

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 8th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

A. Attendance: Abhishek Kar, Addyson Frattura-Kampschrger, Alyssa Kirilin, Amanda Pisis, Anna Ringsred, Arjun Banghela, Bradley Balaton, Christina Wiesmann, Dante Mendoza, David Gill, Gen Cruz, Gillian Fuss, Harry Li, James Lawson, Jason Speidel, Jennifer DeBoer, John Dupuis, Karen Simmons, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu-Poku, Krish Maharaj, Mahshid Ghaffartehrani, Miranda Huron, Morgan Shepherd, Nicholas McGregor, Oguzhan Tuysuz, Pablo Silva, Paul Bucci, Rachele Benjamin, Resha Sabti, Sara Vazirian, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Souvik Ray, Yaseen Mottiar, Zoe Lam

B. Regrets:

C. Absent: Adam Howe, Afifa Mahboob, Aneet Bains, Angelica Reyes, Balsher Sidhu, Emily Gray, Emily Allan, Han Fei, Jasleen Grewal, Joshua Tan, Kaye Hare, Kelsey Everard, Mackenzie Lockhart, Marysol Garcia Patino, Michael Wiebe, Mirza Sarwar, Mingzhe Liu, Namrata Jain, Nandinee Hag, Natalie Marshall, Natasha Little, Omar Alomeir, Sarah- Nelle Jackson, Shadi Balandeh, Shakun Singla, Taranjit Singh, Veronica Knott

D. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 6:04pm.

Quorum:

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented

The Chair acknowledged the presence of Council on the unceded ancestral territory of the Musqueam people. In addition the chair recognizes that learning has happened in this place long before this institution was established. It is important that we understand we are very privileged to be living, to be working, and to be learning on these territories today.

Genevieve Cruz states that a more formal discussion on adopting the Musqueam acknowledgement will begin next month. Interested councillors or ordinary members can contact her via email for more information on this process.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Amanda Pisis

SECONDER: Harry Li

Chair: An agenda with amendments was circulated to council members beforehand. The amendments are in gray. The first amendment is to unseat Adam Howe as the departmental representative for Sociology and somebody to be seated as Chair of the human resources committee

Chair: Was this grayed out? Was this in the motion do we know?

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Genevieve Cruz: Yes

Chair: So this is another motion to amend the agenda to include that motion. Ok on the first two sets of amendments on the seatings and unseating's ,Is there a mover and a seconder for those amendments?

Mover: Krish Maharaj Seconder: Alyssa Kirlin

Chair: Any discussion on weather to amend those seating's and unseatings?

(No Discussion)

Chair: Please vote on weather to adopt the agenda as amended.

Motion carried Unanimously

E. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes

a. BIRT the following GSS Council meeting minutes be approved as presented.

- November 10th, 2016

Mover: Jennifer Deboer Seconder: John Dupuis

Debate or discussion on motion:

Yaseen Mottiar notes that the attendance needs to be added on the minutes.

Chair: We can approve the minutes on the condition that they be updated to include attendance.

Alyssa Kirlin: page 10 there is a mistake I was referring to a student in the GSAT program not GESA

Chair: The minutes will be updated to reflect that correction.

Point of information: these minutes will be approved as amended, not as presented?

Chair: Correct.

Motion carried unanimously.

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b. BIRT the following GSS Committee meeting minutes be approved as presented

- Services Committee- September 21st, 2016; October 5th, 2016; October 17th, 2016
- House Finance Committee – November 21st , 2016-12-12
- Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee- November 25th, 2016-12-12

Mover: Bradley Balaton

Second: Morgan Shepard

Shona Robinson: There is no attendance at two of the services committee meeting minutes

Chair: Do they usually show attendance?

Shona Robinson: yes

Jennifer Deboer: I can let the chair know

Mover: Bradley Balaton

Second: Alyssa Kirlin

Motion carried 32 in favour, 1 abstaining

F. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

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

Lesley Liu be unseated from Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee

Kaye Hare be unseated as chair of the Human Resources Committee

Kaye Hare be unseated as chair from the Human Resources Committee

Shadi Balandeh be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Physics and Astronomy

4. BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

Sebastien Rettie be seated as a Departmental Representative for Physics and Astronomy

Pablo Silva be seated as the Departmental Representative for Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences

Mover: John Dupuis

Second: (not captured in recording)

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No debate or discussion

Motion carried

5. BIRT the following Seatings are approved:

Keskine Owusu-Poku be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee (2 Councillors)

Abhishek Kar be seated to the House Finance Committee. (1 Councillors)

Shalini Arya be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Committee. (1 Ordinary Member)

Gillian Fuss be seated to the Governance and Accountability *Ad Hoc* Committee (2 Councillors)

Natalie Marshall: point of order, we are the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee not the Board of Governance Accountability Ad Hoc Committee

Fei W be seated to the Strategic Planning Ad-hoc Committee (1 Ordinary Member)

6. David Gill, Natasha Little, Sebastian Rettie, Anna, and Fei to be seated to the election committee

Jennifer Deboer: point of information Fei is interested in the chief position

Chair: do you have to be on the committee to be the chair?

Answer: yes

5 seats for councillors and 3 seats for ordinary members

David Gill, Natasha Little, Sebastian, Anna Ringsred, and Fei are seated.

Appointment of the Chief Elections Officer – Each candidate gave a one minute speech.

7, **Anna Ringsred** be seated as Chief Elections Officer

Yaseen Mottiar: Point of information. Since there are questions about what the appointment entails he points to Policy manual section twelve which has nine pages of detail on the appointment. The appendix has all the forms that were revised last year.

Chair: Motion to approve the seatings

Mover: Natasha Little proxy (As Proxy for James Lawson) Seconder: Morgan Shepherd

No debate or discussion

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Unanimous consent

G. Presentation: Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

1) Name: Natalie Marshall

Committee: Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

Title: Draft GSS Strategic Plan, presentation of changes and incorporation of feedback received (5-10 minutes)

Description: The committee will present the most recent draft of the GSS Strategic Plan, which is intended to go into effect starting in 2017. We intend to briefly review the current draft and highlight where GSS Committee feedback has been considered and incorporated. This presentation will provide context for the Motion we'll propose later on the agenda to ratify this as a draft and release it for feedback from the overall GSS membership. In addition to context, it will provide accountability for the SPAHC to GSS Council and Committees.

Yassen Mottiar motions to extend time. Seconded by Katerina Othonos

Questions:

Harry Li: Thank you and your committee. Question is about Theme 3.5C – What about the referendum? (AMS referendum)

Natalie Marshall: There are two student societies. GSS and AMS. They work together on several important initiatives. They can lobby together. AMS has more sway. However, GSS doesn't have to be part of the AMS. So every few years we ask students if they want to pay to continue the relationship.

Nicholas McGregor: Any recommendations for us to incorporate this into our transition for the next execs

Natalie Marchall: Going forward, need to ensure sure that the strategic document is incorporated and doesn't disappear into the archives. It will not just be up to the executives to keep this alive. In terms of you to your predecessor, it would just be mentioned in the strategic plan and then would go to the oversight committee.

Genevieve Cruz: Motion to amend the agenda. Seconded by David Gill

Motion is to consider motion for Strategic Planning *Ad Hoc* Committee immediately

E. Council Motion: Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

WHEREAS the GSS Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee has completed a second draft of the GSS Strategic Plan, which incorporates feedback from GSS Committees, GSS Councillors, earlier consultations with students, and a 'SWOT' analysis from the 2016 GSS Council Retreat (of the GSS' Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), and

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WHEREAS the GSS constituency would reasonably benefit from an opportunity to provide feedback on the Society's Strategic Plan before it is finalized, and vice versa,

BIRT GSS Council approve the current version of the GSS Strategic Plan as a draft (titled "Draft GSS Strategic Plan: 2017-2021");

BIFRT GSS Council directs the President to make the draft available online for consultation and to advertise the opportunity for feedback to UBC graduate students through online GSS channels.

Mover: Natasha Little (As Proxy for James Lawson) Seconder: Jennifer Deboer.

Natalie Marshall motivates

Question Period

Jennifer Deboer: How are you going to promote it and get the general membership to provide comments

Natalie Marshall: generally online channels, but we would also like to engage in person which was not an opportunity that we provided in the last draft. We would like to make an event out of it such as a town hall and the need for an off-campus equivalent has also been identified since there are so many off campus grad students. Very open to suggestions on this.

Abhishek Kar asks about keeping one-sheets on various department notice boards where students can quickly glance at it.

Shona Robinson: Point of information Can you ratify a draft?

Chair: You only ratify final documents. Is there a move to amend the document to strike the word ratify and replace it with the word approve.

Mover: Shona Robinson Seconder: Katarina Othonos

Motion passes unanimously

31 in favour motion is carried

F. Presentation: Updates to the GSS Fee Increase Proposal

Name: Genevieve Cruz

Title: Updates to the GSS Fee Increase Proposal

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Description: After gathering feedback from the break out sessions, we have changed the proposed fee increase from having four separate proposals to just one fee increase proposal.

Flex fee for and consults. \$4 per term per student.

Question Period

Bradley Balaton: Is it possible to have the binding question and then an informal ask about the priority for that spending.

Genevieve Cruz: We have an annual general survey coming out. Some of the ways we've grouped it some people don't agree with.

Abeshek Kar: Is there a way we can devote money certain areas,

Genevieve Cruz: We can still change and amend what we do with the fees.

Dante Mendoza: We can assure where the money goes through the budget.

Chair: The move is to propose a fee increase that is unrestricted. The restricting or unrestricting of funds can only be done through a referendum.

Genevieve Cruz: We've presented the most flexible option here. It is a discussion we can have if you want to restrict these funds.

David Gill: unsure what "Recommendations for potential restricted fund" means

So what does this mean for the society?

Genevieve Cruz: The fee increase is enough to address the deficit.

Amanda Pizio: this presentation doesn't address campaigning for the change. The relationship between GSS and the AOs is not great.

Genevieve Cruz: We would have an online campaign. We would also have a pamphlet that we can give out and through the newsletters that explain what we do and why the fee increase.

Shona Robinson: can we change the motion to 3 terms instead of 4. Regarding the promotion, we have a budget lined up for marketing, and the committee can use what's leftover for the marketing of this.

Abhishek Kar: can we reword the referendum?

Genevieve Cruz: yes.

Pablo Silva: would a per instalment be better

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Genevieve Cruz: yes!

Chair: do grad students pay tuition in 3 instalments?

Natalie Marshall: The wording is important, but we need to hear again that we should be collecting this fee along with the other fees collected from grad students. Also, if this is the referendum you are proposing, will there be a longer explanation when the student goes to vote.

Genevieve Cruz: How you see it now is how it would appear for students. But we could change that here.

Chair: we may be able to link to extra information before the student votes.

Genevieve Cruz: yes but we would have to approve that here. There are 2 things we are asking you to approve.

1. The question, so the referendum question.

2. Is that are we going to have a referendum, and when are we going to have a referendum. So it actually says that we are going to have it at the same time as GSS elections. If you want to add information to the referendum question, that's something we can decide on today, or we can decide on it after.

Natalie Marshall: So you're asking us to approve the final referendum question tonight. However, in the future, we can later approve the information that's provided with the question to the voter when they are voting on the referendum.

Genevieve Cruz: Yes

David Gill: when and if we do pass this, it's between two and five weeks.in which we have to do that. I had thought that the GSS elections were to be at the end of January or the middle of February so that wouldn't be five weeks Does that mean we exclude the two weeks of Christmas for that.

Nicholas McGregor: Bylaw 6.1 says that a referendum shall be called by the president upon an ordinary resolution of counsel and that a referendum shall be conducted for at least twenty hours and shall begin not less than 14 days and not more than 40 days after the passing of a resolution or the receipt of a petition in accordance with bylaw 6.1.2.

No motion to lengthen discussion.

Chair: I will add that one implication is that this being voted on in conjunction with elections will increase your voter turnout significantly,

G. Council Motions (continued)

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GSS Fee Increase Referendum

Shona Robinson: proposes amendment to the motion which has been submitted to the chair.

WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver (GSS UBCV) requires increased revenue in order to maintain and expand its capacity to serve graduate students studying at UBC Vancouver;

WHEREAS 27.1(2) of the University Act states that approval of these fees requires majority vote in a referendum of GSS members run in accordance with Bylaw 6 of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver and the Society Act;

WHEREAS GSS Bylaw 6.1.3 further states that Council shall ensure that the wording of the referendum is clear and unambiguous, capable of being answered yes or no,

BIRT a referendum be called by the President of the Graduate Student Society to seek the approval of the aforementioned fee increase be available online to students on the same week of the GSS Executive Elections;

BIFRT that the referendum question will be: "Do you support to increase the Graduate Student Society fee by \$4.00/term/student?"

Amendment: "WHEREAS the GSS collects three times from members per year, do you support an increase to the GSS fee by \$4.00 per instalment?"

MOVER: Shona Robinson SECONDER: Bradley Balaton

Anna Ringsred: It's a little verbose

Shona Robinson Motivates for the amendment

28 in favour 1 against

Motion carries

Yassen Mottiar to Shona Robinson: When money is given to a yes campaign can a no campaign be funded as well?

Shona Robinson: We did not discuss that yet, but potentially yes.

Amanda Pizio: Would this force us to have this at the beginning of January?

Chair: It's breaking bylaw 6.1.2. The motion is out of order.

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Genevieve Cruz: I've asked the VP of students about this. It depends on what we will accept as a majority decision. If this is a concern to this council we can postpone till next month.

Chair: I'm calling the motion out of order. Unless you're choosing to have GSS elections in 40 days, the motion is out of order.

Yassen Mottiar: Motion to lay on the table

Chair: That motion is in order but we'll have to bring it up at the end of the meeting

Krish Maharaj: The bylaw section doesn't allude to a timeframe in the referendum itself. It's too narrow in contemplation of a motion that does specify a timeframe. It's too narrow to cover the relevant motion.

Yassen Mottiar: I agree with the Chair.

Amanda Pisis: it would be fine to pass this in the January one, and we can still campaign before that and then supply the official details once it's approved in January.

Bradley Balaton: The elections last year were in early march

Chair: Election date and time are not known yet.

David Gill: Can direct Krish provide more info on his answer.

Krish Maharaj: The bylaw assumes the motion has no specified timeframe. Since the motion has a timeframe that bylaw is not applicable.

Yassen Mottiar: motion to table

Secunder: Harry Li

30 in favor 2 absain

Motion carries

3. A/V cabinet in Thea's Lounge

Whereas the A/V cabinet in Thea's Lounge is broken and needs replacement,

Whereas the project titled "A/V Cart" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore

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BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$550 from the Capital Improvements Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of an audiovisual cart.

Mover: Mahshid Ghafar Tehrani Second: Jennifer DeBoer

Bradley Balaton: Is this Just for the cart?

Shona Robinson: Yes

Motion carries unanimously

Genevieve Cruz: Motion to amend the agenda to immediately consider AO approvals

Second: Krish Maharaj

Genevieve Cruz: We're running out of time so the committees can send me your updates and I will send a follow-up email about your committee and executive updates. If this is OK with you I will make a motion to adjourn after this AO recognition.

Natalie Marshall: Depending on your discretion, I would like an update on the status of the administrative assistant.

Chair: if anyone has updates you may say them but you are not forced to provide updates, but please still send an email to Gen.

Yaseen Mottiar: Policy 7.1.11 states that each standing committee will give an update at December council meeting with their 12 month plan. So maybe if we aren't doing that committees can do that via email.

No further discussion

Amendment carries unanimously.

H. Affiliate Organization 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 December 2017:

- Civil Engineering Graduate Student Society
- Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs
- Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association

Mover: Bradley Balaton Second: John Dupuis

No objection

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Motion carries

I. Executive Remarks

Chair: email gen your updates. We will go through them now. If you have no update or wish to email your update just say no update.

- President – Gen Cruz; no update
- Vice-President University & Academic Affairs – Mahshid Ghaffartehrani no update
- Vice-President External Relations – Nicholas McGregor; no update
- Vice-President Students – Jennifer DeBoer;
I have a small update for the search for an HR for exec assistant. We have a list of 5 people and those are being sent to the selection committee who will contact them to set an interview. I will email the rest of the update.
- Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Dante Mendoza.no update

J. Committee Reports

(3 minutes)

- Academic & External Affairs Committee – Dan Kehila
- Code and Policy Committee – Krish Maharaj
- Executive Oversight Committee – Dante Mendoza
- House Finance Committee – Shona Robinson;
- Human Resources Committee – Kaye Hare;
Chair reads Kaye's submission: The HR committee would first like to thank Odo for her work in this challenging role. Her efforts are appreciated. The job competition for the new administrative assistant has been initiated. The committee has asked that the GM lead the hiring process. The HR committee will have two representatives on the hiring team who have been asked by the committee to be active contributors to the process. The projected timeline for the new hire is the end of January. The GSS notes that the HR committee have requested that the Execs involved in the HR committee for a discussion of staff messaging. The projected meeting is the first two weeks of January. The GM

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does not have either a formal description or an accompanying list of policies. This is a significant risk to the organization. While a contract exists there are a number of details that need to be verified. Generating these documents is now the first priority of the HR committee and calls for immediate action regarding the executive team.

The HR Chair asks that the following request be noted in the minutes. The HR chair with support of the HR committee formally requests that the executives especially the president engage in more appropriate timing comprehensive and accountable consultation with the HR committee. This will involve but is not limited to the following:

- Following HR Policies
- Seeking consultation on staff and councillor issues
- Balancing GM input with the HR input and
- The sharing of information appropriately

The HR committee also recognizes it's need to be responsive and action oriented. We look forward to a more productive relationship moving forward. If anyone has any questions or feedback, they can contact the HR committee.

- Services Committee – Matt Gynn no update
- Elections Committee – no update
- Strategic Planning – Natalie Marshall no update
- Harassment and Discrimination – Katerina Othonos. no update

K. Adjournment

Genevieve Cruz: Motion to adjourn till January 19th

Secunder: Nicholas McGregor

25 favor, 3 against, 1 abstain

Meeting is adjourned