



## Feb 2013 Council Meeting Minutes

**Feb 28, 2013 5:30 PM**  
**Thea's Lounge**

**Dinner at 6:30**  
**Social after @ the Pub**

### In Attendance:

Paul Save, Colleen Lau, Tobias Friedel, Colúm Connolly, Jack Hrokmott, Kathryn Ranshell, Max Otte, Dave Twa, Hafizur Rahman, Rebecca DeSouza, Elise Canon, Racheal Ray, Eric Guvig, George Furey, Kevin Ren, Tom Woodsworth, Behzad Shoolestani, Chunnan Zhu, Andrew McEwan, Yuanyuan Liu, Xue-Rang Jia, Lin Liu, Bahamen Razaipu, Jeremy Wallace, Kathleen Kalk, Dremy Wang, Kate Wang, Minge Wang, Ambrose Chan, Gwen Huber, Alexandra Wieland, Victor Padilla, Jahidur Rahman, Pau Fan, Valeria Castellanos, Sara Moayldinnia, Maxim Stylkow, Natalie Marshall, Radu Raconita, Julienne Jadelco, Vivian Lam, Craig Kerr, Sarah Parker, Christopher Roach, Daniel Wood, Sancho McCann, Guillaunne Beaulieu-hak, Omid Noulbelshsh, Mike Fairchild, Jeff Abeysekera, Andrew Patterson, Barak Caracheo, Stefan Lorimer.

### Regrets:

Yvonne Dzal, Kristan Marchak, Cynthia M.

## **I. Call to order, adoption of agenda and introductions**

Call to Order at 6:47pm

## **II. Presentations**

1. **AMS graduate research report** (*please note this report was given during the SGM portion of the meeting as there was the desire to not make the presenters wait*)

The general goal of the paper is to give the general overview of the information required to advocate for policy at the provincial and federal level.

BIRT GSS endorses Cenerelli, Pierre. "Graduate Students and Research Funding: A Position Paper." Vancouver, BC: Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver, February 2013 as presented

**Moved:** Victor      **Seconded:** Rabia

**Motion Approved**

Recess at 6:18pm

Return from Recess at 6:47pm

Recess at 6:48pm

Return from Recess at 7:22pm

Motion to Discuss Constitution and bylaws immediately

Moved: Conny Lin      Seconded:      Gwendolyn Huber

**Motion Passes**

### **III. Discussion on Constitution Revisions**

Old document was presented onscreen while people viewed printed paper versions.

The motivation of the changes was to make things simpler. If people have suggestions or questions now would be the best time to let us know.

*Q: Are there bodies that deliberate to bodies of graduate students that we are not currently on?*

A: This is in the old bylaws.

*Q: This is the cornerstone of our society and this should be really looked at. As a group we should agree on changes.*

*Q: Under locality of the organization it lists us as being located at UBC. Is there not another UBC?*

A: We will change this.

*Q: The University has embraced as part of the overall strategic plan an aboriginal strategic plan (<http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/strategic-plan/>). Further the university adheres to the Trek Documents which have specific acknowledgement as to the role and support of Aboriginal students (status/non-status, Inuit, Metis). We have a specific First Nations Studies Program run by Linc Kesler who serves to advise the President of the University*

*on Aboriginal issues. By not acknowledging in its constitution the role of and support for Aboriginal students, the GSS is going against years of University initiatives and policy.*

*Q: In Wikipedia the definition of constitution states “is a set of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is governed.”*

*Q: It would be great to hear from the membership to hear their opinions as to what they would like to have the GSS accomplish.*

*Q: I feel as though A-E is being deleted and that it was mentioned that their role was included elsewhere. Where are, for example, the proportionate representations of aboriginal students included?*

*A: We will look into where we could clearly include items on this list.*

*Q: As for example on point E, where else in the constitution is it included?*

*A: It is not stated elsewhere in the constitution or the bylaws.*

*Q: I do not necessarily feel that a question of should it be short or should it be short is a question we should discuss here. If we only give one document to let people know what we do I do not think that length should be a problem.*

*A: The idea was to support all graduate student life. The goal was to encompass every single issue related to graduate student life and did not want to limit to individual aspects.*

*Q: I think that supporting graduate student life should be included.*

*Q: #5 includes to include graduate student enrollment. Does this include funding disputes as well?*

*A: Yes*

*Q: I am looking at the November meeting and I see only 2 people showing up and I do not think that we can vote on this.*

*A: We should be more engaged with the work being done. If we only have 2 people show up to a meeting which can happen in many other committees then we are not going to make progress.*

*A: No decisions has been made as this.*

*A: Everything that is passed as a motion at code and policy it ultimately needs to come to council and be presented in front of everyone. We would rather have more input on what is being presented and welcome input from everyone in council on the amendments being presented.*

*Q: It looks as though this looks at our current state as opposed to future growth.*

*Q: When I read the constitution it is very unspecific, and I think that more items should be included. This could actually be anywhere and I do not see it specifically addressing issues.*

*Q: Can include something about psychological and physiological well-being and reducing burnout?*

*Q: Who would rather have the previous longer constitution with A-E or a shorter more succinct version?*

*A: (Straw Poll – keep as is, keep the modified version, modify it more.)*

**People were in favor of modifying it more.**

*Q: Should we not remove things if they are not useful or are include more if they are useful.*

*A: The goal was to include an even longer list somewhere else.*

#### **IV. Discussion on Bylaw Revisions**

##### **Discussion on Values:**

*“WHEREAS Values of an organization determines the culture of how our members operate and to accomplish mandates of the Society*

*WHEREAS Values of the Society were voted by members from a list of values commonly adopted by non-profit organizations and student organizations*

*BIRT GSS Values of the Society (Integrity, Accountability, Honesty, Transparency, Respect, Sustainability) are adopted as presented”*

*Q: Where are the values going to exist and live?*

*A: Next to the mission statement and on the book cover.*

*Q: I would like to have the definitions in the policy manual or somewhere that they can be found.*

##### **Discussion on councilor intake:**

*“WHEREAS bylaws 5.3 Departmental Representatives was revised to allow 1) seating Councillor every month, 2) removing punishment to the department when an appointed councilor missed three consecutive meetings without notice, 3) requiring council orientation to occur on June, Oct, and Feb, and 4) requiring new councilors to attend the nearest orientation, but after consultation process, Code an Policy committee recommended revision of this code shall require more extensive consultation.*

*WHEREAS the intake month May is changed to June due to correct for previous errors*

*WHEREAS Code and policy revert the previous revision to the original spirit of the provision as follows:*

*5. Council*

*5.2 Members*

*5.2.4. Seating of new Councillor may occur at any one of the three council intake dates on February, June, October Meeting of Council. All new Council members*

*must attend a Council Orientation session (February, June, October) before they are seated as a Council member.*

### *5.3 Departmental Representative*

*5.3.4. If a department's representative misses three consecutive meetings without sending a proxy, then that department's seat will be suspended for at least three regular Council meetings or at the next intake session, whichever is longer. To regain a Council position, a representative must first serve as an observer for at least three Council meetings.*

*BIRT MMK Task force lead the consultation process for the Council intake process described above and report their findings to Council”*

The rationale behind the intake was to encourage people to partake in council and to have people be able to meet more new councilors at the same time.

*Q: If people have already missed 3 meetings, what is the point of having them miss another 3 meetings?*

*A: This is called a Rotten-Burroughs model and it is to reduce those who are not involved and provide more of a voice to those who are involved.*

*Q: I am generally in favor of the 3 dates intake, but we need to relay this to the departments.*

*Q: When we speak about bylaws and anything like this, I think that if we were doing what we are supposed to do, then we should follow up with the department to ensure that something is done to these absences.*

*Q: I agree that something should be done to the people who are not coming, but I do not think that the departments should be penalized. Perhaps a public shaming model would work.*

*Q: While I understand and agree with the sentiment of the change, but I think that we would run into more departments having more representation than they should. We should have a backup person on file for the departments so that we can inform them if the councilor begins to miss meetings.*

*Q: Code and policy did not change the spirit of the motion.*

*Q: I think that we should have seatings every month as it is not fair to be penalizing the departments for one person's actions. I am in favour of having orientations every 3 months so that new councilors can meet each other, but strongly believe that intake should be monthly.*

### **General Bylaw Revision Comments:**

None.

**General Comments on Policy Manual:**

None.

At the beginning of the month we started an online consultation process but did not receive any feedback on this. Please send us some feedback.

**Motion to move awards & prizes to current agenda:**

Moved: Conny                      Seconded: Paul

**Motion Passes**

**V. Awards & prizes**

**2. Just dessert award**

1. Beth Hensler
2. Elie Sarraf
3. Md. Hafizur Rahman
4. Andrew Patterson
5. Gwendolyn Huber
6. Paul Save
7. Molly Campbell

**3. Raffle tickets draw**

- Starbucks Gift Cards X 6
- Ipad Shuffle X 2
- Ipad Mini X 1

**VI. Executive Remarks (5mins max. each report)**

***President – Conny Lin***

I have been busy with preparations for Code & Policy, SGM, CASA, GU15 and a transition report.

***Vice-President, Academic & External – Rabia Khan***

I have been working on the CASA task force for its AGM; AcEx has been working on Visibility Outreach Inciting Councillor Engagement (VOICE), and the Advocacy Taskforce.

***Vice- President, Administration - Victor Padilla***

There are a number of things happening around the building, but I will leave this for Rob to talk about. We are also very close to opening the pub with HK Commerce. We have been working on a contract with them and UBC as well. We have three contracts on the go in this process:

- 1) Third Party Operator Agreement between UBC and the Joint Venture of HK Commerce and the GSS
- 2) Joint Venture Agreement between the GSS and HK Commerce
- 3) Supplemental Agreement between the GSS and UBC

***Vice-President, Finance – Robert Klinzmann***

We have been working on the audited financials.

***Vice-President, Services – Yunfei Zhang***

Not available as he is running an event downstairs.

**VII. Staff, Non-executives Committee Chairs & External Representative Reports  
(5mins max, each report)**

***Business Operation Supervisor – Robert Teagle***

We have new speakers in Thea's Lounge and have a number of other items on the go. We have had Seedlings move into the building and have also almost completed the Archival room.

***Senate – Chris Roach***

In the last month a new academic policy was put in place in teaching so that they can have graduate students and a new graduate program in law was also introduced.

***AMS Council - Chris Roach***

The AGM was held last night and they congratulated all the graduate students who won in the elections. It was the best representation of graduate students I have ever seen in AMS elections.

***AMS Health & Dental Committee - Sancho MaCann***

Left meeting.

***Board of Governors – N/A***

***Graduate Council - Kristan Marchak***

***MMK Task Force – Chris Roach***

The goal was to put a number of motions to the AGM next month. The items we are discussing are the following:

- 1) What does the GSS need in terms of positions? We are talking about the ED/Council Secretary Position. We are also looking at an information officer position. This also entails on how we will hire for these.
- 2) How to increase student and councilor engagement.
- 3) Structural problems in Executive to increase efficiency. This will also include executive training
- 4) Splitting up the AcEx position.

***Executive Oversight Committee - Maxim Stykow***

In this year's election there was nothing to elect. Four out of six positions only had one contestant. The voter turnout was 4.8%. Roughly 10% of those voted to reopen nominations. The GSS website appeared unprofessional with one candidate running with email address "baby@something" and another contestants name was misspelled. The off-campus debate wasn't much better: 7 out of 8 candidates and about 12 people in attendance. Despite great changes internally over the past few years, these figures show that we keep failing to provide reasons why grad students should take us seriously or should care that the GSS exists.

## VIII. Approval of Minutes

### 4. Council Minutes

BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated *January 17, 2012* be approved as presented.

**Moved:** Chris            **Seconded:** Vivian

**Minutes Approved**

**Motion to Amend the Agenda to move the MBA society item to now.**

**Moved:** Conny            **Seconded:** Paul

**Motion Approved**

### 5. MBA Society

BIRT GSS recognizes MBA Society as a graduate student departmental organization.

**Moved:** Stefan Lorimer            **Seconded:** Conny

**Motion Passes**

Would like to be registered as a society so that we can simplify our current business processes.

*Q: Will an election process be put in place?*

A: There is currently an annual election.

*Q: Why did you choose the federal society act rather than the provincial?*

A: This would enable us to create chapters.

### 6. Committee minutes

BIRT the minutes of *AcEx\_2013-01-15 minutes, CPC\_20121207 minutes, CPC\_20130111 minutes, CPC\_20130118 minutes, CPC\_20130125 minutes, CPC\_20130201 minutes, CPC\_20130208 minutes, CPC\_20130213 minutes,*

*CPC\_20130215 minutes, CPCTownHall\_20130207 minutes, Elections\_20130204 minutes, Exec\_20121213 minutes, Exec\_20130124 minutes, Exec\_20130131 minutes, Exec\_20130214 minutes, HF\_2012-11-27 minutes, HF\_2013-01-15 minutes, Services\_20121204, and Services\_20130128* be approved as presented.

**Moved:** Mike **Seconded:** Gwen

\* HR Minutes can be seen at the Office of VP Administration. HR Minutes are not published because they contain sensitive and private information

## **IX. Seatings, unseatings & appointments**

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

*Sara Moayedinia (Material Engineering)* has missed more than three council meetings and are unseated from the Council

*Chelsea Gao (School of Population and Public Health), Chris Regier (Curriculum Studies), and Fatemeh Mohammadian (language and literacy education)* have submitted their resignation and are unseated from the Council.

*Ling Zhang* has missed more than five (5) AMS Council meetings and are unseated as the AMS representative

*Ting Ting Zhou* submitted resignation and is unseated from the Human Resources Committee

*Conny Lin* submitted resignation and is unseated as the AMS representative

*M. Hafizur Rahman* and *Christine Xu* submitted resignation and is unseated from the Code and Policy Committee

### **8. Seatings (Committee and External representatives)**

*BIRT Yuan Yuan Liu (Botany), Chunman Zhang (Political Science), Bethany Schmidt (Sociology), and Zoe Beavis (English)* be seated on Council.

*BIRT Tobias Friedel* be seated on the *Human Resources* Committee

*BIRT Tobias Friedel* be seated on the *Academic External* Committee

*BIFT Colúm Connolly* be seated as AMS representatives

*BIRT Tobias Friedel* be seated on the *Code and Policy* Committee

*BIFRT Alexandra Wielan, Paul Save (Non-voting member)* be seated on the *MMK Task Force*

**Moved:** Robert **Seconded:** Vivian

**Motions Approved**

## **X. Council Motions**

### **Motion to invite guests to stay in the in camera session**

Move: Mike    Second:        Paul

**Motion Passes**

### **Move to go in camera**

Move: Victor        Second:        Paul

**Motion Approved**

## **9. ECA announcement**

BIRT GSS Council accepts departure letter from Executive Director

**Moved:** Paul    **Seconded:** Chris

**Motion Approved**

## **XI. Discussion**

## **XII. Other Business**

## **10. Departmental Councillor Award**

Large Department - Anthropology

Medium Department - Asian Pacific Policy Studies

Small Department - Library Archival and Information Studies

## **XIII. Notice**

## **XIV. Next meeting**

AGM on March 28<sup>th</sup>

## **XV. Adjournment of Council Meeting**

End of Council Meeting at 9:36pm

**Motion passes uncontested**