1.) Lobby the University to Divest from fossil fuels: PROMISE KEPT

This year’s UVSS board has advanced the Divest UVic campaign further than ever before by exercising a two-track approach of mass student mobilization and biweekly meetings between the UVSS and UVic’s treasurer.

a. The UVic Board of Governors will be voting to divest their Short-Term Investments and Bonds in the new year.

b. Overall, student awareness and support on campus have increased and momentum is building.

2.) Establish a cup bank: PROMISE KEPT

In September, the UVSS founded a reusable cup bank that can be found near Munchie bar. Those who purchase drinks at Munchie Bar or Bean There will receive a $0.30 discount when using any reusable cup.

3.) Establish a bag bank: PROMISE KEPT

A reusable bag bank has been established in the UVSS Board Offices across from Munchie Bar.

4.) Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of eliminating all non-recyclable and non-compostable waste in the SUB: ONGOING

The Ecological Footprint Working Group is in the preliminary stages of determining the most cost-effective way to reduce waste in the SUB. Projected completion will be in the Winter term.

5.) Lobby the provincial government to implement needs-based grants for low and middle-income students: PROMISE KEPT

From October 25th−30th, the UVSS attended the Alliance of BC Students’ Lobby days and lobbied 67 MLAs to implement needs-based grants for low- and middle-income students. The UVSS is hoping to see the results of our lobbying effort in the 2020-2021 BC Provincial Budget.

6.) Create open-source textbooks: PROMISE KEPT

Since May, the UVSS has contributed financially to creating 5 open-source textbooks and other open-source course material that will save students $232,500 per year once completed.

This year’s UVSS board has been promoting the use of open-source textbooks among Faculty at UVic through email campaigns and presentations to departments at Faculty meetings.
AFFORDABILITY (cont.)

6.) Create open-source textbooks: PROMISE KEPT
   a. Additionally, the UVSS successfully lobbied the Office of the Registrar to allow students to electronically view which courses use cost-free course materials when registering for courses. This will be piloted next September.
   b. Before the end of April, the UVSS aims to contribute to creating another 10 open educational resources.

7.) Lobby the Federal Government to remove taxes on textbooks: ONGOING
   a. Following the 2019 Federal Election, the UVSS reinstated the Textbook Broke campaign following the 2019 Federal Election, with the goal of gaining the support of recently elected MPs and major federal parties to reinstate the textbook tax credit.

8.) Examine extending the deadline to opt-out of the UVSS Health and Dental Plan: PROMISE KEPT
   a. After examining this campaign promise, the current UVSS 2019-2020 Board of Directors learned that we are unable to re-negotiate the opt-out date because it is connected to the University’s tuition timelines and is not done through the UVSS.

9.) Improve past efforts to promote the opt-out deadline for the UVSS Health and Dental plan: PROMISE KEPT
   a. The UVSS has been working to promote the health and dental opt-out deadline through the following means.
      i. The 2019-2020 UVSS Board of Directors is only the second Board to table at International Student Welcome to promote the Studentcare plan.
      ii. The UVSS ensured that our Studentcare representative stayed on campus a full week after the opt-out deadline to educate students on the appeals process, which has never happened before during the fall semester.
      iii. The UVSS worked with Studentcare to strategically align their emails with our own to ensure that as many students as possible could be reached before the deadline.
      iv. The UVSS worked with the Office of the Registrar to enable students to view the opt-out date for the student Health and Dental Plan on UVic’s MyPage under “Finances – Account Summary by Term” which is where students currently view when their tuition is due.

10.) Advocate for affordable and secure housing on and off-campus: ONGOING
    a. The UVSS is currently working with Saanich Council to amend a zoning bylaw that prohibits more than 4 non-related residents from living in the same residence. It is the hope of the UVSS that this bylaw will be amended by the end of 2019.
    b. The UVSS is currently working with the University to ensure that student consultation and approval is the primary consideration during the planning and design of the two new on-campus residence buildings that are being constructed over the next few years.

11.) Work to implement a summer U-pass for all UVic Students: PROMISE KEPT
    a. By the time the 2019-2020 Board Term started, this initiative was already completed. We would like to thank past UVSS Boards for their hard work on this issue.

12.) Advocate for increased availability of on-campus counselling services: ONGOING
    a. The UVSS has been lobbying the University to establish a 24/7 mental health support line for all UVic students in collaboration with the UVSS. The creation of this support line will increase mental health support or students while simultaneously taking some pressure off of the UVic’s Counselling Services, where many students are currently facing wait times of over a month to see a counsellor. Our goal is that students will have access to this support line within the next 6 months.
    b. The UVSS is currently lobbying the university to hire embedded counsellors for each faculty and to extend same-day counselling appointments into the evenings.

13.) Promote mental health services and awareness: ONGOING
    a. In collaboration with the Office of Student Life, the UVSS is preparing for Wellness Week which will occur in mid-January 2020.
    b. During Wellness Week, the UVSS will be debuting a mental health map that is designed to increase awareness of on-campus resources.
    c. The UVSS will assist in promoting the UVic/UVSS 24/7 Mental Health Support Service if it launches before the end of our Board Term ends on May 1ST.
14.) Advocate for consent training to be incorporated into the orientation that all incoming UVic Residence receive:
PROMISE KEPT

During the summer term, the UVSS lobbied UVic’s Orientation and the Residence Orientation teams to implement mandatory consent training during the fall student orientation. In September, in-person respect and consent training session was offered to all incoming UVic Residence on eight different occasions, but attendance was not mandatory. The UVSS is continuing to work with UVic’s Orientation teams and we are optimistic that next year will be the first fall residence orientation that includes mandatory consent training.

In the meantime, the UVSS will continue these lobbying efforts to promote the implementation of mandatory consent training during the winter orientation.

15.) Continue to expand the scope of Sexualized Violence Awareness Week:
PROMISE KEPT

The UVSS expanded outreach during Sexualized Violence Awareness Week into CARSA and interacted with folks not typically reached by the Let’s Get Consensual Campaign.

During Sexualized Violence Awareness Week, the UVSS ensured that the content of the keynote event was accessible, educational and meaningful to students.

The UVSS is working with our on-campus partners to hold a Sexualized Violence Awareness Event in February to debut the rebrand of the Let’s Get Consensual Campaign.

The UVSS implemented mandatory consent training for all UVSS Directors.

16.) Lobby the University to make courses more accessible for students:
UPCOMING INITIATIVE

a. In the Spring term, the UVSS will consult students with accessibility needs to inform a list of recommendations for the University to use to make their classrooms more accessible.

17.) Conduct weekly outreach with UVic students to determine what initiatives they would like from the UVSS:
ONGOING

a. While conducting in-person outreach in the Summer term was difficult due to the lower student population, the UVSS has been conducting in-person outreach with students at least once per week since the start of September. In October, the UVSS AGM met quorum for the entirety of our Annual General Meeting for the first time in four years, perhaps due to increased outreach efforts.

b. The UVSS has also been prioritizing outreach with our members via social media. Compared with previous years, the UVSS Board is currently posting more and attracting more engagements on our social media.

18.) Work to create an online room booking system for clubs and course unions that are booking space in the SUB:
ONGOING

The UVSS is currently working with UVSS tech support, the UVSS General Office, and the UVSS Communications Office to find a system that can keep information confidential, stored within Canada, and accessible to staff.

c. The UVSS implemented mandatory consent training for all UVSS Directors.

19.) Create a template constitution that can be used by any club: PROMISE KEPT

This exists in UVSS Clubs Policy but is underused. As a result, the Board has removed mandatory constitutions from UVSS Clubs Policy.

b. For those of you that would still like help to create their own club’s constitution, there is a template constitution on page 9, appendix A, of clubs policy.
20.) Hold information sessions for those founding or maintaining UVSS clubs: **UPCOMING INITIATIVE**

a. There will be an optional educational workshop in January for clubs and course unions to submit cheque requests, get insurance, book rooms and more, as well as answering any questions that may arise.

21.) Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of reinstating insurance for UVSS-sponsored pub crawls: **PROMISE KEPT**

a. Conducting this cost-benefit analysis was one of the first things that the current UVSS Board did when our terms started on May 1st, 2019. Unfortunately, the cost associated with purchasing this insurance was too high to be in the best interest of the UVSS.

22.) Re-evaluate the perks that UVSS Directors receive: **PROMISE KEPT**

a. At the first Board meeting for the 2019-2020 UVSS Board of Directors, the $50/month cell phone allowance that Lead Directors receive was eliminated. At the UVSS AGM, this cell phone allowance was replaced with a $50/month honorarium for all non-lead directors at our AGM. This is to reduce financial barriers for students that seek non-lead director positions that until recently, offered no compensation.

23.) Showcase more student art in the Student Union Building: **ONGOING**

a. The UVSS is developing a partnership with the UVic Visual Arts Department to showcase more student artwork in the SUB. We hope to launch this initiative as soon as possible.

24.) Bring more local bands to perform in the SUB: **PROMISE KEPT**

a. Campus Kick-Off hosted over a dozen local bands in (and on the roof of) the SUB. A Student Art Night during the Spring term in the SUB will highlight student musicians, poets, writers, and visual artists.

25.) Conduct in-depth consultation with advocacy groups, affiliates, clubs, course unions, and individuals affected by proposed UVSS motions prior to them being voted on: **ONGOING**

a. The 2019-2020 Board has always consulted relevant groups in the UVSS community prior to decisions being made. This promise will be considered complete once the current Board’s term is over and this track record of thorough consultation has been upheld.

26.) Create a set of policies that will clearly outline what the UVSS board expects from advocacy groups when submitting their budgets: **UPCOMING INITIATIVE**

a. Will be a priority during the Spring term once some of our other ongoing initiatives are completed and the board has more capacity.

27.) Analyze the slate system to consider reformation: **PROMISE KEPT**

a. The UVSS Electoral Committee analyzed the slate system and reformed it into a system of "co-operatives" that prioritizes election accessibility, removes barriers, and reduces the intimidation of running for the UVSS.

28.) Post minutes of UVSS board meetings within one week of their completion: **PROMISE KEPT**

a. UVSS Board meeting minutes for 2019-2020 can be found [here](#).

29.) Stream UVSS meetings on Facebook: **PROMISE KEPT**

a. The November 18th UVSS Board meeting was the first ever to be live-streamed. Recordings of live-streamed UVSS Board meetings can be found on our [Facebook Page](#).