Present: Ambrose Chan, Andrea Jones, Angela Zhao, Antoine Ponsard, Behzad Shoolestani, Chen Vu, Chhavi Tripathi, Christopher Roach, Colúm Connolly, Daniel Wood Elizabeth Bulaeva, Enav Zusman, Eric Becklin, Grant Tran, Harry Li, inti Dewey, Jack Hickmott, James Lawson, Janice Valdez, Jenn So, Julie Chang (proxy for Jennifer Campbell), Julienne Jagdeo, Kathryn Knudson, Kevin Mehr, Kreso Sola, Krish Maharaj, Lena Patsa, Mahsa Mohajednia, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Michelle Kwon, Michelle Hak Hepburn, Min Xia, Mirza Sarwar, Naman Paul, Nayantara Dutachoudhury, Nicholas Dawson, Olenka Forde, Omid Nourbakhsh, Parker Jobin, Renae Regehr, Robin Kim, Sarah Simon, Sarah Fernando, Shona Robinson, Sima Valizadeh, Susan Song, Tobias Friedel, Vivian Lam, Xun Zhou, Yu Guo, Yulia Merkulova.


Absent: Adam Luna, Debolina Majumder, Dustin King, Ehsan Espid, Eva Choi, Gianluca Oluic, Keeley Ryan, Suzie Maginley, Tahara Bhaté, Vinodha Chetty.

Chair: Abdul Alnaar

Guests: Erik Allas; Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Co

    Mark Wellington, GSS General Manager;
    Neal Yonson, GSS Policy Researcher;
    Karen Leung, GSS Communications and Marketing Director.

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

1. BIRT the agenda is adopted as presented.

MOVER: Jack Hickmott          SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

Motion to amend Agenda to add seating of chair for the House Finance Committee, and to add Varsity Outdoor Club to the list of affiliate organizations for recognition.

Motion to amend Agenda to add motion Strategic Planning Taskforce, and motion Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Student Senators.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel          SECONDER: Colúm Connolly

MOTION PASSES

Back to motion as amended.

BIRT the agenda is adopted as amended.

MOTION PASSES

C. Motions to Council I

2. Approval of the Financial Statements.
BIRT the GSS Council approves the 2014 Financial Statements of the Society as presented by Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Co.

MOVER: Jack Hickmott  SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

Motivation

Balance Sheet:
- decrease in liabilities, and increase in assets compared to 2013;
- Top line “Cash” – $172,000 – incurred decrease when there was an increase in “Accounts Receivable”;
- Financial Position (p.2) – strong financial position.

Statement of Operations:
- Total revenue goes up due to better terms of Koerner’s Pub contract, increase in membership fees, and student events compared to last year.
- Total expenses also go up as a result of increase in salaries, student events and special projects.
- There is a surplus of $74,067 in 2014.

Auditor report: page 1.

MOTION PASSES by unanimous consent

Motion to recess.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel  SECONDER: Eric Becklin

Motivation

To proceed for AGM.

MOTION PASSES

Recess at 6:13 pm.

D. Presentations

(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)

- 2015 Executive Elections: preliminary results

Speaker: Patrick Lo, Chief Electoral Officer

Preliminary results:
- Candidate for President: Tobias Friedel (69.6%);
- Candidate for Vice-President, University and Academic Affairs: Enav Zusman (67.5%);
- Candidate for Vice President, External Relations: Bingyu (Gloria) Liu (87.7%);
- Candidate for Vice-President, Students: Kevin Mehr (86.3%);
- Candidates for Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies Student Senator: re-open (100%);

Turnout – 6.6% out of a total of 10,285 electors.

Complaints period has not ended yet;

Final results will be presented at April Council.

E. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

3. Notice of unseatings (*no vote necessary*)

**Chris Roach** to be unseated as Chair of the Executive Oversight Committee.

**Chris Roach** to be unseated as Executive Oversight Committee Representative.

4. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

**Shona Robinson** be appointed as Chair of the House Finance Committee.

**MOVER:** Jack Hickmott  
**SECONDER:** Sarah Fernando

**MOTION PASSES**

5. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

**Tobias Friedel** be appointed to the AMS Council.

**MOVER:** Jack Hickmott  
**SECONDER:** Chris Roach

**MOTION PASSES**

F. Approval of Minutes

7. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “February 19, 2015” be approved as presented.

**MOVER:** Anotine Ponsard  
**SECONDER:** Krish Maharaj

Motion to amend Minutes dated February 19, 2015 to remove section 12, deemed friendly.

Back to motion as amended.

**MOTION PASSES**

8. BIRT the following committee minutes be approved as presented:

*Code and Policy committee November 24, 2014;*

*Code and Policy committee December 8, 2014;*

*Code and Policy committee January 19, 2015;*

*Code and Policy committee February 12, 2015;*
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House Finance committee December 2, 2014;
House Finance committee January 20, 2015;
House Finance committee February 3, 2015.

MOVER: Chris Roach  SECONDER: Nayantara Duttachoudhury
MOTION PASSES

G. Executive Remarks
(3 minutes)

- **President — Colúm Connolly**
  - Attended ABCS conference in Victoria;
  - Met with Minister of Justice, Minister of Advanced Education and Minister of Children and Family Development;
  - A lot of work around lobbying document;
  - Have been wrapping up for AGM.

- **Vice-President Academic & External Affairs — Daniel Wood**
  - Welcomed newly appointed executives, and thanked Patrick for organizing 2015 GSS Executive Elections.
  - Transit Plebiscite campaign goes in full range: attending different events. Have signed up 35 students this week. The campaign will last for another 6 weeks.
  - Working on transition;
  - Involved in tuition consultations;

- **Vice-President Administration — Kevin Mehr**
  - Hiring for student positions;
  - Have been working on HR handbook;
  - Working on transition;
  - Finishing up CPIF projects before term end.

- **Vice-President Finance — Tobias Friedel**
  - Audit is done;
  - Next step is to prepare for the next term— get new execs to make budget for their departments, also incorporate necessary changes and gaps identified earlier.
  - Preparing for the incoming exec to have smooth transition.
• **Vice-President Services — Min Xia**
  - Hosted Tax workshop with 70 students in attendance;
  - Planning for another 3 workshops on PR strategies;
  - Hosting Cultural fluency workshop with invited guest speaker;
  - Events: Whitecaps, Laser tag, etc.
  - Shannon is working on summer leagues: soccer and softball.

**H. Committee, Taskforce, and Operations Reports**

*(3 minutes)*

• **Academic & External Affairs Committee — Enav Zusman**
  - Has focused on UBC housing policy;
  - Received an Emergency Fund request;
  - Has discussed progress on Transit Referendum.

• **Code and Policy Committee — Julienne Jagdeo**
  - Spent a couple of meetings working on Policy Manual Section 6, now up for approval;
  - Started slowly working on Policy Manual section “Position Statements”;
  - Election procedures are subject for revision soon.

• **Executive Oversight Committee — Christopher Roach**
  - No report

• **House-Finance Committee — Kevin Mehr**
  - No report

• **Human Resources Committee — Jack Hickmott**
  - Continue to hire for recently opened positions: System Administrator and Bookings Assistant;
  - Has been working on HR handbook.

• **Services Committee — Sima Valizadeh**
  - Held second Whistler trip;
  - Had two coffee socials;
  - Ice dance classes start next week;
  - Committee meetings are more organized under the guidance of General Manager.
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- Elections Committee – Patrick Lo
  - as presented earlier.

I. Representative Reports
(3 minutes)
- AMS Council – Christopher Roach
  - Held elections: new execs to take office on the same date as the GSS execs.
  - Boycott Izrael: took yes vote;
- Senate – Julienne Jagdeo
  - Disestablishment of Fisheries Centre, and establishment of Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries; establishment of the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies.
  - Approved master leadership program in engineering;
  - 5 different master programs are submitted for approval.

J. Council Motions II

9. Policy Manual Section 6
BIRT Council approves the amendments proposed to Section 6 General Committee Policy.

MOVER: Krish Maharaj         SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

Motivation
Nicely laid out changes to the general committee policy to bring more functionality and make policy more clear as to membership.

MOTION PASSES

10. Event Fund Application [I]
WHEREAS Master’s in Arts Asia Pacific Policy Studies (MAAPPS) has applied for and been granted funding for International Graduate Conference through the GSS Events Fund.
WHEREAS funding granted without a special approval of Council is limited according to policy 7.4.1.
WHEREAS International Graduate Conference qualifies for additional funding in accordance with the guidelines as set out by the Finance committee.
BIRT Council approves additional funds for reimbursement up to a total of $990 from budget line 12–813 (GSS Events Fund).

MOVER: Min Xia         SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

Motivation
Harry: MAAPPS is organizing a conference starting on April 10th. It is a 3-day event. Expecting 30 participants from US, Russia, Japan, etc. Need funds to pay for accommodation, guest speakers, etc.

**MOTION PASSES**

11. Event Fund Application [II]

WHEREAS Vancouver Prostate Centre Graduate Student Association has applied for and been granted funding for VPC Science Social through the GSS Events Fund.

WHEREAS funding granted without a special approval of the Finance committee is limited according to policy 7.4.1.

WHEREAS VPC Science Social qualifies for additional funding in accordance with the guidelines as set out by the Finance committee.

BIRT Council approves additional funds for reimbursement up to a total of $420 from budget line 12-813 (GSS Events Fund).

**MOVER: Min Xia SECONDER: Kevin Mehr**

Jack: application states there will be 120 attendees, cannot say for sure what percentage is grads.

**Motion PASSES**

12. Event Fund Application [III]

WHEREAS IGSP Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Program has applied for and been granted funding for Nexus Conference through the GSS Events Fund.

WHEREAS funding granted without a special approval of the Finance committee is limited according to policy 8.4.

WHEREAS Nexus Conference qualifies for additional funding in accordance with the guidelines as set out by the Finance committee.

BIRT Council approves additional funds for reimbursement up to a total of $1,040 from budget line 12-813 (GSS Events Fund).

**MOVER: Sarah Simon SECONDER: Eric Becklin**

Shona: IGSP is an affiliate organization currently recognized by GSS.

**MOTION PASSES**

13. Taskforce: Ad hoc committee

BIRT the mandate of the Off-campus Outreach Taskforce [ad hoc committee] be re-established until May 31 2015 carrying forward any remaining amounts in its budget, and maintaining its Terms of Reference.
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MOVER: Parker Jobin       SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

Motivation
Jack: made most of the points earlier. OOT had slow momentum. There is a lot to be done. Asking for a little bit more time to do that.

MOTION PASSES
14. Appointment to the Off-campus Outreach Taskforce.
BIRT Jack Hickmott be appointed Chair of the Off-campus Outreach Taskforce.

MOVER: Erik Becklin       SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

MOTION PASSES

15. Appointment of Honorary members
BIRT in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.1, honorary membership of the GSS be conferred to Paul Save and Andrew Patterson.

MOVER: Colúm Connolly    SECONDER: Andrea Jones

Motivation
Colúm: Andrew Patterson sat on Council for 4 years, also served as GSS President. Finally graduated with PhD in Sociology. During his term focused on internal issues, i.e. internal taskforce. Has led to a lot of great things.
Tobias: Paul Save spent more years with GSS that can count. Paul has made valuable contribution. Some of the decisions made were unpopular, yet critical and right. Pub was closed during his term, also brought lots of constructive suggestions and contributed tremendous number of hours.
Point of information: honorary membership is conferred to persons who are no longer members of the GSS.

MOTION PASSES
16. Support of CUPE 3902 and CUPE 3903 (special resolution)
BIRT GSS Council supports CUPE 3902 and CUPE 3903 members in their efforts to secure a fair collective agreement at the University of Toronto and York.
BIRT that the GSS will send a letter of support to the university administration supporting the teaching assistants of CUPE 3902 and CUPE 3903.

MOVER: Andrea Jones       SECONDER: Nayantara Duttachoudhury
Chris: Do we still have quorum?
Chair: quorum is considered lost.

K. Submissions

- Financial Statements 2014 DRAFT
- 2015 GSS Executive Elections: Preliminary Results

Meeting adjourned at 10:36pm.