



GSS Council Meeting Agenda

5:30 PM
February 16, 2012

GSS Ballroom
(Dinner at 7:00)

In attendance: Suborna Ahmed, Joel Atwater, Stephanie Avery-Gomm, Floyd Bardell, Ambrose Chan, Wendy Davis, Guopeng Fu, Christine Hochbaum, Majid Hosseini, Mary Jinglewski, Adrin Jalali, Sarthak Kaushik, Conrad King, Robert Klinzmann, Conny Lin, Anna Lund, Diana Marsh, Jakub Minks, Bahador Moosavi, Noushin Moshgabadi, Ingrid Olson, Jamie Paris, Andrew Patterson, Radu Racovita, Hafizur Rahman, Elie Sarraf, Paul Save, Stephania Schwartz, Cory Shankman, Maxim Stykow, David Waddell (proxy for half of meeting for Mary Jinglewski), Gavin Weedon, Sacha Wilke, Benjamin Shear, Kristin Marchak, Amit Kumar, Victor Padilla, Christopher Roach, Miguel Guilla-Torres

Regrets: Sandra Banholzer, Michael Begg, Ryan Davis, Gwen Huber, Rabia Khan, Naureen Madhani, Sancho McCann, Alexander Perkins, Natasha Sihota, Ting Ting Zhou

I. Call to order, adoption of agenda and introductions

Meeting Start: 5:47pm
Agenda Adopted

II. Presentations to Council

1. *Early Alert.* Cheryl Washburn (Director, UBC Counseling Services) and Janet Teasdale (Senior Director, Student Development and Services). (15 minutes presentation, 15 minutes discussion)

This is a new system in place for graduate student success. It came out of a task force for mental health and well-being. It is a system of how to identify at the earliest point when students are not doing well. Gives access to space, counseling, and services. Making sure we provide resources at the earliest point. It is a technical system that UBC has bought and modified. Identifies concerns about individual students. These reports will go out to a qualified team who can address it.

Can be about financial barriers, mental issues, well-being, etc. UBC has great concern that students succeed. The system reaches across housing, departments, athletics and recreation, etc. The response has been positive so far. Program is being led by Cheryl Washburn.

Questions:

A lot of time it is graduate students interacting with other undergrad students, rather than faculty with undergrads. Will those be able to be identified (via grad students)?

-Yes, grad TAs will be trained in how to identify concerns. Training will be over the next 12 months. Want to make sure everyone is participating in the system. It's more of an awareness-building thing. Now we have a "Case Manager" position that helps with difficult situations.

When we meet with a student, and we have concerns, who do we direct it to? In the past, it was directed to Advocacy).

-It would go through this Early Alert system. Confidentiality would be protected. There is a form that would be filled out.

Interested in the triangulation model- seems like this model will work well for undergrads.

However, grad students won't have as many contact points as undergrads. How can you be sure they are addressed?

-For those not coming to campus, with little contact to supervisors, etc.- that will be difficult for us to pinpoint. So we need to raise awareness of this on campus. As it heightens, our solutions become better. And we will continue to work on financial support for students.

A suggestion for grad students- Some students don't have good relationships with their supervisors or peers; perhaps you should instigate milestones, and where students are forced to fill out reports on progress. Then people can check in that way.

FoGS is working on better tracking for grad students. We are trying to give them as much support as possible; but it is a concern, and we are well aware of it.

Can you give us some enthusiasm that you have heard from Faculty and staff? The Alert system did not work in some schools.

-This campus is different. More faculty and staff have adopted it here than in other campuses. Not concerned with Faculty and Staff adoption. We are one of the first in Canada, though-many have been in the US.

Do you have concrete plans on how to evaluate the system?

-We are already starting to look at it, and collaborating on a way to evaluate it.

2. *Graduate Pathways to Success.* Jacqui Brinkman (Manager, Graduate Pathways to Success). (5 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)

Have been working with the Executive team and Executive Director this year, and realized that many students don't know about the program. Figured that the best way would be to come here and get feedback. Please do send emails with the answers to the questions at the end of the form (presentation). Dr. Porter would like to see more thesis-writing support groups. Would like to

advocate to be in contact with other groups. We run 31 GPS workshops. Over 900 students have attended. Have lots of repeat students. Would be nice to see better uptake though! Come to 3M Thesis, too!

Questions:

How do you advertise?

-We send a weekly email to Grad Secs, and it is on our website, and twitter feed.

Problem is that there are too many notices being distributed. Should be a more efficient way of doing it! Not sure what though....

-We agree.

Saw the one for “Back on track with your Thesis”, and it says check back the week before- is there a way to put a name on a list immediately?

-Yes, send me an email. Registration opens the Monday the week before the event. But you can send me an email, and you’ll be emailed back.

Could you liaise with departments at TA training?

-We can, and we do hook up with the GSS for Orientation- but sometimes it is information overload for the students.

We should congratulate you on a more successful year than last year. Don’t worry so much about the email- many students in trouble will look out for these workshops.

-Feb. 22nd is the Library Workshop. Check out their website.

You have done seminars with GrasPods. Do you do other buildings?

-Yes, we have, and will. Can do stuff at south end of campus. Just must be open to all departments. Contact me!

3. *GSS relationship with the AMS. Jamie Paris (VP Academic and External). (15 minutes presentation, 15 minutes discussion).*

Presenting on behalf of the Academic and External Committee. Last Council meeting had us crafting a resolution in regard to the AMS. Got some data back- and we believe that the best decision at this time is not to go to the AGM and ask for seperation, but to keep negotiating with the AMS.

Why is this being addressed ? Every couple of years, we have a moment that the GSS wants more soverienty. We have issues, and we usuallly sign an MOA. This run-through is slightly different. It started years ago, with certain issues/protests happening with the AMS-brought the question, why aren’t we being consulted when these come up? We’ve gotten recommendations and a positive response from the AMS. There are times when the needs of graduate students are significantly different from those of undergraduates. Tution is an example. The question is, whose position do people take? Often they tend to go with the AMS. Although we do have seven representatives on their Council, in fairness. The AMS wants to

work with us. The AMS lobbying fund is one of the larger issues on the table. Paying a lobbying fund to the AMS does not make sense because that was so that they could be a member of CASA and now they are no longer one. The AMS brought a list of all potentials. They came back and offered even more opportunities than we were asking for. As for BOGS seats, they are arguably de facto undergraduate seats. Our goal is to get a seat on the Board of Governors. We can differentiate between these two seats. The problem is that if we try to add a seat, that will open a can of worms with lots of other stakeholders asking for a seat. It has been a lobbying priority to get as much representation as possible on BOGS. The last issue is the AGM. 1,000 students have to be in a room to have the AMS AGM. But, we will bring recommendations to the AGM. The other problem is that we don't bring motions to the AMS Council, so how do they know what the GSS wants? We should get changes ratified by both AMS and GSS bylaws. The feeling of Academic/External is to give the AMS time to mull over their relationship with us.

Questions:

We need to represent the GSS on the AMS and attend their committees as well. We've invested a lot in the AMS already.

- What kind of ideas do we have to orchestrate some kind of accountability mechanism? We don't really have accountability with the AMS so we aren't able to push back very well.*

III. Updates

Note: Out of respect, appreciation, and deference to Councilors who are taking extra time to represent the GSS in external committees and who have otherwise undertaken initiatives on behalf of the GSS, this new section is created to allow those Councilors to give updates and to allow Executives to acknowledge the work of Councilors, staff, and outside parties.

1. Research report on Counseling Services at UBC. Wendy Marina Davis (Councilor). We gave UBC some feedback and they were receptive. A few things to look at.

2. Chris Roach – Update on what happened last night- had a quick overview of how Senate works. Last night it was approved that the Senate will call approval of theses. After they submit their thesis to FoGS it has to go to Senate. Approvals would only happen twice per year. This would be problematic when you're applying to jobs, scholarships, etc. Last night they approved to have a rolling application. So they can approve every couple of months so that they won't have this problem anymore. The way Senate works is they work on the subcommittee level. All the motions that are taken to Senate go through the subcommittees so even though they are low in number we are still able to push motions through subcommittee. Come talk to me if you need something because I might be a lot more capable than you realize in getting things done for you.

3. *Jamie – Bahador has given invaluable support to the Society. Unfortunately, he is moving on, and is unseating himself from Council this meeting. So as a token of our appreciation we have gotten him a small gift. Just wanted to say thank you!*

4. *Conrad King – Last night there was a well-attended meeting of CUPE 2278. In short, the 5th year preference we were looking for has been rejected by UBC Admin. We are waiting for UBC's response on the monetary items. In the meeting there was a strong mandate to do whatever was required to strengthen our leverage on the 5th year preference and monetary items.*

Recess.

Resumed at 7:46pm

IV. Approval of Council Minutes

Be it resolved that (BIRT) the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated *January 26th, 2012* be approved as presented.

Passes Unanimously.

V. Seatings, unseatings & appointments

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

1. Notice of unseatings (no vote necessary)

WHEREAS they have submitted their resignation from office as Councilors,

BIRT the following Councilors be unseated: Sarthak Kaushik (Mining Engineering) as departmental representative and AMS representative,

WHEREAS they have submitted their resignation from office as Graduate Student Organization Representative,

BIRT the following Representatives be unseated: Catherine Kang (GrasPods), Bahador Moosavi, (AMS) (Unseated as of March 1, 2012).

WHEREAS they have missed three consecutive Council meetings,

BIRT the following Councilors be unseated: Derek Sikorski (Biomedical Engineering), Stacey Menzies (Linguistics)

BIRT Conny Lin be unseated as a member of the Executive Oversight Committee.

2. Seatings

BIRT the following seatings are approved.

Benjamin Shear, (Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education), Ting Ting Zhou (Language and Literacy Education), Kristan Marchak (Psychology), Amit Kumar (Mining Engineering), seated as Councilor of the GSS.

Adrin Jalali seated as Graduate Student Organization Representative to GrasPods.

Sancho McCann and Benjamin Shear seated on the House Finance Committee.

Chris Roach seated as AMS representative.

Floyd Bardell and Anna Lund be seated on EOC.

Moved: Jakub Seconded: Robert

Passes Unanimously

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

1. Budget

Note: This motion is to be preceded by a 5-minute presentation from the VP Finance. Robert gives an overview of the budget. Another budget will be presented in April. Explains operating costs, departmental costs, revenue, etc. Restricted funds total over \$300,000. Unrestricted Funds total approx. \$30,000. The GSS has stabilized for the first time in many years.

*For CPIF, when was the amount per student allocated? Is \$5 a reasonable number?
-This was a decision in 2005. Up to you to change the figures at the AGM.*

*We hadn't budgeted for these things in prior years- but we are doing lots of work on the building now. Good to have money to do these items.
Also trying to receive a reduction on rent with UBC. Also need to put an archivist salary in the budget.*

BIRT the GSS budget be approved as presented.

Moved: Paul Seconded: Robert

Motion Carries

2. Elections Results

Note: This motion is to be preceded by a 2-minute presentation from Cory Shankman, followed by a 5-minute discussion. Cory thanks the Elections Committee- especially Vivian, Gavin, Suborna, Andrew, Vivian and Stephania in the office, and the candidates. Had a larger voter turnout than last year.

BIRT the 2012 GSS Election results be approved as presented:

President – Conny Lin

Vice President, Academic and External – Jamie Paris

Vice President, Administration – Victor Padilla

Vice President, Services – Yunfei Zhang

Vice President, Finance – Robert Klinzmann

Senator – Chris Roach

Motion Passes Unanimously

3. Executive Review

BIRT the Elections Committee review the structure, duties, and remuneration of the Executive Officers of the Society.

BIFRT the Elections Committee shall report its findings and/or recommendations to Council no later than the May, 2012 Council meeting, subject to extensions by Council.

BIFRT this Task Force shall exist up to the time that it reports its findings and/or recommendations to Council.

Moved: Bahador Seconded: Floyd

Motion Carries

Discussion:

Could this be done by the EOC?

-Not sure it is the right committee to do it.

Executive does not get automatic pay raises. We need a task force, but it is only as good as the people on it. Accountability problem. Think EOC is the right body for it.

Seconding the above sentiment.

Should it be Code and Policy?

Amendment to the Motion:

Bahador

....Amendment wording cut off, as-
(Ruled not in the spirit of the motion)

Perhaps the EOC is the appropriate body.

Move to Recess: 5 minutes

Motion Carries

Meeting Resumed at 8:50pm

Andrew poses amendments to the Motion (as Motion author)

BIRT if the Elections Committee deems appropriate an increase in Executive pay or a bonus to existing amounts, its recommendation(s) shall address the following:

- i. honoraria or bonus amounts additional to those specified in Bylaw 6.7.1 for a period extending from the time its recommendation(s) are reported to Council and ending on or before the March, 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- ii. year-to-date retroactive pay amounts from the March, 2012 AGM up to the time its recommendation(s) are reported to Council.
- iii. proposed wording to update Bylaw 6.7.1.

Moved: Paul Seconded: Jamie

*Changes to bylaws require 30 days notice, before AGM. How will this time-travel motion work?
-This can be at an SGM or at a future AGM.*

*This could be done as a bonus or done other ways-
And this could be considered "notice". And a bonus is not a change of bylaws.*

This is bad practice-though the motion is technically in order.

This feels a bit excessive.

Motion Passes

Abstentions: Ingrid, Noushin, Jamie, Cory, Hafizur, Gavin, Mary

Against: Bahador

4. The SPIE

*Note: This motion to be preceded by a 3-minute presentation by Wei Shi.
It is an international society with a long history with members in many countries that provides opportunities for scholarships and travel. With proper financial support, many things can be*

done, like informal lectures, optics facilities tours, research promotion, etc. They already have a constitution and bylaws. Need official recognition from the GSS.

BIRT the GSS recognizes the UBC SPIE (The Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers) as a Non-Departmental Student Group at the University of British Columbia.

Moved: Majid Seconded: Bahador

Amendment: Cory

Moved: Mary Seconded: Conrad

No objections

Change “student organization” to a Non-Departmental Student Group, as we created a policy recently.

Amendment is considered friendly.

Main motion carries unanimously

5. Elections Committee Recommendations

Note: This motion to be preceded by a 15-minute presentation by Cory Shankman, followed by 15 minutes of discussion.

Elections committee has proposals that had been mailed out to Councilors. Cory reads the list out loud from a projection.

BIRT Council approves of the proposed amendments as they pertain to electoral procedures and Executive transitions as presented and revised during the Council meeting.

BIFRT Council directs that the proposed amendments be included as a motion on the AGM agenda for approval by the membership.

Questions:

We are a very bureaucratic organization. There’s a simple way to avoid conflicts. Have incoming executives come in 2 weeks before. We’ve been doing this anyways. Having this extension and a judgment from prior executives sets the stage for conflict and ugly Council meetings.

-Conflict anticipated is from petty execs, and we don’t have that this year. In terms of 2 weeks, it’s an alternative we hadn’t considered.

We want to ensure that we have the strongest team, and have things work out. This could be the strongest support system for the incoming executives.

This comes out of a discussion from the AMS. Direct question to Kyle from the AMS- what did you end up deciding?

*-We have a transitional honorarium. It's given on the discretion of the incoming executive.
Council can overturn any decision, though.*

Let's not forget this is money that we use. We have some money, but we should think carefully about that.

Does this need some more thought? This can be discussed offline. Amendments can be proposed on the floor at the AGM.

Vote on the Motion:

Motion Passes

Abstentions: Cory, Stephanie, Hafiz, Conrad, Mary

Against: Bahador, Jamie

6. Budgetary Bylaw Amendments

Note: This motion to be preceded by a 5-minute presentation by the VP Finance.

BIRT Council approves the proposed amendments to Bylaws 11.2 and 11.4 as presented and revised during the Council meeting.

BIFRT Council directs that the proposed amendments be included as a motion on the AGM agenda for approval by the Membership.

***Suggested that this is notice (rather than a Motion), please send emails with comments to Robert, VP Finance.*

7. Sauder Letter

WHEREAS the GSS receives student fees for the MBA and ECM Societies from UBC Finance and then forwards them to the Societies themselves,

BIRT Council directs the VP Finance to send written permission to UBC Finance to forward these student fees directly to the MBA and ECM societies with the option to cancel that allowance at any time.

(Moved ahead of #6) This is the only society that does this at UBC.

Moved: Andrew Seconded: Conrad

Motion Passes Unanimously

VI. Discussion Period

VII. Other Business

VIII. Notice of Motions

IX. Next meeting & Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: 9:45pm

Moved: Bahador Seconded: Noushin

The Annual General Meeting shall take place on March 29, 2012.