



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday February 20, 2014

GSS Ballroom

### Present:

Andrew Patterson, Barak Caracheo, Christopher Roach, Colúm Connolly, Conny Lin, Cynthia Min, Dan Cohen, Eric Becklin, Gabriela Badica, George Furey, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Jackie Davis, Jeff Abeysekera, Jon Newell, Julia Varela, Julie Zhang, Julianne Jagdeo, Kaleb Boucher, Kreso Sola, Kristan Marchak, Lena Patsa, Luz Caudillo, Mahsa Mojahednia, Michael Firmin, Min Xia, Natalie Marshall, Omid Nourbakhsh, Patrick Lo, Paul Save, Pooya Hosseini, Raphael Rocco, Sarah Simon, Shona Robinson, Sima Valizadeh, Vincent Chan, Yifei Zhuang, Yuanyuan Liu.

### Regrets:

Alexis Black, Alison McAfee, Ambrose Chan, Angela Zhao, Arni Thrastarson, Brett Kolesnik, Christopher Dickman, Christopher Jenkins, Christopher Quick, Craig Kerr, Daniel Wood, Ehsan Espid, Hamid Omid, Ingrid Olson, Inti Dewey, Jack Hickmott, Jens Vent-Schmidt, Laura Bohachyk, Lili Meng, Michael Ries, Michelle Kwon, Mitch Meler, Nayantara Duttachoudhury, Vivian Lam, Yvonne Dzal.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm.

#### B. Introductions

#### C. Presentations to Council

*(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)*

- **The Intersectional Gender Based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes Task Force**, *Dr. Louise Cowin, VP Students*
- The report written by The Intersectional Gender Based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes Task Force will make a series of recommendations including policy changes to ensure that there are consequences for actions.
- Recommended initiatives will support the university in having the authority to take action.
- There will be a focus on the promotion of Equality and Diversity at UBC.  
Emphasis will be placed on Orientation and building relationships with student organizations to ensure the expectations of UBC are clear and understood by all involved in planning and participating in Orientation activities.
- There are 14 recommendations in total with the report being available online.
- Consultations will be held to gather student feedback and suggestions.
- The report will be presented to President Toope for approval.
- The report was written with undergraduate students in mind however, it is relevant to all GSS students including graduates in terms of the policies, protocols and the message that the report hopes to achieve.
- There has been collaborations with other universities and specific departments (Engineering) to initiate change.
  
- **The Campus Safety Working Group**, *Barry Eccleton, Director, Campus Security*
- The Campus Safety Working Group is comprised of students, faculty and staff.
- Recommendations made include; the continued use of cameras at main entrances and the bus loops, the promotion of safety awareness, anti-bullying, and anti-sexual harassment practices including new staff orientation.



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- Campus Security will continue to strengthen their relationship with the RCMP and as well as promote closer working relations between the attachment and individual departments
- In addition to the continued use of emergency phones, Campus Security will investigate the use and implementation of other communication tools
- It was recommended that there should be improved lighting campus-wide and an assessment of the landscape
- The report is currently available online for consultation
- The RCMP have reviewed and are in support the report's recommendations
- After the occurrence of a series of sexual harassments last year, the number of security staff was increased however this is not a recommendation in the report but could be made by students as part of the consultation process.
- Sexual assaults or any criminal acts are referred to the RCMP
- The RCMP offers a range of victim services as does UBC
- Information is shared between the RCMP and University about the nature of incidents (personal information is kept confidential).
  
- **Graduate Student Advising Interactions** – *Rebecca Trainor, Student Academic Services*
- The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is considering the implementation of an online advising management system (OAMS). This is an online database that would allow for improved record keeping for graduate advisory staff.  
There are two levels of access; open share and limited share. Limited share can only be viewed by a small number of staff at the Office of the Dean (advisory staff)
- This would not be available campus wide, but only to relevant departments and departments who choose to use the system
- The system could also be used to better understand students issues and how these might be addressed, i.e. trends, consistent issues at a particular department
- A student could request that their information be kept off the record however there are certain types of information that advisors are required to report. There would always be a consultation with students about how the system works and what type of information would be recorded.
- If a student does not wish to be identified they can obtain confidential information via email, in-person, or phone – a student is not required to identify themselves
- There would be full disclosure in that advisors would refer students to information on the website about the system
- It was asked whether the system could be used against a student; in establishing a history of certain or repeated behaviours? The response was that the system is not intended to put students at a disadvantage but rather, to improve record keeping and potentially provide more timely outcomes in student cases.
- Students would not have access to this system but can be notified via email of all correspondence relating to them.
- Records are retained for 3 - 5 years. Requests for information about who has accessed student records must be made to the Dean's Office.
- The system will be a way to streamline information; i.e. between Graduate Studies and ESP and will allow for effective collection of information.
  
- **The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations** – *Jon Champagne, CASA*

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- The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is an alliance of 24 student associations and student unions from across Canada
  - A main area of focus has been lobbying the federal government for increased financial aid for BC students (the federal government provides 60 per cent of provincial student loan funds) in the form of Loans and Grants, Direct Federal Transfers and Research Funding
  - CASA is actively involved in Advocacy in the form of media engagement, partnerships, consultations, local outreach, campaigns, meetings and research
  - Results of CASA efforts include multiple entry visas for international students, vehicle exemption in asset assessment, open access reforms, and no significant federal cuts to financial aid since 1995.
1. BIRT the agenda be adopted as amended (7:25pm)  
MOVER; Eric Becklin, SECONDER; Colúm Connolly  
PASSES
- **Report on Executive Performance** – *Jeff Abeysekera, Executive Oversight Committee*
  - In 2014, executive reviews will take place twice instead of three times a year due to a restructuring of the process.
  - A review took place in November. Executives were assessed by councillors and GSS staff.
  - Meetings were held with each Executive to provide feedback.
  - The Group Evaluation assessed the Executive on planning, communication, conflict management, effort, reliability and collaboration (there were 12 responses in total).
  - The Executive scored highest in effort.
  - Collaboration and communication received mixed reviews.
  - Areas for improvement included conflict management, collaboration, communicating their progress, transparency, and reporting.
  - It was recommended that the Executive focus on establishing combined goals rather than achieving individual goals.
  - It was suggested that there be consequences for executives who do not adequately fulfil the requirements of their role
  - It was recommended that more training be provided to incoming Executives
  - In terms of objectives versus progress; the voice campaign was cancelled due to lack of interest, the website was delayed, and the GSS informative videos has been postponed for the new executive to complete.
  - The next review will take place in March.
  - There will also be a review and restructuring of the Executive Oversight process.
- **2014 GSS Elections Report**, *Gabby Badica, Chief Electoral Officer*
  - There was an increase in voter participation from 5 – 7 per cent to 9.7 per cent
  - The coordination of the GSS Elections with the AMS Elections is likely to have played a significant role in increased voter participation
  - Other factors include increased communication via email, postering, campaign videos, the GSO Caucus, and social media.
  - It is recommended that the GSS use Simply Vote as opposed to WebVote, as it is more user-friendly and allows for a summary of each candidate

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- It is also recommended that the GSS continue to conduct their elections at the same time as the AMS elections
- The Elections Committee will continue to discuss and review proposed code changes including participation in the all-candidates meeting and not permitting slates
- A small number of Facebook ads were purchased at the end of the campaign period. Inviting friends via Facebook was also effective.

Motion to move the 'GSS Elections Results' motion to follow after the Elections Presentation

MOVER: Christopher Roach, **SECONDER**: Shona Robinson

PASSES

### 2. GSS Election Results

WHEREAS the 2014 GSS Elections were completed on January 31st without any problems or complaints;

WHEREAS the Election Committee has submitted an elections report;

BIRT the GSS Council approves the results of the GSS Elections.

**MOVER**: Christopher Roach, **SECONDER**: Eric Becklin

PASSES

#### D. Executive Remarks

*(3 minutes)*

- **President – Christopher Roach**
  - Continues to be involved in the President and Chancellor's search
  - A Student Health Report Commissioner has been hired
  - Design and development of the GSS Brochure
  - Working on budget graphics, similar to that of the AMS
  - Upgrading the GSS newsletter template
- **Vice-President Academic & External Affairs – Colúm Connolly**
  - The Federal budget was released and there has been a decrease in university funding. The GSS, CASA and the Alliance of Students of BC will be addressing this.
  - The GSS and CASA will be involved in the Wall of Debt Campaign to create awareness about the financial situation many graduate students find themselves in.
- **Vice-President Administration – Christopher Roach (on behalf of Tobias Friedel)**
  - Continues to work on Bookings reform, the new GSS website, and sourcing document management / archival system
- **Vice-President Finance – – Christopher Roach (on behalf of Lili Meng)**

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- Has been involved in the annual auditing process. The results from this audit will be ready and presented at the March Council meeting.
- Continues to work on the GSS funds survey; actuals, housekeeping, DOF and SEF applications.

- **Vice-President Services – Yuanyuan Liu**

- As part of the January Orientation, the GSS held a New term party
- Ice skating and Belly dancing classes have commenced (new this term).
- Upcoming events include a Salsa Party and the St Patrick's Day Party.

### E. Committee, Taskforce, and Operations Reports

*(3 minutes)*

- **Academic & External Affairs Committee – George Furey**

- The Committee is currently reviewing the emergency funds request process
- CASA campaign participation, see motions below (Tri-Council Letter Writing and the Wall of Debt campaigns)

- **Code and Policy Committee – Julienne Jagdeo**

- Section 1 and 2 reviews were approved at last Council
- The Committee is now reviewing sections 3 and 4
- A policy revision form will be posted on the GSS website and will be available at the office to archive policy amendments and additions

- **Elections Committee – Gabby Badica**

- Refer to presentation.
- The committee will review the current Elections code and propose changes.

- **Executive Oversight Committee – Jeff Abeysekera**

- Refer to presentation
- The committee continues to analyze the data received from reviews and are developing a complaint form

- **House-Finance Committee – Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle**

- The Committee has received many SEF and DOF applications
- 2 SEF applications have been approved; the English Department will be holding a Creative Writing workshop, and the Creative Writing Association will be hosting a Jubilee.
- The committee is working on a reform to deduct funds directly from the booking total
- There are various building-related projects; i.e. flooring, storage room

- **Human Resources Committee –**

- N/A

- **Services Committee – Min Xia**



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- The committee will be tracking all GSS classes, parties and events, and recording details including location, date, number of attendees, subsidy amount for effective record –keeping and to make changes / improvements where necessary
- Follow up emails are being sent to attendees to receive feedback on events
- An Events Record will be added to the website to display past and upcoming GSS events
- The Committee is developing an advertising / communication / promotion of events strategy focusing on channels to be used and timelines.

*Note: Natalie Marshall will be voting using Alison McAfee's iClicker as hers is not working.*

### F. Representative Reports

*(3 minutes)*

- **AMS Council – Christopher Roach**

- The AMS Elections have concluded and a new Executive team has been elected.
- 6 major referendum questions were passed including the sale of Whistler Lodge, a fee to support an AMS Brewery (students can opt out of this fee), a position to divest out of fossil fuels, fee restructuring, and a position on low tuition for all students.

- **Graduate Council – George Furey**

- Prior to the Graduate Council meeting, the GSS representatives met to prepare for the meeting. This resulted in an improved presence and graduate voice.

- **Senate – Julienne Jagdeo**

- New courses have been approved
- New awards for Graduate students were approved (check website)
- Advocating for improved graduate student learning outcomes; comments and feedback welcome

- **University Sustainability Initiative – Paul Save**

- Continued monthly meetings and the development of a 20-Year Sustainability Plan
- An event will be held to encourage feedback / input on the plan, details available in email / online.

### G. Approval of Minutes

3. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014” be approved as presented.

MOVER: Natalie Marshall, SECONDER: Gabby Badica  
PASSES

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

*House-Finance – November 5, 2013*  
*House-Finance – December 10, 2013*

*House-Finance – November 19, 2013*  
*House-Finance – January 1, 2014*



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*House-Finance – January 30, 2014*

*Services Committee – January 8, 2014*

*Services Committee – January 22, 2014*

MOVER: Eric Becklin, SECONDER: Mahsa Mojahednia  
PASSES

### H. Seatings, Unseatings, and Appointments

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

Carolyn Beaumont has been unseated as a Departmental Representative

Craig Kerr has been unseated from the Executive Oversight Committee.

#### Seatings and Appointments

#### 6. BIRT the following individuals are formally seated to Council:

Alison McAfee be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

Jackie Davis be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

Julia Varela be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

Kaleb Boucher be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

Luz Angelica Caudillo-Mata be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

Michael Ries be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

Patrick Lo be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

Raphael Roccor be seated to Council as a Departmental Representative.

MOVER: Colúm Connolly, SECONDER: Sima Valizadeh  
PASSES

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

Jackie Davis be seated to the Academic and External Affairs Committee (non-voting).

PASSES

Sarah Simon be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.

PASSES

Barak Caracheo be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee.

PASSES

Julia Varela be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

PASSES



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### **I. Council Motions**

#### **8. CASA Tri-Council Letter Writing Campaign**

BIRT the GSS Council supports the CASA Tri-Council Letter Writing Campaign, at the recommendation of the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

MOVER: Colum C, SECONDER: George F

PASSES

This is a campaign to have student representatives on the Tri-Council.

#### **9. CASA Wall of Debt Campaign**

BIRT the Academic and External Affairs Committee supports the CASA Wall Of Debt Campaign and encourages the GSS council to support the campaign upon the condition of support from five volunteer council members.

MOVER: Colum C, SECONDER: Michael F.

PASSES

This is a national campaign that CASA is running to raise awareness about student debt.

Volunteers needed and a time commitment of 6 -7 hours would be required.

#### **10. Special Events Fund Application – Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Student Conference**

BIRT the GSS approves up to \$650 from the Special Events Fund in order to support the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Student Conference.

MOVER: Patrick Lo, SECONDER: Michael Firmin

PASSES

A budget has been submitted to the VP Finance at least two weeks prior to the event, the GSS logo has / will be used, the event is of an academic nature and is open to all students, therefore meeting all the criteria for an SEF application. The Graduate Student Centre was not used because the event requires 4 break out rooms, which the other venue could better facilitate.

The event currently has 40 people registered and will be communicated to encourage more registration (e.g. via Facebook and the GSS newsletter)

Other funding includes donations made and approaching supervisors.

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

### **K. Discussion Period**





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### **L. Submissions**

### **M. Next Meeting**

Thursday March 20, 2014

### **N. Adjournment**

11. BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:51pm.