



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday April 17, 2014

GSS Ballroom

### Present:

Ali McAfee, Ambrose Chan, Angela Zhao, Barak Caracheo, Baseer Abdul, Christopher Roach, Colúm Connolly, Craig Kerr, Daniel Wood, Ehsan Espid, Eric Becklin, Gabriela Badica, George Furey, Hafizur Rahman, Hamid Omid, Inti Dewey, Jack Hickmott, Jackie Davis, Kevin Mehr, Kreso Sola, Kristan Marchak, Luz Caudillo, Mahsa Mojahednia, Martina Volfova, Matt Sacheli, Michelle Kwon, Min Xia, Mitchell Meler, Nayantara Duttachoudhury, Omid Nourbakhsh, Patrick Lo, Paul Save, Pooya Hosseini, Sarah Simon, Shona Robinson, Sima Valizadeh, Sneha Balani, Vince Chan, Yvonne Dzal

### Regrets:

Christopher Dickman, Christopher Jenkins, Conny Lin, Cynthia Min, Ingrid Olson, Jahidur Rahman, Jeff Abeysekera, Jon Newell, Julia Varela, Julie Zhang, Julienne Jagdeo, Kaleb Boucher, Laura Bohachyk, Lena Patsa, Natalie Marshall, Raphael Rocco, Richard Sandlin, Vivian Lam.

### A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:42pm.

1. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER:** Christopher Roach **SECONDER:** Eric Becklin

**PASSES**

### B. Introductions

### C. Presentations to Council

*(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)*

- **Special Event Fund Application – Water & Environment Student Talks (WEST Conference)**, Aline Bennett and Sam Bailey  
An interdisciplinary conference open to all graduate students and an opportunity to present their research and discuss a range of topics including water waste management and environmental policy. Approximately 70 per cent of presenters will be UBC graduate students.  
The conference has a budget of \$13,000 in total, which includes all expenses, key note speakers, end of conference dinner, and subsidized attendance pricing. Funds will be recovered through registrations. An additional \$650.00 requested from the SEF as there is currently a gap of \$3,000.  
Expected attendance of 100. Promotion through social media, posters in all engineering, forestry, EOA Sciences and geography buildings, and an ad in the BC Watermark magazine.  
In the coming weeks, further networking and promotion will be carried out to increase registrations. It was asked whether there would be a First Nations focus?, to which the response was there is potential for First Nation key note speakers and / or panel members.  
The House-Finance Committee can only approve up to \$350. Any additional funding needs to be approved by Council.

Amend the agenda to move the WEST Conference SEF application motion to immediately following the presentation.



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday April 17, 2014

GSS Ballroom

**MOVER:** Kevin Mehr, **SECONDER:** Eric Becklin

**PASSES**

### 2. Special Event Fund Application – Water & Environment Student Talks (WEST Conference)

WHEREAS the organizers of WEST have successfully applied for \$350.00 of funding for their Student Conference event from the House-Finance Committee;

WHEREAS they would still like an additional \$650.00 of funding from the GSS;

WHEREAS the House-Finance Committee has recommended the GSS Council allocates an additional \$650.00 towards this event (votes: 5 in favour, 1 abstention)

BIRT the GSS Council approves the expenditure of an additional \$650.00 for this event from the Special Events Fund (12-809).

**MOVER:** Kevin Mehr **SECONDER:** Eric Becklin

**PASSES**

- **UBC's Sustainability Strategy**, Paul Save

Refer to the presentation and supporting documentation.

The UBC's 20-Year Sustainability Strategy has three pillars; Teaching, Learning and Research, Operations and Infrastructure, and UBC Community. The strategy aims to achieve a 'net positive' result by 2034.

Amend the agenda to move the UBC Sustainability Strategy motion to immediately following the presentation.

**MOVER:** Paul Save, **SECONDER:** Ali McAfee

**PASSES**

### 3. UBC's Sustainability Strategy

BIRT the GSS supports UBC's efforts toward planning for long-term sustainability by formally endorsing the proposed 20-year Sustainability Strategy for next generation sustainability at UBC.

**MOVER:** Daniel Wood **SECONDER:** Vincent Chan

**PASSES**

## D. Executive Remarks

*(3 minutes)*

- **President – Colúm Connolly**

## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday April 17, 2014

GSS Ballroom

Involved in hiring, attended the GU 15 Conference, in the process of submitting Executive goals to EOC, and working on the budget.

- **Vice-President Academic & External Affairs – Daniel Wood**  
In the process of moving into the AcEx office, attended the Student Development Conference as well as strategy meetings, in discussions with G & PS about ongoing graduate student issues.
- **Vice-President Administration – Kevin Mehr**  
Transitioning into the new role, in the process of hiring two bookings assistants, as well as developing a position description for an Events Director. A major goal will be to increase graduate student use of the Graduate Student Centre through improved service and facilities.
- **Vice-President Finance –**
- **Vice-President Services – Min Xia**  
Services aims to improve graduate engagement using social media such as Facebook. Involved in the development of the new website, and discussions with G & P S about the upcoming Orientation in August / September.

### E. Committee, Taskforce, and Operations Reports

*(3 minutes)*

- **Academic & External Affairs Committee – Daniel Wood**  
Outstanding minutes, emergency fund checklist document, collaboration for upcoming events
- Code and Policy Committee –
- Executive Oversight Committee –
- House-Finance Committee –
- **Human Resources Committee – Jack Hickmott**  
Performance reviews, revising Hiring Policy, hiring Bookings Assistants, a second Advocacy Coordinator and an Events Director
- **Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh**  
Collecting feedback from the various classes, planning for summer classes, as well as Orientation.

### F. Representative Reports

*(3 minutes)*

- **AMS Council – Christopher Roach**



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday April 17, 2014

GSS Ballroom

Internal transition, hiring of new staff, unseating and reseating all committees, developing a strategic plan. The name for the new student union building will be the AMS Student Nest.

- **Graduate Council –**  
No meeting
- **Senate – Chris Roach**  
Approved two new graduate programs in the School of Community and Regional Planning; Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.  
The restructuring has been approved which will result in fewer members. Two new ad hoc committees; Flexible Learning (technology-based) and Student Mental Health and Wellbeing; a review of all academic policies.

### G. Approval of Minutes

4. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “*March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014*” be approved as presented.

**MOVER:** Jack Hickmott **SECONDER:** Matt Sacheli  
**PASSES**

5. BIRT the following committee minutes be approved as presented:  
*Academic & External Affairs Committee – November 14*  
*Academic & External Affairs Committee – December 5*  
*Academic & External Affairs Committee – February 13*  
*Academic & External Affairs Committee – February 27*  
*Academic & External Affairs Committee – March 17*  
*Academic & External Affairs Committee – March 27*

**MOVER:** Eric Becklin **SECONDER:** Sima Valizadeh  
**PASSES**

It was asked whether the AcEx Committee still intends to investigate making business cards available to graduate students, to which the response was that UBC has a very strict policy about the use of their logo and AcEx cannot proceed without approval from UBC’s legal department.

### H. Seatings, Unseatings, and Appointments

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

**Brett Kolesnik** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.  
**Jens Vent-Schmidt** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.  
**Paul Save** to be unseated as a Department Representative.



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday April 17, 2014

GSS Ballroom

- Angela Zhao to be unseated from the Executive Oversight Committee.
- Gabriela Badica to be unseated from the Human Resources Committee.
- Mahsa Mojahednia to be unseated from the Human Resources Committee.
- Paul Save to be unseated from the Human Resources Committee.
- Sofiya Lazarova to be unseated from the Human Resources Committee.
- Yifei Zhuang be unseated from the Services Committee.

7. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

- Inti Dewey be seated to the Academic and External Affairs Committee (Voting).
- Hamid Omid be seated as a non-voting member to the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

Patrick Lo be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.

Alison McAfee and Patrick Lo be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

- Nayantara Duttachoudhury be seated to the Services Committee.
- Mahsa Mojahednia be seated as a non-voting member to the Services Committee.

**MOVER:** Barak Caracheo, **SECONDER:** Jack Hickmott  
**PASSES**

### I. Council Motions

### J. Other Business and Notice of Motions

### K. Discussion Period

#### Executive Vacation Policy

Does the current Executive Vacation Policy need to be reviewed?

Leave of more than 4 weeks is considered a leave of absence, without pay, and it is suggested that in these cases, someone be appointed in the interim.

It was asked whether everyone could take vacation at the same time?, to which the response was, 'Technically, yes.'

It is suggested that a new Executive Vacation Policy would include 4 weeks in total, 2 at the winter break, and 2 weeks in the remainder of the year.

The current policy is a total of 6 weeks executive vacation; 4 weeks, and an additional 2 weeks over the winter break.

It was asked, 'Why impose limitations instead of modifying policy so that executive cannot be on leave on at the same time?' It was answered that this is difficult to write into code.

It was asked whether this been a problem in the past?, to which the response was 'No'.

It was stated that long periods of leave affect efficiency.

**Exterior Patio Lights, Koerner's Pub**



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday April 17, 2014

GSS Ballroom

Sufficient lighting is needed on the patio of Koerner's Pub for safety.

The maintenance budget has already been spent so it is suggested the GSS draw from CPIF to fund this.

House-Finance have approved up to \$2,800 for this project.

UBC is a dark campus and there are safety concerns; the sooner more lighting is provided, the better.

The exterior patio lights were damaged during the pub renovation however it is difficult to prove who is at fault so we cannot invoice Koerner's Pub for this.

It was asked how much is in CPIF, to which the response was approximately \$120,000, not all of which is reserved for other projects.

It was asked and answered 'Does this adhere to all the code surrounding CPIF?' (Yes).

It was asked and answered, 'Has Koerner's Pub been approached about splitting the costs?' (No).

Amend the agenda to include a motion relating to the external lighting.

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

**PASSES**

### 8. Exterior Patio Lights, Koerner's Pub

BIRT GSS Council approves the expenditure of up to \$2,800 from the Capital Project Improvement Fund for repair of the external patio lights surrounding the patio of Koerner's Pub.

**MOVER:** Barak Caracheo, **SECONDER:** Mitchell Meler

**PASSES**

It was asked and answered, 'Does this meet the UBC policy on external lighting?' (Yes).

It was asked and answered, 'Who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance?' (UBC Maintenance)

Farewell from Paul Save who will be graduating.

### L. Submissions

### M. Next Meeting

Thursday May 15, 2014

### N. Adjournment

9. BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:07pm.

**MOVER:** Hamid Omid **SECONDER:** Jack Hickmott

**PASSES**