



# GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

**Present:** Adam Howe, Andrew Alexander, Bingyu Liu, Bradley Balaton, Chad Rickaby, Shayan Hoshyari (proxy for Chandan Sejekan), Charles Copeland, Chen Vu, Christina Wiesmann, Conny Lin, Dan Kehila, Dylan Burrows, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Emily Gray, Emily Allan, Enav Zusman, Francisco Gómez-Lopéz, Jasleen Grewal (proxy for Hamza Khan), Hooman Shahrokhi, Harry Li, Ingrid Olson, James Lawson, Jennifer Campbell, Jennifer DeBoer, Kaye Hare, Kelsi Lix, Kevin Mehr, Krish Maharaj, Kyla Drzazgowski, Kyle Loewen, Maayan Kreitzman, Marysol Garcia Patino, Mirza Sarwar, Natalie Marshall, Nicholas Dawson, Parker Jobin, Raghav Grover, Sarah Simon, Shona Robinson, Taq Bhandal, Tobias Friedel, Xiaolei Deng, Katerina Othonos (proxy for Xun Zhou), Yaseen Mottiar, Yulia Merkulova, Zoe Lam.

**Regrets:** Amber Shilling, Andrew Leyland, Jennifer Zhao, John Dupuis, Joon Seon Lee, Julie Van de Valk, Logan MacDonald, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Natasha Little, Olenka Forde, Ran Xiang, Shadi Balandeh, Tal Shalev, Veronica Knott.

**Absent:** Anujit Chakraborty, Christie Waltham, Jennifer Bok, Joann Anokwuru, Maichael Thejoe, Peter Chen, Vasilii Triandafilidi.

**Speaker:** Abdulrahman Alnaar.

**Guests:** Mark Wellington, GSS General Manager.

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER: Dan Kehila**

**SECONDER: Hooman Shahrokhi**

Amendment to item 11 “CIF IT Infrastructure” to strike the amount “\$3,000 + tax” and replace with “\$3,500” to remove contingency clause.

**MOVER: Shona Robinson**

**SECONDER: Xiaolei Deng**

**Amendment PASSED** by unanimous consent

Amendment to add motion titled GSS Advocacy Office Report to read:

*WHEREAS the report from the GSS Advocacy office titled Strengthening Accountability Surrounding Issues of Sexual Violence: How UBC Process is Failing to Protect Graduate Students was officially presented to the GSS president and executive on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2016;*

*BIRT the GSS Council adopt the report.*

**MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman**

**SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

[There was a clarification that the position is to be taken by Council]

*Motivation:* report was produced by GSS advocacy coordinator. Councillors should know about it; think it’s really good. Should have a look at it; first substantial product that GSS generated and is a very valuable piece in respect to sharing graduate students’ story.

**Amendment PASSED** by unanimous consent

Amendment to change speaker for presentation titled “CIF: IT Infrastructure Upgrade Project” to Xiaolei Deng.



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**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDER: Xiaolei Deng**

**Amendment PASSED** by unanimous consent

Amendment to add discussion item titled "GSS Advocacy Office report" to add clarity on the nature of the report.

**MOVER: Dylan Burrows**

**SECONDER: Harry Li**

**Amendment PASSED** by unanimous consent

BIRT the agenda be adopted as amended.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous consent

## B. Councillor seating

2. Returning Councillors (no vote necessary)

**James Lawson**, Departmental Representative for Interdisciplinary Oncology;

**Kaye Hare**, Departmental Representative for Language and Literacy Education.

**Yulia Merkulova**, Departmental Representative for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

3. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

**Adam Howe**, Departmental Representative for Sociology;

**Marysol Garcia Patino**, Departmental Representative for Pharmaceutical Sciences;

**Emily Gray**, Departmental Representative for School of Community and Regional Planning;

**Taqdir Bhandal**, Departmental Representative for Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice.

**Kyle Loewen**, Departmental Representative for Geography.

**MOVER: Chistina Wiesmann**

**SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous consent

## C. Introductions

## D. Presentations

*(10 Minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions)*

- **CIF: IT Infrastructure Upgrade Project**

*Presenter: Xiaolei Deng – GSS Financial and Oversight Officer*

- GSS Computer replacement and Software Upgrade Project:

Point of Information: Enav Z. and Tal S. sent regrets for the meeting. Gloria L. didn't rsvp [joined meeting later]

- Trying to use CIF money to purchase new hard- and software;
- First part of the presentation is a report on current state of affairs;

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- Experience frequent issues while using Vista, Windows 7, etc.
- 70% of all computers are fully depreciated with all but 1 computer due for replacement by 2017;
- Depreciation is assessed using GSS guidelines for assets accounting (5 year schedule); as a result all computers are becoming dysfunctional on the books.
- Part-time staff – Health&Dental Coordinator, Accountant, WorkLearn Interns share one computer;
- Lack of computers, outdated software, etc. create problems with efficiency; computers at use are old and at the point when they have reached their capacity.
- Current IT problems are as follows: issues around email accounts, google chrome, processing speed, concerns around malwares and security, buffering, lack of in-built computer memory, etc.
- Similarly, grad story requires additional IT capacities, also would like to add possibility to skype in the meetings, capacity for promotional and marketing purposes;
- Second part covers finances: CIF sits at \$184,428 (fund reserved for any purchase to last for more than three years) with another projected installment of \$17,656 in February bringing to a total of \$202,084;
- Have a lot of cash, but no things of value on the books;
- One of the issues looking to receive assessment for is a capacity of GSS Servers; currently receive applications for AMS/GSS Health and Dental applications, host mygradtory.ca, etc.;
- As all information is highly confidential, there are questions around data transmission to/from USA;
- Also need computers in the GSS Loft, new space in the Nest, for advocacy coordinators who do not have a dedicated computer; also we find it inappropriate to have information of this kind stored on private computers;

Motion to extend time by 5 minutes.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDED: Bradley Balaton**

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous consent

- Concerns over cloud services, whether continue to have GSS web pages hosted in the U.S. as well as transmission of confidential information cross border;
- Looking to receive assessment on what equipment should be purchased/rented, etc.;
- Received two quotes: based on the process and approach chose one;
- Project Benefits: firm will provide prospective solutions how to best handle security issues related to PIPA laws as well as all above mentioned GSS needs.

## *Questions&Answers*

It was asked and answered that GSS has been quoted \$3,000 plus tax bringing it to \$3,360.

It was further asked and answered that while option to hire graduate student to do the job was considered, GSS would like to hire professional firm to conduct assessments of all aspects and provide IT solutions including recommendations to meet PIPA standards; primary concern is that a graduate student may be



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proficient in particular aspect, but might not be able to provide comprehensive picture.

It was asked and confirmed that the motion presented later aims at approval of funding for assessment report.

## E. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

### 4. Notice of unseatings (*no vote necessary*)

Grant Tran has been unseated as Departmental Representative.

Kate Jaffe has been unseated as Departmental Representative

Patrick Lo has been unseated as Departmental, Academic and External, and Human Resources Representative.

Rocky Guan Wang has been unseated as Services Representative.

Kaye Hare has been unseated as ordinary member on Human Resources, and Harassment and Discrimination committee.

### 5. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Ingrid Olson be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.

Kaye Hare be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

Kaye Hare, Taqdir Bhandal be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee

**MOVER: Bradley Balaton**

**SECONDER: Shona Robinson**

**MOTION PASSED** unanimous consent

## F. Approval of Minutes

6. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016” be approved as presented.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDER: Bradley Balaton**

Amendment to strike “Bob Marley” and replace with “Executive Committee”, p. 8 motion titled “Affiliate Organization Recognition” after words “Introduced by:”, deemed friendly.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous consent

### 7. BIRT the following committee minutes be approved as presented:

Academic and External November 10, 2015;

Harassment and Discrimination November 30, 2015;

Academic and External November 24, 2015;

Harassment and Discrimination October 29, 2015;

Academic and External January 5, 2016;

Services August 10, 2015;

Academic and External January 18, 2016;

Services September 10, 2015;

Academic and External January February 2, 2016;

Services October 5, 2015;

Harassment and Discrimination December 14, 2015;

Services October 26, 2015;



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Services November 9, 2015;  
Services November 23, 2015;  
Services December 14, 2015;  
Services January 11, 2016;  
House Finance November 17, 2015;

House Finance December 1, 2015;  
House Finance December 15, 2015;  
House Finance January 12, 2016;  
House Finance January 26, 2016.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDER: Nick Dawson**

## **MOTION PASSED**

### **G. Executive Remarks**

*(3 minutes)*

- President – Tobias Friedel
  - It's been a busy couple of weeks. Tobias was away in Ottawa during January Council meeting.
  - Commissioners: offers have been made for the 7 commissioner positions, who have been welcomed to our ranks. They bring expertise and enthusiasm regarding all of their various portfolios. We've had our first meetings which are going well. Will bring expertise in the respective fields.
  - VP Students: we've had ongoing meetings with the VP Students; a couple of issues that are going to be addressed later, inter alia, sustainability;
  - U15: started preparations for the April conference for the student organizations from research-oriented Universities across Canada to share student perspectives; working on schedules and framework;
- Vice-President University and Academic Affairs – Enav Zusman<sup>1</sup>
- Vice-President External Relations – Gloria Liu
  - CASA: not much to report at this point; advocacy week forthcoming next week in Ottawa;
  - ABCS: Provincial budget was released; ABCS made statement on the budget focussing on need-based grants, housing costs and student loan interest rates.
- Vice-President Students– Kevin Mehr
  - Wellbeing: had meeting with UBC wellbeing staff about a proposal for a new position coordinating graduate wellbeing at UBC;
  - GSS Loft: space usage plan for the space in the Nest has been written; up for discussion later.
- Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Xiaolei Deng
  - Financial numbers are updated to June - November, a detailed report will follow at the next meeting.
  - December actuals are currently being processed.

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<sup>1</sup> Sent regrets

## H. Committee and Ad Hoc Committees Reports

(3 minutes)

- Academic & External Affairs Committee – Tal Shalev<sup>2</sup>
  - Addressed recent CASA items:
    - Suggested focus on better feedback and consistent status updates for Tri-Council award applications as well as updating and streamlining application system;
    - Discussed child care costs, addressing needs of single parents and need for further subsidisation of university child care;
    - Briefly discussed sexual assault policy.
  - Discussed the Student Academic Systems initiative for updating the university's aging online student service architecture:
    - Sent representative (Patrick) to Graduate student information session.
  - Discussed City Studio internships:
    - Courses and internships for graduate students, may be of interest for SCARP and architecture students.
  - President's advisory committee for reappointment of Deans of Education and Forestry:
    - Appointed departmental representatives for respective faculties.
  - Worded a draft update for AcEx terms of reference – will bring this up at next committee meeting.
- Code and Policy Committee – Julienne Jagdeo
- Executive Oversight Committee – Charlie Deng
  - Met once; worked on mandatory performance forms, referred to CPC for consultations;
  - Discussed event reporting, interest in the events;
  - Discussed policies on Executive office hours and performance appraisals.
- House-Finance Committee – Shona Robinson
  - Got through the whole budget; looking to make things clear and deciding on what want to adjust. Taking notes on each budget line to make recommendations for the incoming Execs;
  - Discussed strategies for the purchases; can look where the money go.
  - Talked a lot about LOFT space; want to know what Councillors' philosophy on space usage is;
  - House: looking into sustainability around GSC; Maayan and Mark had a couple of ideas.
- Human Resources Committee – Amber Shilling<sup>3</sup>
- Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh
- Strategic Planning ad hoc committee – Sneha Balani<sup>4</sup>
- Harassment and Discrimination ad hoc committee – Katerina Othonos
  - Did a lot of research, working on survey design; looking to get some feedback from grad students;

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<sup>2</sup> Written report

<sup>3</sup> Sent regrets

<sup>4</sup> Sent regrets

- Committee members are getting trained;
- Trying to arrange for interviews.

## I. Representative Reports

(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – Harry Li
  - Approved referendum questions: increase by \$4.20 of AMS membership fees (to cover deficit), adjustment to AMS/GSS Health and Dental fees; slight increase of U-Pass fee.
  - AMS Council endorses yes vote for all referendum questions as well as to increase WUSC fees to better support refugees.
  - Pride flag was burnt: AMS President pledged to put up flag in the Nest.
- Graduate Council – Natalie Marshall
  - Grad Council met last week.
  - Summary: three major topics:
    - ◆ Expanding the format of PhD dissertation. This is important for non-academic careers, would like to involve PhD experience, Public Scholar Lunch. Discussed how to maintain the same level of excellence in a new format.
    - ◆ Tri-Council: changes to the allocation of funding. Coefficient is no longer valid.
    - ◆ Grad Council increases English requirements for graduate applications to bring to the same minimum level as for undergraduate programs.
  - Asked students on Excellence and Grad Supervision Panel to talk to Natalie.
- Senate – Sarah Simon and Nick Dawson
  - Met last night. Not much for graduate students.
  - UBC Library faces some difficulty with currency exchange rates (USD to CAD). Library pay for many subscriptions in USD that appreciated over CAN\$ in the past period. Library accounts for over \$2.2 million in losses due to exchange transactions. Ongoing problem for the University, discussed possible solutions.
- Ombuds Advisory Committee – Julienne Jagdeo<sup>5</sup>
- Presidential Search Committee – Amber Shilling<sup>6</sup>
- Board of Governors – Veronica Knott and Julie Van de Valk<sup>7</sup>

## J. Question Period

It was asked if a total amount of Tri-Council funding has been changed, to which the response was that the overall amount has not changed. Coefficient in the equation that FoGs apply to each Faculty for the Tri-Council funding is no longer valid. Changes to the coefficient have started being implemented since last year to gradually alter the coefficient and now half way. It was further asked and answered that allocations are based on 80% registrations and 20% on Tri-Council performance

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<sup>5</sup> Sent regrets

<sup>6</sup> Sent regrets

<sup>7</sup> Sent regrets



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per Faculty. Coefficient was included which is no longer true, therefore, being revised in 2016. It was further noted that some departments end up without funding due to low registrations on which they rely.

It was further asked about the changes to the AMS/ GSS Health and Dental fee, to which the answer was that discussion item is included later today and made reference to the document circulated in advance of the Council meeting. Proposal includes changes to how fees are adjusted annually.

MOTION to recess for 20 minutes.

**MOVER: Krish Maharaj**                      **SECONDER: Christina Wiesmann**  
**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous consent

Meeting was called back to order at 7:30 pm

## K. Council Motions

### 8. Policy Manual GSS Contingency Fund                      *Introduced by: Code and Policy Committee*

BIRT Council approves the revisions made to Section 13 GSS Contingency Fund as presented.

**MOVER: Krish Maharaj**                      **SECONDER: Kevin Mehr**

*Motivation:* no substantial changes. Rainy Day Fund was renamed to GSS Contingency Fund with some minor grammar and punctuation corrections to the section.

**MOTION PASSED 27/0/0**

### 9. Policy Manual GSS Event Fund                      *Introduced by: Code and Policy Committee*

BIRT Council approves the revisions made to Section 9 GSS Event Fund as presented.

**MOVER: Harry Li**                      **SECONDER: Krish Maharaj**

*Motivation:* House Finance did not want to deal with Event Fund, passed to Services; changes to the Code are presented accordingly.

**MOTION PASSED 30/0/1**

### 10. CIF IT infrastructure                      *Introduced by: House Finance Committee*

WHEREAS the Society requires an up-to-date IT infrastructure in order to carry out business and represent our members and,

WHEREAS the majority of computer equipment within the GSS offices is outdated (over 5 years old), lacking required software, or experiencing regular technical issues (ie. server breakdown) and,

WHEREAS the GSS intends to have our IT capabilities and infrastructure professionally assessed and updated as part of a two-phase project and,

WHEREAS this project satisfies the definition of a Capital Improvement Project (CIF) as defined in



Section 16.3 of the GSS Policy Manual,

BIRT Council approves the expenditure of up to \$3,000 + tax from the Capital Improvement Fund budget line (10-785) for consulting services for the professional assessment of the Society's IT requirements (Phase 1 of IT Infrastructure Upgrade Project).

**MOVER: Harry Li**

**SECONDER: Dan Kehila**

*Motivation:* give us different options how to proceed on this project; provide solutions to avoid any possible violations of the PIPA; contributed to the future sustainability of our IT infrastructure.

It was asked about the amount and answered that GSS contacted consulting firms for quotes. There was a short presentation; number is based on the quotes provided.

**MOTION PASSED 31/0/0**

## 11. Next Council meeting<sup>8</sup>

*Introduced by: Executive Committee*

WHEREAS the third Thursday in March is 17/Mar/2016, St. Patrick's Day, and

WHEREAS the Annual General Meeting is being scheduled for 24/Mar/2016, at 17:30, therefore

BIRT the date for the March meeting of Council be set as 24/Mar/2016.

BIFRT the Council meeting shall begin at the conclusion of the AGM.

**MOVER: Harry Li**

**SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

*Motivation:* want to hold AGM and Council on the same day; as we've done in the past and not having to come twice as well as avoid additional expenditures in the books. Issue of quorum is not a problem as we generally have great Councillor turn out during regular meetings. Proposed is to postpone Council meeting for one week.

**MOTION PASSED 35/0/0**

## 12. Event Fund Application – Engineering Research Day 2016

*Introduced by: VP Students*

WHEREAS Chemical and Biological Engineering Graduate Student Association (CHBE) and Mechanical Engineering Graduate Association (MEGA) have jointly applied for and been granted funding for the Engineering Research Day 2016;

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

WHEREAS CHBE and MEGA have requested \$1,200 in total funding for this event,

WHEREAS this event qualifies for up to \$1,377 in total funding, based on guidelines for event funding set out by the Finance Committee,

WHEREAS \$600 has already been approved from the Event Fund,

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<sup>8</sup> Special resolution



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BIRT Council approves an additional \$600 for reimbursement up to a total of \$1,200 from budget line 14-860 (GSS Event Fund) for the event "Engineering Research Day 2016"

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDER: Adam Howe**

*Motivation:* trying to make process around Event Fund more organized. Anyone [graduate group] can request funds from Event Fund. Moneys are granted based on formula approved by House Finance. That what "qualifies" means. Engineering Research Day is a very large event. In terms of budget, we are currently half way.

It was asked and answered that approximately 100 grads attended this event. It was further clarified that Event Fund covers graduate participants only. Support roughly ranges between \$4 and \$12, and is granted based on many factors like duration, purpose/nature, etc.

It was further asked and answered that this application had been pre-approved for \$600 total (cap of \$300 per department, 2 groups). It was further noted that event coordinators are required to place GSS sponsorship/advertising materials during their event.

It was further asked about double counting and answered that there was one application jointly submitted by two departments.

**MOTION PASSED 33/0/2**

## 13. Affiliate Organization Recognition

*Introduced by: Executive Committee*

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 February 2017:

- a. Graduate Association of the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice (GRSJ GA);
- b. UBC BC Water and Waste Association Student Chapter;
- c. Graduate Management Consulting Association.

**MOVER: Kevin Mehr**

**SECONDER: Raghav Grover**

It was asked if all graduate student groups are required to be recognized, to which the answer was that only if want to apply for Event Fund.

It was asked and answered that UBC BC Water and Waste Management Society is an entirely graduate student group [clarification made by the President of this group].

**MOTION PASSED: 35/0/0**

## 14. Event Fund Application – BCWWA West Conference

*Introduced by: VP Students*

WHEREAS UBC BC Water and Waste Association Student Chapter has applied for and been granted funding for The Water and Environment Student Talks 2016;

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

WHEREAS UBC BCWWA has requested \$2000 in total funding for this event,

WHEREAS this event qualifies for up to \$918 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 \$618 for reimbursement up to a total of \$918 from budget line 14-860 (GSS Events Fund) for the event "BCWWA WEST Conference."

**MOVER: Raghav Grover**

**SECONDER: Shona Robinson**

*Motivation:* WEST – interdisciplinary conference involving research in science, resources, environment, etc. Some participants are from SFU. This event is a get together grad student research conference called in June with around 100 persons attending. Great way to expand your network if work in water.

It was asked about registration numbers last year, to which the answer was that anticipated attendance is approximately 100 students from 4-5 different departments, 80% are graduate students.

**MOTION PASSED 32/0/1**

## **N. Other Business and Notice of Motions**

### **15. GSS Advocacy Office Report<sup>9</sup>**

*Introduced by: Maayan Kreitzman from the floor*

WHEREAS the report from the GSS Advocacy office titled Strengthening Accountability Surrounding Issues of Sexual Violence: How UBC Process is Failing to Protect Graduate Students was officially presented to the GSS president and executive on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2016;

BIRT the GSS **Council** adopt the report.

**MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman**

**Seconder: Harry Li**

*Motivation:* report written by Gabrielle John who was advocacy coordinator with GSS. Advocacy Office is where grad students hand various concerns. Report was initiated last spring in May or June after History department approached Advocacy Office looking for support in sexual assault case going on at that time and later appeared on media. She [Gabrielle] wrote this report with contributions from History department students who shared their stories. Enav and Mark were supervising Gabrielle through that time. Report was finished just recently. Hope you had a chance to have a look at it. Think it's valuable. It forms the basis for GSS position to blow up around campuses. GSS does not have a position statement yet. First product generated by GSS on paper. Some of the recommendations are very practical. Some of the issues have been also recognized in other reports, e.g. Barber report, CBC documentary. Nothing in there is special. GSS can be proud of the fact that this work was initiated long time ago before media has gone to it.

Councillor from GRSJ agreed with everything that had been said and proposed to provide more context on when report was initiated for the archiving purposes. UBC had struck a panel on sexual assault led by Sara-Jane Finley. Councillor noted it important to adopt the report to inform panel accordingly.

Councillor from LLED expressed concerns over the timing and emphasized on additional context to the situation, and referred to the UBC Insiders article claiming that the report was deliberately suppressed. It was further asked if there are any reasons why the report should not be released.

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<sup>9</sup> Special resolution

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President responded that more deliberate steps need to be taken given issues around confidentiality of information involved. It was further noted that contributors had contacted GSS President, felt not comfortable to publish current version; report requires editing. During ad hoc committee conversations it was discussed how properly handle data like this. Consent forms had been sent out. It was further clarified that the report had been sent to GSS President three days in advance of the meeting (Monday, Feb. 15) and said that GSS President is still working it through. One of the issues raised around this report was identifying information that was not consulted at all along with other things that need to be addressed before the report becomes a position statement. It was further stated that the report has to follow certain format, GSS policies, 7 day notice to Council. It was said that no such notice was possible [for the Council meeting of Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>]. It was further assured that there is no intent to suppress any information, however, this does not necessitate immediate publishing of the report; yet requires informing of ad hoc committee. Issues around harassment and discrimination are a part of Executive goals and there is work being done through SASC. Would like to approach these issues carefully with due diligence.

Councillor (External Representative to AMS Council) noted on absence of any measures taken so far and expressed interest to generate a response.

President reiterated GSS commitment to address harassment and discrimination and noted that tangible outcome is being achieved. GSS stroke an ad hoc committee last July tasked to investigate these issues. Would like to apply holistic approach engaging all parts together, not just crisis management piece. Currently working on intervention program aimed at graduate students facilitating workshops, taking care of victims, properly addressing the cases as well as bringing it to provincial level – having a provincial program. Found that issues of sexual violence need to be talked about on a larger scale, and a most efficient way is to start with students in grade 7 and 8.

Councillor from History requested to make this report public and emphasized on the urgency to have it out now and urged Council to adopt it as a position statement in its entirety or in parts. It was further said that Department of History had tried to push forward a policy and felt silenced by the University again and referred to institutional betrayal.

Councillor (GSS Representative to Graduate Council) noted it great to have a report like this and inquired if amendments could be made to the report. It was recommended to amend a name for the support position to Sexual Assault Violence Support Coordinator.

Councillor from Civil Engineering noted it a friendly amendment.

Speaker asked for objections to the proposed amendment, seen none; amendment is approved. Report will be amended to reflect the changes.

Steve Hay (graduate student from History Department) stated that contributors are colleagues of his. It was mentioned that time is of essence to contribute to the new policy written by UBC. It was stated that Steve attended conference dedicated the cause. Faculty members, staff, if GSS want to have a word should take a position very quickly on what contribution want to make. Report has a lot of useful recommendations. It was further referred to institutional betrayal and absence of any response so far. It was further stated that all contributors have given their consent and intended to have the report public.

Oversight Officer reiterated on the importance to take a position and asked Council for suggestions on how should proceed on this matter.

Councillor from IRES noted that there is no confidentiality issue around this report as authors intended it to be made public. It was further mentioned about a bizarre process of putting it as an agenda item and said that Council never heard about this report. It was further stated that it is Executive job to make those connections. There was a lot of research work done, and it is a valuable piece. It was further asked why not own it.

Councillor from Law expressed his interest in having authors to present to Council. It was further said that due diligence should be considered when ratifying a position statement in its entirety to avoid any possible libel.

GSS President stated that he was not aware of consent given for publication of the report. From the conversation with Glynnis received her perspective on what had inspired her in general and her input. It was further said that GSS President did not get sense of urgency at that moment and his impression was that it is a long game as UBC moves slowly. GSS has similar format and requires time to get things done. It was further repeated that the report was received three days ago which is not enough time to have consultations. It was further questioned Advocacy office integrity and confidentiality.

Councillor (External Representative to AMS Council) noted that report to become of legal nature, and proposed either to adopt it immediately and later make amendments if needed, or set up a meeting the following week.

Councillor from IRES referred to the point about integrity of the Advocacy office and said that nothing can be more damaging than a piece that meant to be public ended up not public.

Councillor (External Representative to Graduate Council) expressed her interested in providing a response, and emphasized on the existence of this huge issue [sexual violence] not just at UBC. It was further mentioned that as GSS Councillor saw the report first time, and agreed to the point about institutional betrayal and expressed her regrets concerning the whole situation. It was further said that the GSS should provide necessary support, bring it further even in case of uncomfortable truth. GSS has been working hard on this matter; so far there is a lot of useful things being achieved. Therefore, GSS should adopt a position. It was further asked about urgency to ratify the report immediately and how GSS can better support students going forward. It was further asked where the communication went down, who was supposed to be included and who was not.

[Debate has been shifted to a general discussion format]

Councillor for GRSJ in response to the question about urgency noted that the report is now available as a link on the UBC Insiders blog. It was further said that anyone can have access to it regardless of the position taken that night. It was further proposed to make some sort of a statement that will say that the GSS being in the process of developing a position statement, rather than wait 5 days until consensus can be reached. It was further referred to the second question about what GSS can do going forward and asked about the conference that is being organized by the GSS concerning the issue. It was further asked if the report is related to that conference.

Councillor from Experimental Medicine asked to clarify the facts.

Councillor from Botany made reference to the institutional processes and asked if adoption of the report will make it an official position statement. It was further asked about concerns raised.

Speaker of Council clarified that the adoption with a majority votes will make it an official statement of support for the report. It was further said that the term “ratify” is generally used in cases like this.

Councillor from History spoke on the integrity of the report and noted that contributors had given their consent to make report public in its original version. It was further noted that any changes to the report will require contributor's consent. If the report is changed without their knowledge, they will remove their consent from it.

Oversight Officer said that from the draft document can see confidentiality issue emerging, and that will try to look at the situation from different perspectives. So far, there were mentions of "he said, she said" and noted that all opinions are based on the assertions of the facts. It was further added that for some issues three days can be not enough, in urgent cases three days is a long time. It was further remarked on the confidentiality issue and noted it first time became aware of the report. It was further said that if the report went through different people, would like to get the facts.

Councillor from Law reiterated the importance to come up with a position on the matter and urged Council to think what can be done to best address the issue. It was further noted that the outcome has to be constructive, bring visible improvement, and noted that if needed Council should take time to think of a best approach: which could become a set of recommendations or incriminations or both. It was further emphasized on the interest of being more strategic of what is being said.

Councillor for GRSJ referred to the conference being organized by the GSS on the topic and asked is anything has been done so far and who is charge of it.

President answered that the conference is being organized by Enav, VP Academic and University Affairs who sent regrets for this meeting.

Steve Hay spoke to the points raised earlier by saying that the report is now available and if GSS wants to make concrete actions should provide response immediately. It was further said that UBC draft policy is being prepared for June to be enforced by September and emphasized on that if UBC sets its mind on the direction, it is difficult to make any changes to it. It was further stated that if want to make any influence should contribute now. It was also stated that truth is a defense against libel and asked which lines can be seen libelous. It was further cited Glynnis address to Council around report.

President in response to the question about the communication breakdown said that he failed to prioritize, and further noted that he has not been involved throughout the work on the report. It was further noted about miscommunication issues on the intent of the report as well as lack of instructions provided. It was also said that it was meant to be utilised in its best ways to fit in what is being done already. GSS is involved in the regular meetings across the UBC community and has been a part to many conversations. President sits on steering committees regarding sexual assault and safety to make connections; help us put together workshop for active by-standers, hope to use this context to further improve initiatives that have been already started. The amount of information, resources we have on the topic, ad hoc committee has been making great strides in gathering data behind every single position statement we are going to release on this matter. Their work has been discredited. GSS could spend a majority of time on one issue, but can't. This does not mean that this issue is not important and is not close to the heart. Harassment and Discrimination has become a number one priority for this year trying to get as many parts of this organization involved. Enav intends to put together conference, Gloria works closely with CASA and ABCS to address the policies around sexual assault on provincial and federal scale. An email urging to publish the report was received in advance of the report sent in to President on Feb. 15th. It has not conveyed the urgency for publication. President noted that intent was to avoid mistakes and not to rush things, do this right. It was further remarked that report requires some work, careful deliberation is needed. It was also added that it's not a place to be hasty with UBC and asking for patience.



# GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

Motion to postpone till February 29<sup>th</sup>, Monday at 5:30 pm.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDER: Krish Maharaj**

*Motivation:* gives enough time to read it through, liaise with the contributors about the amendments to be included in the report. Intent is to adopt a position statement in an efficient manner and not to wait until next month. Three Executives will be away in Ottawa 4<sup>th</sup> week of February lobbying for grad students.

Quorum was called lost.

**MOTION FAILED**

Motion to adjourn till Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDER: Krish Maharaj**

Amendment to adjourn till next Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2016.

**MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman**

**SECONDER: -**

Councillor from CCFI noted that position cannot be taken without President and VP Academic and University Affairs given the controversy around the facts.

**Amendment FAILED**

Back to motion to adjourn till Monday February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the GSS Ballroom.

**MOTION PASSED 24/2/4**

**P. Notice**

**Note: Annual General Meeting - Thursday, March 24th 2016**

**R. Submissions**

- GSS Grad Loft (NEST Room 4202) - Space Usage Plan;
- Policy Revision Form: GSS Contingency Fund;
- Policy Revision Form: GSS Event Fund.

**S. Next Meeting**

**Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016** at 5:30 pm in the GSS Ballroom.