



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, August 20th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

Present: Chandan Sejekan (proxy for Ambrose Chan), Christine D'Cruz (proxy for Andrea Jones), Antoine Ponsard, Anujit Chakraborty, Behzad Shoolestani, Bingyu (Gloria) Liu, Charlie Deng, Chen Vu, Maggie Hunter (proxy for Christie Waltham), Coco Tang, Dustin King, Dylan Burrows, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Enav Zusman, Ingrid Olson, Marcelo Bravo (proxy for Jackie Davis), Sneha Balani (proxy for James Lawson), Jennifer Campbell, Kevin Mehr, Krish Maharaj, Maayan Kreitzman, Yuta Dobashi (proxy for Mirza Sarwar), Naman Paul, Parker Jobin, Patrick Lo, Rebecca Sherbo, Logan MacDonald (proxy for Robin Kim), Sarah Simon, Emily Murphy (proxy for Susan Song), Tobias Friedel, Vasillii Triandafilidi, Katerina Othonos (proxy for Vivian Lam), Yaseen Mottiar and Yulia Merkulova.

Regrets: Grant Tran, Hamid Omid, Julienne Jagdeo, Natalie Marshall, Raphael Rocco, Shona Robinson, Xun Zhou.

Absent: Chhavi Thripathi, Colum Connolly, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Kreso Sola, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Michelle Hak Hepburn, Nayantara Duttachoudhury, Nicholas Dawson, Olenka Forde, Sarah Fernando, Suzie Maginley, Tahara Bhate.

Speaker: Abdul Alnaar

Guests: Mark Wellington, GSS General Manager;
Neal Yonson, GSS Policy Researcher.

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:49 pm.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Sarah Simon

SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

Amendment to bring forward item #15 after reports at the beginning of the section Council motions.

MOVER: Christine D'cruz

Seconder: Ingrid Olson

Motivation: a time sensitive question. We would like to have Welcome BBQ at the beginning of September.

Amendment PASSED

Back to motion as amended.



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Amendment to include presentation titled: “*Suggestion and improvements to move forward towards transparency*” in the section Presentations.

Mover: Tobias Friedel

Seconder: Antoine Ponsard

Amendment PASSED

Back to motion as amended.

Amendment to strike item #10 as it is out of order. This should be dealt by House Finance committee as the amount requested does not require Council approval.

Amendment PASSED

Back to motion as amended.

Amendment to change the amount requested in the item #14.

MOVER: Charlie Deng

SECONDER: -

Speaker: rejected. Not debating the motion, should be amended later.

Amendment DEFEATED

Back to motion as amended.

Amendment to include a motion regarding recognition of Affiliate Organizations.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

Motivation: a new petition has been submitted today. Want to deal with it as quickly as possible.

Q from Anujit: if can include another organization.

Speaker: no if Execs are not aware.

Amendment ENTERTAINED

Back to motion as amended.

Amendment to add a new Council motion [wording sent to the Speaker in the email] to read:

WHEREAS university officials have been invited to a dialogue with the GSS council and have failed to respond; and

WHEREAS a public university is accountable to its students and the wider community, and

WHEREAS the resignation of President Gupta leaves many questions unanswered, both around process and fundamentals, and

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WHEREAS the behaviour of the board of governors responding to this information gap has damaged the university's reputation,

BIRT the GSS has lost faith in the ability of the UBC Board of Governors to effectively govern the university in a manner that is consistent with the University's values.

BIFRT the GSS call upon both Prof. Gupta and the UBC Board of Governors to dissolve the nondisclosure agreement between them and provide transparency on the matter of the former president's resignation.

BIFRT the GSS support the Faculty Association in its efforts to uphold academic freedom and protect its members where the University's bifurcated governance structure and administrative arm have failed to do so.

BIFRT the GSS call for the initiation of an investigation of recent events through the proper channels of UBC's collective agreement with faculty, and that if legal council determines it necessary for BoG chair John Montalbano to step aside for this to take place, that he should do so.

MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman

SECONDER: Katerina Othonos

Motivation: having GSS to provide response on the current events.

Debate

Tobias: call it out of order as it is a position statement.

Speaker: if a position statement, there are rules that apply.

[Speaker is looking into the Policy Manual].

Tobias: recently passed changes to the Policy Manual; positions statement requires advance notice and be accompanied by a briefing note. Since all events are very recent, we can discuss the matter today and call an extraordinary meeting for further action.

Speaker: rule it to be a position statement. If code states it out of order, cannot be added to the agenda.

Maayan: I don't know the distinction between a motion and a position statement. Reason why put now is because of recent events, should react now.

Speaker: already ruled it a position statement. If Council would like to deliberate should prepare to have Code suspended.

Maayan: propose to suspend the Code.

Speaker: seen no objections; will be added for discussion tonight.

Amendment ENTERTAINED

[motion is added to the agenda for discussion in the Section Council Motions]

Back to main motion.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent



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B. Introductions

C. Presentations

(10 Minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions)

- **Communication Platform for UBC Graduate Students, Faculty and Staff ;**

Presenter: Dan Kehila, Tal Shalev and Judy Booth;

- Who has Facebook and who is active on social media? - [majority in the room]
- Who has most of friends, family and peers on Facebook? - [majority in the room]
- Who has faculty members on Facebook? - [some students]
- Who would like to be more connected with Faculty? - [majority in the room]
- Who think that we will benefit from more communication? - [majority in the room]
- Would like to create a communication hub for grad students to stay connected;
- It's meant to be a medium for people to write a few lines, share, talk about the things that are important to us;
- First issue faced is how to arrange an effective channel of communication - need help to get it started;
- Very excited about this idea and don't know how it will end, but want to start a dialogue, share things among graduate students, bring them together, have instant mobilization. Hoping that GSS will help to make it viral.
- Looking for help not only from students, but also faculty. Have seen progress and help from GSAT;
- Grad students don't feel like a student body, that is why we need a community to talk to each other. Hope more students will join.

Q&A

Vasilli: Faculty is very reluctant to use Facebook as they don't want to mix their private life and work.

Dan: Some faculty members are active on social media - post articles, and even have their own blogs. Open to discuss which platform to use, whatever the level would feel comfortable, will find the way to communicate with each other.

Sneha: do you think it is professional to use Facebook? I don't want people to see my photos from parties, rather focus on career development. Maybe Facebook is not a very great idea after all. LinkedIn may be a more suitable platform to connect with Faculty, etc.

Dan: not aware of LinkedIn. Will look into it.

Sneha: it is a cool professional resource.

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Dan: still Facebook allows you to keep your profile private; more of a casual way of communication.

Sneha: will engage younger Faculty, yet risk to miss out on potential audience.

Jade: think there is always a trade-off between engaging students and faculty.

Tal: will probably try all.

Marcelo: have you tried to involve a faculty member to help promoting? Asking another faculty to join?

Dan: have talked to my supervisor. He is very excited about the idea. Don't know a lot of faculty members. It is a new thing and just starting, need to get a feeling how it will be useful for them. From their perspective it is a student initiative.

Marcelo: propose to involve Faculty from the very beginning.

Antoine: different platforms create different content. What are you trying to get people to share? Is it a social, academic or professional content?

Dan: all kind of things, different perspective on the same issue. Chose Facebook to be more casual, raise awareness and start discussion; will need some help and time. Word of mouth will be great.

Tal: started some sort of event search, wanted to write a critic or comment, didn't find anything like that. GSS newsletter is basically just news. No platform to write a review or comment on the topic.

Dan: Had feedback about the event, and could not post it anywhere.

Sima: GPS has already offered a page on their website where grad students can connect with each other. However, it is not being much used.

Sneha: what is it called?

Tal: ubcowlparliament.

Antoine: why not called ubc grad?

Charlie: how are you planning to engage students?

Dan: not an easy question. Grad students want to communicate, but don't know how.

Jenn: UBC Facebook group has 21 k members.

Tal: that group is mostly undergrads.

Dan: don't want this platform to end up just about free food and about events. Want to be on a productive side - maybe less members, but more meaningful conversations.

- **Suggestion and improvements to move forward towards transparency**

Presenter: Tobias Friedel, GSS President

- Council update on recent University events;

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- Everybody heard about current developments; not so much new. Gupta has resigned on August 7, than media covered on the issue. Will discuss all the facts that are available - what is out there in terms of information;
- On August 7th – announcement of Gupta’s resignation in the early afternoon right after the closed meeting of the Board of Governors.
- Shortly after AMS and GSS have released statement to express their positions;
- Few days later BOGS send a reply letter to the Faculty Association mentioning a non-disclosure agreement;
- Monday, August 17th unannounced meeting of the BOGs was accidentally discovered by the members of the Ubyyssey.
- What GSS has done since announcement? A release was send out shortly after followed by the meeting with Veronica Knott who was unavailable to provide details on the matter due to non-disclosure agreement;
- Sent formal invitation to Chancellor Gordon and John Montalbano inviting them to the Council meeting to provide more information. Unfortunately, neither could make on such a short notice. Agreed to meet later to discuss the relationships between GSS and the office of the President.
- Had a short phone call from John Montalbano during which agreed to exchange meetings early September.
- What can GSS do to make sure that there is more transparency?
- Moving forward want to ask BoGs to be able to be present at the meetings; make sure that grad student community can get a chance to directly speak to the Board.
- Want to ask the Board to make agenda and meeting schedule available to the public;
- Release all decisions that have been reached by the Board;
- It is quite challenging to reach some of the Board members as there is no published contact information. All communications are being addressed to the office of the Board; want to ask for an assigned UBC email address for respective members;
- A policy reaffirming the rights of the public to record Board meetings and take photographs as long as it is being done in a respectful and non-disruptive manner; publish general topics of discussion, and post the dates of the closed meetings;
- Asking more clearly defined circumstances under which topics are placed on the closed agenda.

Questions & Answers

It was stated that GSS Executive sought input or suggestions on the subject matter, and asked if there was an agreement on the direction that grad students needed to

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pursue; later to be reflected in the position statement and accompanied by the briefing note.

It was further noted that GSS was not very happy about the communications with the President's office and referred to one official meeting and one reply letter to the inquiry made by the GSS. It was further added about the unsatisfactory frequency of the communication with the Board.

It was further read out the AMS position statement on the subject matter.

Motion to extend time for 10 minutes.

MOVER: Chandan Sejkan

SECONDER: Marcelo Bravo

MOTION PASSED

It was mentioned that one of the proxies had applied to attend Board meetings as an observer, and suggested to have a permanent student representative added to the list of recommendations.

It was further clarified that anyone can attend meetings as long as there is room to seat in the gallery.

It was further clarified that open Board meetings are always published on their website, and referred earlier to the meetings that take place outside of the regular schedule.

D. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

2. Notice of Unseatings (*no vote necessary*)

Omid Nourbakhsh to be unseated as Departmental Representative.

Janice Valdez to be unseated as Departmental Representative.

Lena Patsa to be unseated as Departmental Representative.

Vinodha Chetty to be unseated as Departmental and Service Representative.

Michelle Kwon to be unseated as Departmental Representative.

Debolina Majumder to be unseated as Departmental Representative

3. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Judith Booth be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.



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Wendy Kei be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Logan McDonald

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

E. Approval of Minutes

4. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “July 16, 2015” be approved as presented.

MOVER: Antoine Ponsard

SECONDER: Logan McDonald

Amendment to fix the wording to be replaced with “New Democratic Party”, “Liberal” deemed friendly.

Amendment ENTERTAINED

Back to motion as amended.

MOTION PASSED

[correction: Enav abstained]

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

Academic and External committee June 30;

Service Committee March 23;

Academic and External committee July 14;

Service Committee April 09;

Academic and External committee July 28;

Service Committee April 20;

Service Committee February 23;

House Finance Committee July 15;

Service Committee March 09;

House Finance Committee July 28;

MOVER: Antoine Ponsard

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION PASSED

21/0/6

Motion to recess for 15 minutes.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

Secunder: Antoine Ponsard

MOTION ENTERTAINED

Meeting was called to order again at 7:30 pm.

F. Executive Remarks

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(3 minutes)

- *President – Tobias Friedel*
 - Turbulent couple of weeks: was away at CASA conference in Ottawa. Participated in the elections boot camp on how successfully run federal elections campaign.
 - SUDS conference was held at UBC by AMS. Great to meet other student organisations. Exchanged ideas how GSAs across country look like, and how they deal with the issues on a daily basis;
 - GU 15 in Winnipeg, discussed best practices on how to approach advocacy from grad student perspective;
 - Dealing with requests from media; had provided statement on the recent University events;
 - Had a productive meeting with VPS to discuss well-being as one of the key concerns at UBC; harassment and discrimination were also identified as priority discussion topics to make UBC a safer place.

- *Vice-President University and Academic Affairs – Enav Zusman*
 - UBC contacted us regarding University boulevard re-development, what we think should appear on the fence? AcEx discussed that. Came up with a couple of suggestions: invite art students; write welcome in different languages, etc.
 - Hiring a new advocacy officer. If any student is in a difficult situation, please feel free to refer them to: advocacy@gss.ubc.ca;
 - Orientation is coming up. Encouraged to volunteer as it is a great chance to meet lots of people. Will be fun as well!

- *Vice-President External Relations – Gloria Liu*
 - Focused on the federal elections, campaign plan has been finalized;
 - Had a meeting with GSS staff and Campaign Coordinator to discuss strategy for September;
 - Sent out invitations to all candidates in Vancouver Quadra to attend Candidates Debate organized by GSS late September;
 - will continue to hold communications with candidates as for promotional materials;
 - Attended SUDS training sessions;
 - Attended CASA “Get out the vote” , received training on campaign strategies and nation builder technology support;
 - Will be setting up UBC GSS Nation builder website;
 - Information desks will be set up during Orientation; more info will appear on the website and newsletter.

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- *Vice-President Students– Kevin Mehr [written report]*

“I apologize that I could not be here during this portion of the meeting. A lot has been happening in our department, so here is a rough breakdown:

We have completed summer sports now. We held a wrap-up party at Koerner’s on Friday and presented the trophy and prizes to the winning teams.

Orientation planning is now almost completed. We have a full day of activities similar to last year, with a few new events. We will be looking for Councillors to volunteer, so please look at the volunteer sign-up sheet being circulated.

We have completed a full schedule of all our fall events and classes. We will be making promotional materials to disburse around campus (and off-campus) outlining all fall activities. This has never been done by August, or at all, so we are well ahead of the game this year. I recently met with the Graduate Wellness Initiative committee who is trying to develop a Graduate Wellness Network. This would consist of student and administrative contacts in each program or department who promote wellness resources, services, and activities in that program or department. We will be lobbying the University to fund a full time Graduate Wellness Coordinator to work in collaboration with the GSS and oversee the network. Ideally this person would work out of the graduate space in the NEST, alongside our Advocacy Coordinators.

We are developing programming for the new space in the NEST, which will include some of our classes, a weekly coffee social, and options for graduate student groups to book meeting space.

Finally, I am trying to continue hosting coffee socials in various departments throughout the year. Please fill out the survey that I have given out. Even if you do not know the information, please just write “I do not know”. This way I know to obtain information for your department.

Thank you.”

- *Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Charlie Deng*

- Three quick updates. As of today closed all the financial paperwork for last year. Draft of the report will be send by auditor next month. Still wrapping up actuals for June.
- Event Fund update: approved funding for 7 events (from April to May) - total spent \$2,210.
- Sponsored three events, total \$781; \$1,100 outstanding will be reimbursed.
- EOC will be meeting in a week or two to discuss evaluation report.

G. Committee, Taskforce, and Operations Reports

(3 minutes)

- *Academic & External Affairs Committee – Tal Shalev*

- Discussed a fence to appear on the University boulevard;
- First nations, free space might be available to;
- Attended workshop on micro units UBC wants to build;
- Discussed election campaign and candidates;

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- Talked about housing policies in the Acadia park, student housing suggestions for that;
- Talked about updates to the UBC security website.

- *Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh*
 - Discussed PhD movie 2nd showing;
 - Working on hiking trip to Mt. Seymour, baseball game, other upcoming events;
 - Revising terms of reference.

- Strategic Planning ad hoc committee – Chris Roach [written report]

“Hello Councillors.

My apologies for being unable to attend tonight’s Council meeting. Unfortunately a personal commitment has come up and I am currently out of the country.

Since the last Council meeting the Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee has combed through all the data collected from the last two GSS Student Satisfaction Surveys, all the GSS World Café events, and the data collected from the previous committee and have identified 22 major goals for the Society. Work from the ground up, the Committee has established a draft of 3 broader categories that all goals fit under and one step further up, has identified a unifying theme for the Plan.

Moving forward we will be working to finalize these groupings and move towards establishing a strong draft of the entire plan.

At the moment we are still a small Committee and would love more members to get involved. As such I’d like to ask anyone interested in helping develop the document which will outline the future directions of the Society – from external lobbying priorities to internal restructuring – to please run for a spot on the Committee or shoot me an email to find out more.

Thank you”

H. Non-departmental Representative Report

- Update on activities held by GrasPods, GSS affiliate organization; (last three months)
 - Research Day went very well;
 - Jobs in Science is advertised online on the website;
 - Held a number of events: professional seminars and workshops; Whistler trip; BBQ (60 people signed up); Wine and Cheese Night; Yoga class; etc.
 - Congrats to GrasPods soccer team that won GSS Summer League;
 - GrasPods Welcome is planned at the end of September;
 - Will be celebrating 10 years on Monday Sept. 21, anyone is welcome to join; check out posters and tweets for updates;
 - Satisfaction survey will be out next week;

I. Representative Reports

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(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – Conny Lin
 - AMS passed budget for 2015/2016 on July 29th;
 - Difficult to have GSS reps there; important to attend all AMS Council meetings, properly represent grad students at AMS; suggestion to have a pool of proxies;
 - Discussed federal campaign how to get students to vote;
- Senate – Sarah Simon and Nick Dawson [written report from Nick Dawson]

“Hello fellow council members,

Sorry that I cannot be in attendance tonight as I have to attend to a personal matter. As you know, the Senate is on break for the summer, however, the UBC Student Senate Caucus continues to meet and has met once since the previous GSS meeting.

At that meeting, we discussed the results of the AMS Student Satisfaction Survey. Given the timing of the creation of the Ad-hoc Committee on Discrimination and Harassment at the last GSS meeting, it was interesting to see that over half of all undergraduate students had experienced discrimination at some point in their time at UBC. I look forward to sharing and comparing the GSS survey results with the Student Senate Caucus once they are available.

We also had a helpful discussion with Veronica Knott, a student representative on the Board of Governors, regarding how to increase communication between Senate and the Board of Governors. We discussed some strategies that we hope to develop and implement in the coming year. For those of you wondering, this meeting happened before Prof. Gupta’s resignation, so I don’t have any information on that. Senate has been a spectator in all events that have been happening lately.

That’s all! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, just email the senator email address and either Sarah or myself will respond quickly. See you next meeting.

Nick”

J. Council Motions

~~10. Event Fund Application from MEGA~~

~~WHEREAS \$140 from the Events Fund was previously approved for the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Association (MEGA) Ice Skating Social and Luncheon (February 17th, 2015), and~~

~~WHEREAS the total cost of the event was \$201.86 and no other funding has been available to cover the cost of this graduate student event,~~

~~BIRT Council allocates up to an additional \$62 from the Events Fund to help MEGA cover the costs of this event.~~

~~MOVER: Krish Maharaj ————— SECONDER: Chen Vu~~

~~10. 45. Event Fund application from TAPPHS~~



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WHEREAS the Association of Population and Public Health Students (TAPPHS) has applied for and been granted funding for the TAPPHS Welcome Barbecue Event,

WHEREAS funding granted without a special approval of the Finance committee is limited according to policy 8.4.1,

WHEREAS the UBC TAPPHS has requested \$550 in total funding for this event,

WHEREAS this event qualifies for up to \$550 in total funding, based on guidelines for event funding set out by the Finance Committee,

WHEREAS \$300 has already been approved from the events fund,

BIRT Council approves an additional \$250 for reimbursement up to a total of \$550 from budget line 14-860 (GSS Events Fund) for the event "TAPPHS Welcome Barbecue"

MOVER: David Gill

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION PASSED

11. Position Statement on UBC Residence Contract second motion – special resolution

WHEREAS student housing at UBC is not subject to the BC Residential Tenancy Act, and

WHEREAS the residence agreement students must agree to in order to live in UBC student housing allows UBC Student Housing and Hospitality Services to modify the terms of that agreement at any time, for any reason, and

WHEREAS a briefing note entitled "Improving Clarity and Accountability in UBC Student Housing" provides additional research and background information on this topic, therefore

BIRT the GSS adopts the briefing note entitled "Improving Clarity and Accountability in UBC Student Housing".

BIFRT the GSS supports the five recommendations outlined in the briefing note.

BIFRT the Vice-President, Academic and University Affairs will advocate for these changes to UBC Student Housing and Hospitality Services, Graduate Council, the UBC Vancouver Senate, or the UBC Board of Governors as appropriate.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Naman Paul

Motivation from Neal: all information is there. UBC residents are exempted from the tenant act. As a result, students are covered by resident contracts solely written by UBC. Propose some changes to the contract to take students' interest into account.

Enav: conditions are not the same across all residencies.

Maayan: after this, what is the next step?

Enav: once this is approved, I can go forward to speak to UBC on behalf of the GSS. Want to have your support and agreement on the wording, not just my agenda, but position of the Society.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

12. Harassment and Discrimination Ad hoc committee – Membership

WHEREAS GSS Council has struck an ad hoc committee on Harassment and Discrimination, and WHEREAS section 6.4.2 of the Policy Manual requires ad hoc committees to specify duration with an approximate end date, the member composition, and proposed recruitment.

BIRT the ad hoc committee on Harassment and Discrimination shall be dissolved at the next Annual General Meeting of the Society.

BIFRT the member composition of the committee shall be as follows:

- President (ex officio, voting);
- Vice-President Academic and University Affairs (ex officio, voting);
- GSS Advocacy Coordinators (ex officio, non-voting);
- Three Councillors (voting);
- Five ordinary members (voting).

BIFRT quorum for the committee be as described in section 6.1.4 of the Policy Manual.

BIFRT Council shall appoint the committee chair from among the voting members of the committee.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Vasili Triandafilidi

Motivation from Tobias: as some of you may remember a short discussion over membership at the last Council meeting, also considering the special interests of the committee, membership composition needs to be changed. We've received 18 inquiries from ordinary members who want to join, or want to contribute in any other way. Taking this into account, we want to offer more positions to the ordinary membership; so to flip the usual committee composition bringing it to 5 ordinary member and 3 Councillor seats.

Enav: in favour; should let as many people in as possible.



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Tobias: consideration of quorum sets a natural limit. Have contacted all ordinary members, provided a wide range of opportunities: focus groups, working groups, etc. It will be challenging in terms of time to have more people on the committee; don't want to make it dysfunctional.

MOTION PASSES by unanimous consent.

13. Seating to Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Katerina Othonos, Abigail Badicados, Cynthia Min, Lesley Liu, Dylan Burrows and Sarah Simon be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Jenn Campbell

Motivation: affecting so many students; getting 18 students to email us is a big deal. I would love to see more Councillors. Your opportunity to make a change.

MOTION PASSED

14. Appointment to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

BIRT the following appointment is approved:

Katerina Othonos to be appointed Chair of Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

MOVER: Antoine Ponsard

Seconder: Charlie Deng

MOTION PASSED

14. Event Fund application from PaSA

WHEREAS the UBC Pathology Student Association (PaSA) has applied for and been granted funding for the Pathology Talent Night Event,

WHEREAS funding granted without a special approval of the Finance committee is limited according to policy 8.4.1,

WHEREAS the UBC PaSA has requested ~~\$500~~ **\$550** in total funding for this event,

WHEREAS this event qualifies for up to \$550 in total funding, based on guidelines for event funding set out by the Finance Committee,

WHEREAS \$300 has already been approved from the events fund,

BIRT Council approves an additional ~~\$200~~ **\$250** for reimbursement up to a total of ~~\$500~~ **\$550** from budget line 14-860 (GSS Events Fund) for the event "Pathology Talent Night"



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MOVER: Enav Zusman

SECONDER: Logan McDonald

Amendment to increase finding from \$200 to \$250.

Tobias: will bring it to a total of \$550.

Patrick: why amount is being amended?

Charlie: misunderstanding on how much amount can provide. Event qualifies for up to \$550.

PASA has decided to apply for additional funds.

Amendment ENTERTAINED

Back to motion as amended.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

16. Affiliate Organisation Recognition

WHEREAS the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization.

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in August 2016:

- a. Institute for Oceans and Fisheries Student Society (IOFSS)

MOVER: David Gill

SECONDER: Maayan Kreitzman

Speaker: is it a graduate student organization?

Tobias: Yes.

MOTION PASSED

17. Motion from the floor [if to be added to the agenda]

[Chair ruled the motion introduced from the floor to be a position statement to present sentiment; should be accompanied by the briefing note, and posted to the GSS website]

Maayan: move to suspend the respective sections of the Code 13.2 and 13.3.1.

Tobias: cannot be considered without a notice.

Speaker: can argue that one has higher threshold. Require special resolution to suspend the Code just for this motion.

Motion to suspend Policy Manual Sections 13.2 and 13.3.1 for the motion introduced from the floor.

MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman

SECONDER: Patrick Lo

Motivation: important thing.

Sarah: the way it stands it is not a position statement.

Speaker: already ruled it a position statement.

Conny: suggestion to strike the whole thing; to put to prepare a position statement.

Tobias: not quite sure that this will achieve what Maayan is looking for.

MOTION PASSED

Note: Section 13.2 and 13.3.1 of the Policy Manual is suspended for the consideration of this motion.

18. Motion from the floor [deliberations]

WHEREAS university officials have been invited to a dialogue with the GSS council and have failed to respond; and

WHEREAS a public university is accountable to its students and the wider community, and

WHEREAS the resignation of President Gupta leaves many questions unanswered, both around process and fundamentals, and

WHEREAS the behaviour of the board of governors responding to this information gap has damaged the university's reputation,

BIRT the GSS has lost faith in the ability of the UBC Board of Governors to effectively govern the university in a manner that is consistent with the University's values.

BIFRT the GSS call upon both Prof. Gupta and the UBC Board of Governors to dissolve the nondisclosure agreement between them and provide transparency on the matter of the former president's resignation.

BIFRT the GSS support the Faculty Association in its efforts to uphold academic freedom and protect its members where the University's bifurcated governance structure and administrative arm have failed to do so.

BIFRT the GSS call for the initiation of an investigation of recent events through the proper channels of UBC's collective agreement with faculty, and that if legal council determines it necessary for BoG chair John Montalbano to step aside for this to take place, that he should do so.



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Thursday, August 20th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman

Secunder: Vasili Triandafilidi

Maayan: Tobias gave an overview about the recent event and I am happy that we managed to suspend the code, so able to discuss. Important to talk and respond in a timely fashion and not to miss a chance and opportunity. If Execs are planning to respond, seems like they do, prepared a draft motion to start a debate; happy to think together; what we would like to say. Would like to explain some of the clauses. I don't know if people read up on that - BOGS allegedly breached the academic freedom, subsequently investigation needs to be launch. Felt important to support faculty association and academic freedom, because University's instruments have failed to do so.

Conny: against the specifics. Feel important to have a well-thought-of position as soon as possible. It is too early to state that GSS has lost faith due to lack of the facts. When HR issue, non-disclosure agreements are a very common thing, also can cause harm to Gupta. Not sure what Faculty Association's claims are based on. We are students to represent students and not Faculty.

David: agree with Conny.

Sarah: important discussion, so good that people take initiative. By definition is not written correctly. We cannot make requests in the position statement.

Tobias: interested in having a response to the current events, yet taking a factual side. Against the motion that is right now. A lot is based on the speculation and rumors.

Antoine: point of information addressed to Conny. Statement made by AMS, if it is a position statement?

Conny: yes.

Behzad: point of infomation. How to make a proper statement?

Tobias: hr aspect is involved. It is very common to have a non-disclosure agreement, breach of each can potentially damage both employer and employee's reputation. Don't think that what anyone is looking for.

Maayan: does not lead to disclosure and breach. Asking both parties to agree to provide more information. It is not an accident that we don't have enough facts and information. This motion demands transparency and state our values. I read AMS resolution, at least they have a positon. Their position is pretty godless. As graduate students we need freedom to express our opinions too. Their fight is our fight. Think this is relevant to us to call for the appropriate actions - to be supportive when they support the whole community.

Elizabeth: point of information. Is Council going to vote on the motion today?

Speaker: yes

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Vasilii: most of the stuff is based on the speculation. Reason why this motion came up is to demand no speculation and information. If we don't demand that we will continue being unclear on what had happened.

Chandan: can we instead omit disclosure and call for investigation? Just speak on the breach of the academic freedom?

Dan: point of information. It is a fact that students don't get to elect President. As consumers, what would be the effect if BOGs have students to choose the President.

Tobias: for at least two past campaigns students were involved in the process of choosing the President.

Katerina: don't need to draft the motion right now, rather collect ideas and opinions.

Conny: want to have a position in a timely manner, yet we did not have enough time to digest information and make an informative decision. We should be aware of the lasting effect and GSS' reputation. We don't want grad students laughing at us. We need to hold somebody accountable. We don't want to make an abrupt decision.

Marcelo: what is the procedure?

Speaker: now debating in its entirety. A lot has to do with several situations, possible to ask for several voting.

Maayan: we are not very practiced, anything can be amended. Can move to separate. No one has suggested any amendments so far. Nothing is written in stone. Why AMS is capable of amending and drafting, or debating the motion in the Council meeting. And we are not. Why do we need to ask someone to draft it for us. Happy to support the way people see it. It's our opportunity right now to work it together. Instead of being unsure, we are the smartest and must be able to come up with something.

Tobias: would like to address a couple of points: have the opportunity to add some pressure, might make them listen to us and communicate more. Fully support GSS reacting in a timely fashion, however, drafting a position statement is not as what Maayan has said. Options are there, we can change it. Council can give general directions to advocate for more transparency without a formal position statement. Statement as it is right now lacks maturity. Risk is incredibly high. Could be a rush decision to which consequences will be for the years to come. Need to bear more responsibility, should make sure we do not damage our reputation. Carefully consider what words to use and how choose to contribute towards the potential progress.

Dan: it seems like there are different opinions on how to approach this situation. Socially responsible to do a position statement if you want to represent grad students, however, we can't disrespect non-disclosure agreement. Question is how to deal with the contradictions.

Katerina: We should not be writing the whole thing now.

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Sarah: AMS has a hired position to do research and write motions, many hours are spent towards that. Their position statement is quite strong with a lot of really good guidelines. Unfortunately, GSS does not meet that frequently that AMS Council, however, at this point, the motion is not ready to be submitted.

Elizabeth: I agree to put a statement of some sort, and need more information. Agree with the paragraph about academic freedom. Would be immature to call for investigation without facts. More reasonable to revise, make language less strong.

Kylie: festival the idea to put something there. Important that grad students have voice on this matter. Wonder if there is any opportunity to adjust it within week or two? Communications that received from the University is inconsistent with the university's values.

David: agree that we haven't enough information. Have Neal and Execs to draft a position statement, needs time and hard work.

Antoine: should not rush things. Wait for a month? Who read it? I don't think much people will; don't have enough information to bring a strong position. Is there a way to request an investigation or more details to this matter?

Chen: repeating each other. What is the next step? Are we able to set up a group to change, create a statement to go out before the next month meeting? If everyone agrees, what is the next step in a timely matter?

Speaker: Special Council meeting may be called.

Dylan: should also include general members. Don't think that Council meeting is the right place to draft the motion; should consult with the constituents. It takes time and consent; and the floor is not the proper place to do this.

Maayan: we are the directors of the society, elected to represent students at the GSS Council; we should take ownership over the situation. I did send the wording to Tobias two or three days ago, he was not in town. Did an attempt to involve Execs in terms of the preparation.

Behzad: have you tried to request more information from appropriate sources. If yes, who and what kind of information? If not, can we assign someone to do so?

Kylie: not making a statement is just as political as making a statement.

Tobias: we have a media release which was sent to Councillors, have been constantly updating members; had meetings and conversation with different stakeholders on campus; the GSS has also made several inquiries.

Speaker: when voting, if you abstain, please don't touch a clicker.

Motion to vote on each clause separately as each of them can stand on their own.

MOVER: Patrick Lo

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION ENTERTAINED

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Chen: how we go about special meeting to draft a motion?

Tobias: can have a draft as early as Monday and special meeting called next Thursday.

[voting on each BIRT clause occurs separately]

1st BIRT clause

BIRT the GSS has lost faith in the ability of the UBC Board of Governors to effectively govern the university in a manner that is consistent with the University's values.

MOTION FAILS

3/20/1

2nd BIRT clause

BIFRT the GSS call upon both Prof. Gupta and the UBC Board of Governors to dissolve the nondisclosure agreement between them and provide transparency on the matter of the former president's resignation.

MOTION FAILS

4/15/ 4

3rd BIRT clause

BIFRT the GSS support the Faculty Association in its efforts to uphold academic freedom and protect its members where the University's bifurcated governance structure and administrative arm have failed to do so.

MOTION FAILS

3/19/1

4th BIRT clause

BIFRT the GSS call for the initiation of an investigation of recent events through the proper channels of UBC's collective agreement with faculty, and that if legal council determines it necessary for BoG chair John Montalbano to step aside for this to take place, that he should do so.

MOTION FAILS

9/11/5

Motion to amend agenda to add a motion to read:

BIRT Council tasks GSS Executive to convene an open working group to draft a response to the BOGS regarding recent events.



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BIFRT working group meets on Friday August 21 at 3:30 pm as well as one day August 24 at 8 am;

BIFRT Draft be distributed to all members of Council after the Friday meeting to allow for further input and feedback from the Councillors and their constituencies.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

MOTION ENTERTAINED

[motion added to the agenda for consideration]

19. Special Council Meeting

BIRT Council tasks GSS Executive to convene an open working group to draft a response to the Board of Governors regarding recent events.

BIFRT working group meets on Friday August 21st, 2015 at 3:30PM as well as Monday August 24th, 2015 at 8:00 AM;

BIFRT Drafts be distributed to all members of Council after the Friday meeting to allow for further input from members and their constituents.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Charlie Deng

Motivation: we all agree that response is necessary; we also acknowledge that this is a time sensitive situation. There are several ways to respond: gathering all the voices and taking upon ourselves as a governing body. Schedule is tough right now; Friday 3:30 is the earliest available time, will dedicate all weekend if necessary to work on the motion, so can represent the best interests of grad students, and will have a first draft on Monday early morning.

Antoine: How Execs plan to let members at large to know about this?

Tobias: best way is to reach out through the board; GSS newsletter has been sent out today containing the discussion topics. We can investigate if can send an emergency email to all graduate students, need to double check with UBC, and also what is considered an emergency.

Maayan: when Council will be held? What would be the format of the response?

David: should have ordinary members get involved in this.

Tobias: response will include specific asks and procedures to be handled in the future.

Chen: if they don't respond. What is going to happen next?

Tobias: first of all, one would mean BoGs is ignoring us; secondly will accelerate to the next step to approach the Provincial Government. At that point we would have a substantial argument that BOGS is not operating within the values that are upheld by UBC.

MOTION PASSES by unanimous consent



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K. Other Business and Notice of Motions

L. Discussion Period

- Federal Elections: update;

Patrick: 60 minutes debate time is too long and very boring; cut it to 30 minutes. Allocate an extra time for Q&A.

M. Submissions

- Briefing note "Improving Clarity and Accountability in UBC Student Housing";

N. Notice

O. Next Meeting

Special Council meeting August 27th, 2015

Council meeting on Thursday, September 17th 2015

P. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 pm