consider, was that the only real policy binding us to this was a board density target that could easily be changed much like WPNP density was reduced by just over 300,000gsm quite shortly after an open house held by C+CP. The result of strong opposition from residents claiming that the density was too high.

It will be interesting to see whether, now that the density of the WPNP will not include the transferred density from GS, we will be shoehorned into a fabricated situation that has committed us to including future housing at Gage South. The

last thing worth mentioning in regards to the resolution approving the Wesbrook Place Neighborhood Plan is that, it was the residents' general negative sentiment toward what appeared like UBC attempting finalize the largest neighborhood plan in square footage or population before topics around municipal governance had begun, that broke the camel's back. It was apparent to me through my roles on the Advisory Planning Committee and UNA board of directors that this approval process agitated a relatively large group of residents and has sparked their interest in topics of municipal governance and more generally, around increasing the level of accountability the University has to its campus residents.

2) The second resolution that must be mentioned from the previous twelve months is the resolution granting the new SUB building Board 3 approval. Many in the wider student-body would have considered the referendum question approving a new student fee to finance the building as the final step to seeing the new SUB built. The Board 3 approval signifies the completion of the arduous negotiations between the University and the AMS that resulted in several compromises from both sides. To see this resolution pass, allowing for construction to begin, is a massive win for all the students that have been critical to it reaching this stage, and a monumental win for students at-large and the entire campus.

### **5 - What was the most critical discussion in the past year on the Board and why?**

The discussions covering how UBC can provide affordable housing ,for its workforce and students, for ethical reasons and reasons related to staying academically competitive has been the most critical discussion of this past year. The number of faculty that have spoken anecdotally through the Housing Action Forums about the difficulty they have experienced in attracting competitive academics for their departments highlights the issue that UBC has; how can it remain a top tier academic institution if it can only offer standard wages, while surrounded by a housing market that requires a much higher level of income.

The problem is also complicated by UBC being a public institution that cannot simply raise the wages of its employees, regardless of financial constraints. Herein lies the dilemma of how to provide relief to the insane Vancouver housing market to faculty, staff, and students, allowing UBC to retain the amazing people that work here and entice competitive faculty and students to come live here. What makes this discussion interesting is how complex of an issue it is. There are ethical issues some may see in providing housing subsidies to a group of people that are earning relatively decent wages when compared to other employees of public institutions. There are issues with how to offer housing that is discounted one way or another without the form of subsidy being perceived as a taxable benefit. There are issues of inter-generational equity and how can we ensure that any efforts that are made now by the Board remain in perpetuity, and are not in a short period of time turned into profits by the people receiving the affordable housing. This discussion is not an easy one as no one currently has the right answer to this conundrum that UBC is currently in, but I look forward to engaging in future deliberations that will help resolve this colossal problem.

### **6 - How do the commitments, goals and actions in UBC's strategic plan relate to your campaign goals, and how will you leverage them on the Board ?**

1. "Support student well-being, personal development, and positive affiliation with UBC through outstanding campus life programs and excellence" - This goal (under Student Learning) speaks to both my interest in improving well-being on campus and increasing the stock of affordable housing on campus for students. In the case of the well-being, one point that must be stressed is how far behind we are on this issue in relation to our closes post-secondary neighbour, Simon Fraser University. It is common knowledge that comparing UBC to Ivy League-esque institutions is a one-way path to killing any point you might have, but the discussion changes quite a bit when SFU (or U.Washington or the like...) is the institution in question. SFU has already completed a full mental health audit of their academic calendar and UBC should not fall behind. The first step may be to identify whether "Learning & Research" or "People, Community & International"

is the committee whose purview this would fall under, build a strong relationship with the Chair of the committee, and ensure that the item makes its way to a committee strategic session

In the case of affordable housing, I have already done extensive work on this issue as an AMS Executive, coordinating policy research and public outreach for the society. As a result, I have built a strong relationship with Prof. Ghossoub who is spearheading the Housing Action Plan from the Board. I intend to use my new role as Governor (and therefore, theoretically, a supervisor to groups such as Campus & Community Planning) to influence senior administrators to a degree that I was previously not privileged to. Armed with the research on alternative housing models that the University should consider, I will look to engage my fellow Board members in discussion on this issue as well. Lunch and post-meeting conversations are crucial to winning their support.

With any issue that I hope to champion as a member of the Board, building trust and strong relationships with my fellow Governors is imperative. Perhaps the only person that I will look to build an even stronger relationship with is the Planning & Liaison Manager who, as gatekeeper to the Board, is critical to finding success during one's term as a Governor.

**7 - Allies are critical to achieving any initiative on a governing body of UBC. Which individuals on the Board will you look to support your initiatives, and to what end? Why those people?**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

## **Erik MacKinnon**

### **1 - What one experience of yours will prepare you most for the Board?**

First of all, thanks for taking the time to develop such pointed questions that should really bring out what each of us as Board of Governors candidates have to offer.

It's very tough to choose a single experience that can prepare you for representing the needs of 47,000 of your peers on the board of directors with as much responsibility as ours.

If I had to pick one, it would be the failure of my second business, Velocity Entertainment, which was a live event promotion company I started while living in Victoria. I worked hard lobbying the city council to amend bylaws to allow me to run the event, and put together an awesome show – which ended up losing about \$25,000 in a single night due to a range of issues.

You can learn a lot from your successes – but you learn much more from your failures. That day taught me lessons in time management, in trusting the wrong individuals, in getting everything told to you in writing, and so much more.

### **2 - What current weakness would require the most growth to be optimally effective on the Board?**

I don't think it's a surprise to anyone that I have a very blunt approach that can cause some individuals to have a negative first impression of me. It's part of my personality that has been tough to change, since it's in my core.

Having said that, I have successfully led and participated in a number of different initiatives, including sitting currently on the board of directors for Kitsilano Neighbourhood House and in previous spots on the AMS Budget Committee and more.

I know where my strengths and weaknesses lie, and I'm confident that they can be applied and controlled in the proper ratio to achieve results.

### **3 - How does work get done on the Board?**

I'm not currently on the BoG, but in my past experience everything that gets accomplished is done through two things: building relationships and hard work. In those respects, I feel that I'm the best candidate running for a BoG spot in this election. I'm a prolific networker, and there is no shortage of individuals who will be happy to testify that I can both accomplish and delegate with brutal efficiency.

(side note: short answer to this question is "Call Reny Kahlon")

### **4 - What are the two most critical resolutions passed in the past year on the Board and why?**

I'm going to pass on this question as I could only state answers based on my own prerogatives or prejudices, and I'm running to represent students and not myself. Whether it was the budget vote, the creation of the Masters of Occupational Therapy program, or the approval of the development of the Order of St. John Hospice – the "critical" in "critical resolutions" is determined by students and I will work to make sure that their opinions count.

### **5 - What was the most critical discussion in the past year on the Board and why?**

I haven't asked enough of my peers this question to know how everyone feels, but as a student and a resident, I personally feel the most critical discussions this year were around housing and how the UBC community of students, faculty, staff and other stakeholders is going to grow effectively.

