



GSS Council Meeting Agenda
(revised April 19, 2012, 11am)

5:30 PM
April 19, 2012

GSS Ballroom
(Dinner at 7:00)

I. Call to order at 5:51pm

II. Adoption of agenda:

Moved: Robert Seconded: Floyd (Proposal from Cory to move all Quorum-needed business to front of the Agenda) Approved Unanimously

III. Introductions

IV. Presentations to Council

1. President's remark: this year's team and beyond

Conny Lin (President), 5min presentation, 5min discussion,

This is my first meeting! We just had an Exec Retreat in order to create a good rapport with our new team. Since we spent the Society's money, we feel compelled to report on it. Found we do love to debate on issues- this is a group of people that care. We laid out ground rules, and reviewed strategic plans from various organizations. Realized that even coming up with the bare bones of it needs more time. Still fine tuning the document- but there's a lot more that needs to be done. We'll report back soon.

Comments:

It is really good that you went on that retreat! Past Execs have found it very helpful.

How will you handle disagreement?

-It is in the charter. We can always do improvements.

2. MMK report summary

Jamie Paris (VP Academic & External), 10min presentation, 10min discussion. This conversation began in 2004. Brought in MMK, an outside firm, in order to find what we could improve at the GSS. While a lot has been done, there could be more. Report made recommendations: Council size, Council engagement, improving Committee structures, improving HR, improving institutional memory, improving management of business options, improving stakeholder relations, and signing authority. So far we have dealt with many of these. Still have some issues. Working with many more groups. Update on last year- why was not all of it done? Well, we had the Pub closed, reduced Council size, went bankrupt, hired a new staff member (Stephania), and had some political fatigue. What's next? Separation of Ac/Ex, Signing Authority, Board Structure and Council debate, Student Engagement, Professional development, fixing Code & Bylaws, fixing our 3 hr plus meeting length, lack of control over Councillor elections, IT & Archiving issues.

Questions:

Did a quick look-over- we are onto almost every point. Need Councilor involvement!

Thank you for the presentation. Have two issues- Don't think that the Councillor elections point is small- it is a large issue. It is a question of how we do it.

-Think they are large questions. The fact that we have nothing that says who can sit in this room-that's bad. Deal with, or say we don't want to. Trying to shift from being a club to a real Society.

Would like to thank the people who began this process. Andrew headed it up. Lots of work went into it. But must clarify, we didn't come near bankruptcy.

-Thank you for your corrections but must say I have been on this committee; we are on Senate committee. BoGS reps have two student seats- need to get more involved. Projections on finances suggested that we were looking a situation that we could not pay our bills.

If archives is a concern, you can set up a professional experience with our school (SLAIS). Would be happy to help!

(Much excitement over this from the Executive and Executive Director!!!)

We met with AMS archivist a while ago, and we are still trying to update/work on this. That's a great idea.

If there are funds set up, that's fine, but either way we can make it work out.

Let Victor be informed of this.

If you (Jamie) get questions on the Pub, please forward them to the VP Admin.

3. GU15

Jamie Paris (VP Academic & External), 5min presentation, 5min discussion

History of the GU15 was given- it is composed of graduate student societies of the top universities in Canada Gives Immigration support, professional and personal development, IP, open sources, e-publishing, grad student parental childcare. Access to all 15 schools.

Also gave forecast of other conferences coming up.

Budget? Do we have money for it?

– Will propose new budget in May.

Not saying we must go to all of them, we are telling the Council that these conferences exist.

Come to Council before-hand; we want conferences approved by Council before, next time?

Have had a lot of discussion within the executives committee.

Tax credits, completion times

4. Financial Update

Robert Klinzmann (VP Finance), 5min presentation, 5min discussion

Investment – GIC roll over new investments.

V. Updates:

All executives, Committee chairs, external representatives are encouraged to provide an oral summary of last month's activity. Any Councillors who wish to report their activities to the Council may use this time to update. This is an opportunity to consult council on various issues.

1. University Sustainability Initiative (UBC USI) Student Steering Committee Update

Paul Save (2 mins)

Where should courses be held? Where should the money go?

VI. Approval of Council Minutes

Be it resolved that (BIRT) the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated *Feb 16th, 2012* be approved as presented.

Moved: Cory Seconded: Floyd
Approved by Unanimous Consent

VII. Seatings, unseatings & appointments

Note: Councilors are encouraged at this time to request a seat on committees that they would like to be members of and to unseat themselves from committees they no longer wish to attend. Committee Chairs are also encouraged to recruit committee members at this time.

1. Notice of unseatings (no vote necessary)

WHEREAS they have submitted their resignation from office as Councilor,
BIRT the following Councilors be unseated: _____

WHEREAS they have missed three consecutive Council meetings,
BIRT the following Councilors be unseated: Shuo Liu

WHEREAS they have submitted their resignation from office as the representative in the
Graduate Council,
BIRT the following Representatives be unseated: *Anna Lund*

2. Seatings – Council

Council intake occurs on May, October, and February (bylaw 5.3.3a). Hence this meeting we will not be seating new councilors.

3. Seatings – External Representatives & Committees

External Representatives

BIRT *Kristan Marchik* , Andrew Patterson, Vivian Lam, Maxim Stykow, Paul Save be seated as representative in the Graduate Council

BIRT [*1 vacancy*] be seated as representative in the AMS council

Committees

BIRT *Paul Save* be seated in House Finance Committee

~~BIRT *Vivian Lam, Conrad King, Andrew Patterson, Cory Shankman* be seated in Executive Oversight Committee~~

BIRT Radu Racovita, Naureen Madhani, Ling Zhang Paul Save be seated in Human Resources Committee

BIRT [2 vacancy + any additional] be seated in Sustainability Committee

BIRT [any additional] be seated in Academic & External Committee

BIRT Paul Save be seated in Code & Policy Committee

BIRT Ling Zhang be seated in Communications Committee

BIRT Andrew Patterson be seated in Elections Committee

BIRT Cory Shankman is Chair of EOC

Moved: Robert Seconded: Floyd

Approved Unanimously

VIII. Motions

(max. 3 min. for motivation; 15 min. for discussion; 2 min. per question)

1. The Chinese Graduate Student Association (CGSA)

BIRT the GSS recognizes the CGSA (The Chinese Graduate Student Association) as a non-departmental student group (NSG) at the University of British Columbia.

Motivate: Ling Zhang (CGSA, President)

Moved: Ling Seconded: Stephanie

Question:

Do your Bylaws still state that you have to be Chinese to be on your Executive?

-No. Those were changed. We invite all to join us.

Can we know why they want to be NSG?

-SPIE already has been recognized, so let's do so and then put it in Code. It needs to be incorporated into the document, but it does exist.

While I appreciate what we are getting at, don't want noted that it is for this body to dictate the structures- then we should make sure that is clear in Code. Maybe there's an implication behind it that was unintended.

We just had a HF meeting and this came up, so let's just leave it at that.

MOTION CARRIES.

IX. Discussion Period

- **GU15: What do you guys want to talk about in GU15 that have not been dealt with? We talked about budget, but nothing came from council. Some suggestions:**
- **Access copyright**
- **Graduation time**
- **Cory asks to add one paragraph for what each attachments are, will help Councilors to know what is of importance.**
- **NSERC, distribution of awards**
- **Election committee – is working on good practices of elections. Just to let people know.**

Executive oversight

Council, think about what you want EOC to do, what you want your arm of the Executive to do. Think of the EOC as HR for the Executive.

X. Other Business

XI. Notice of Motions

XII. Next meeting & Adjournment: 7:21pm

The next Council Meeting shall take place on May 17, 2012.