



GSS Council Meeting Agenda

**5:30 PM
January 26, 2012**

**GSS Ballroom
(Dinner at 7:00)**

In Attendance: Dan Adleman, Suborna Ahmed, Joel Atwater, Stephanie Avery-Gomm, Sandra Banholzer, Floyd Bardell, Michael Begg, Molly Campbell, Ambrose Chan, Ryan Davis (Proxy, Sandra Banholzer), Wendy Davis, Guopeng Fu, Majid Hosseini, Gwen Huber, Mary Jinglewski (Proxy, David Waddell), Sarthak Kaushik, Rabia Khan, Conrad King, Christine Klerian (Proxy, Ben Shear), Robert Klinzmann, Conny Lin, Diana Marsh, Sancho McCann, Jakub Minks, Bahador Moosavi, Noushin Moshgabadi, Ingrid Olson, Jamie Paris, Andrew Patterson, Alexander Perkins, Jennifer Pinette (Proxy, Amanda Grochowski), Radu Racovita, Hafizur Rahman, Paul Save, Stephania Schwartz, Cory Shankman, Natasha Sihota, Maxim Stykow, David Waddell, John Wang, Gavin Weedon, Sacha Wilke, Stephanie Williams, Graham Hendra, Bernhard Konrad, Geraldina Polanco.

Regrets: Ryan Davis, Christine Hochbaum, Sarah Jo, Anna Lund.

Minutes by: Stephania Schwartz

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

II. Meeting start: 5:45pm

III. Amendments:

**Move Bookings Motion up to #2; would like to have a 15 minute In Camera Discussion regarding the motion with guests invited to it.
(Jamie)**

**Budget Motion-Addition: In item C, BIFRT Council approves to pay \$443 out of 12-41-757
(Robert)**

**Update on the elections-
(Cory)**

IV. Presentations

1. *The AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan.* Sophia Haque (Studentcare Program Manager, Western Canada). (15 minutes presentation, 15 minutes discussion)

Summary of Plan and coverage. Plan established in 2000. Designed to provide students services not covered by the province or other basic plans. Studentcare was founded in 1996. Has over 60 partner associations, and represents nearly 550,000 students. Major role is as Consultant and Administrator. Includes negotiation support, plan set-up, strategy, reporting, opt-out, enrollment, and data transfer. Do communication through print, email, and in person. All existing drug exceptions grandfathered until Aug. 2012. Have coordination with Fair Pharmacare. Given a \$1000 limit. Will have more about this mailed out next week. What is covered? Health, Vision, Dental, and Travel. Also includes member In-network discounts.

Questions:

Is the travel insurance also for research trips?

-If it is designated by the university, then yes- however, you are covered for 120 days regardless.

Regarding students that want to go home- is there anything we can do to make sure grad students are covered in this way?

-If you are an international student going home to your own country, you aren't covered for travel, but are for dentistry and vision. Have talked at great length about it, but no progress on this yet.

Is the IhaveaPlan profit, or non-profit?

-We are private, and for profit. But we are very student driven.

If we are visiting level 3 or 4 advisory countries, are we covered?

-Not sure of exact levels, you should call first and confirm.

Why are you not covering major dental?

-Like bridges or crowns- this is decided because of the age bracket. If you go to in-network, you can still get 20% off. We try to provide the best service for best cost, can't include everything.

2. *2012 Tuition Consultations.* Cindy Nahm (Associate Director, Enrolment Services), Rella Ng (Manager, Registration Services), & Brendan Morey (Manager of

Graduate Awards, Faculty of Graduate Studies). (15 minutes presentation, 15 minutes discussion)

Tuition and Fee proposal- UBC policy 71 sets out the tuition and fee consultation process. Are working with AMS, GSS, SU UBCO, and ISA execs on this. Submissions are done March 6th. Domestic tuition is tied to inflation. Province has set tuition increase to 2%. Grad students-UBC proposing a 2% increase. International has the greater increase. Done because international partial tuition scholarship helps offset that. Effective May 1, 2012. 3% increase May 2012, and 3% over the next few years.

www.students.ubc.ca/tuitionconsultation/

Merit based graduate awards landscape- a huge growth in awards has occurred. There's \$52 million going out to students presently. More than half come from UBC. 4 year doctoral fellowship- is \$14 million. UGF was \$5.8 million. Graduate support initiative- transitioning from PhD Tuition fee award. IPTS- a cap has been put on this. It was \$6.4 million this year. Proposed changes to Graduate Application fee- increase in funds. Fees go to FoGS, who shares it with Graduate Programs to help cover administrative costs.

Questions:

*Tuition is going up, and awards are going up- in terms of consultation, why are we told both? Decision has already been made- why are we told this way?
-Don't mean to co-relate the two. With respect to the format, we do want to hear about it. Had heard from past Councils that this is the way feedback should be given. This is an opportunity to provide feedback now that can be taken back!*

*Might make more sense to see funding per student- rather than a lump sum.
-Happy to do that in the future!*

*University policy has been to go global- curious to see what is geared towards international students....it more challenging for them. What funding is geared towards them?
-GSI is available for both, and can go for more than 4 years?*

*Seen numbers that we are getting 30% more international students...how will UBC match this, in terms of funding/support?
-If they are planning it, they must. But we're not there now. That's news to me...I would expect it.*

*In Faculty of Med currently, and they do guarantee a stipend for a certain amount of students. How do we go about lobbying for overage students?
-Give it to faculty, and it's up to them....talk to the Dean's office.*

*Glad presentations given together. Is there a way you are thinking about how to deal with students who don't finish in 4 years...
-It's called Dissertation Scholarship, and we are considering it.*

How is it allocated between departments?

-Out of GSI- fully funded next year- 2013. All the money in Phd fund will go to GSI fund. We realize it is not enough.

Out of living standard, could you present this next year?

-We are increasing Killam and other scholarships.

3. CUPE 2278 Update. Conrad King, Geraldina Polanco. (5 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)

CUBE 2278 UPDATE.

Will keep presentation and question period short. There will be another meeting later.

We have been working on language issues in bargaining. We've achieved quite a bit and we heading into monetary issues soon. Academic harm is about protecting TA's from harassment from supervisor. [Conrad gives examples.] Leaves for comprehensive exams, conferences are also an issue. We are working for 5th year preference for TA's. Something pressing has come up though as we move into monetary issues.

Geraldina: WE have been bargaining for a year and a half. We are close to getting to monetary items. We found out that on Tuesday that we must accept zeros, senior administrators got significant wage increases, well over 4%. We also heard that they will talk about money.

Conrad: I implore you to come on Tuesday. The people who come to the meetings make the decision. We HAVE to make the decision on Tuesday. The group that comes in is the whole group that makes the decision.

Geraldina: They told us we must accept zeros. What that means is that they've told us if any of our requests have to do with money the answer is no. Bargaining has NOT fallen apart. But it is almost bad faith for us to accept zeros when senior administrators are getting wage increases. Also, we do not choose to strike. That comes from the membership. There is no need for quorum.

Councilor feedback:

I am worried about only 25 people being radicalized and driving into a direction that we don't want to go in.

-That is actually the problem. WE need a critical mass to come out to this meeting.

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 Councilor,
BIRT the following Councilors be unseated: Christine Klerian (Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education), Reva Robinson (School of Speech & Audiology), Jan Jettel (Business Administration), Tye Spicer (Business Administration), Ankur Gupta (Computer Science), Stephanie Law (Journalism), Mohit Law (Mechanical Engineering).

Note: There are no involuntary unseatings at this time.

WHEREAS they have submitted their resignation from office as FoGS representative,
BIRT the following Councilors be unseated as FoGS representative: Grace Lore (Political Science) Robert Klinzmann (Math).

2. Seatings

BIRT Cory Shankman be appointed as Chief Electoral Officer.

Moved: David Seconded: Paul

Note: Andrew to motivate and provide comments. The Exec supports this nomination.

Appointed by unanimous consent.

BIRT Robert Klinzmann preside as VP Finance from now until the 2012 AGM

Moved: Robert Seconded: Noushin

Appointment Carries.

BIRT be seated as members of _____.

BIRT _____ be seated as members of _____.

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

Note: Michael to ask Committee Chairs if they would like additional committee members.

Elections Update- (Cory) *Go ahead and nominate yourself, or others. We are advertising now in various publications. Next Wednesday, we have a debate here at 6pm.*

Will we have a Yes, No, and Re-open nomination line?

-Yes, it will be there as a ballot option.

Heard there are currently 6 people running for five positions?

-Every position has nomination except Senator. Service Department has one, plus a declaration of intention of nomination.

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

1. Bookings.

WHEREAS the Human Resources has decided not to renew the contract of the Bookings and Office Manager, and

WHEREAS Vivian Tian has been temporarily appointed to take on the core duties of the Bookings and Office Manager in addition to her current role,

BIRT the GSS council shall allocate an additional monthly amount of \$1100 to the "Salaries and Wages" budget line 12-700 for the remuneration of this extra work through the May, 2012 convocation.

Moved: Rabia Seconded: Joel

Motion to go in Camera:

Moved: Floyd Seconded: Joel Thirded: Cory

Go into Camera Motion- No one opposed.

IN CAMERA FOR 15 minutes

Motion to go out of Camera:

Sarthak

Passes Unanimously.

Debate on the Motion:

Call to Question:

Joel

Passes Unanimously

Bookings Motion Carries.

2. Budget.

Moved: Robert Seconded: Bahador (For whole Motion)

Robert Motivates.

Discussion:

Should it have been Code and Policy that revised the bylaw? But this might be red tape...

-This was discussed, but it is really a subject expertise issue. It would be a recommendation that would go to the AGM. It's a slower process than you think.

A.

WHEREAS in the December, 2011 Council meeting the following motion was passed:

“BIRT no budget lines may be exceeded in the next two months without the prior consent of the GSS Council,” and

BIRT the UBC GSS-V Council direct VP Finance to create a contingency budget line **12-999** with up to \$5000 in total for January and February that shall expire February 28, 2012.

BIFRT the contingency budget line cannot be accessed to transfer money to other budget lines without the approval of the House & Finance Committee.

BIFRT Council directs the House-Finance Committee to revise Bylaw 11.4.2* based on best accounting practices for non-profit Societies.

BIFRT the House-Finance Committee bring this revision to the February Council meeting.

Motion Carries by Unanimous consent.

B.

WHEREAS the budget line 41-760 (Pub - Repairs & Maintain - Furniture/Equipment) of the 2011 budget was exceeded by \$941 and Council approved November 17, 2011 to allocate \$2000 from CPIF to repair the refrigerator in Thea's Lounge,

BIRT Council approves to pay the repair costs of the fridge of \$1960 out of budget line 41-760.

Moved: Paul Second: Robert

Paul motivates.

This was approved in Council, but due to a technicality, this is out of order. Now we have the budget line.

Motion Carries by Unanimous consent.

C.

WHEREAS the remaining \$129 of budget line 42-799 (Bookings - Miscellaneous Expense) of the 2011 budget is too little to pay an operational booking expense (\$246.40), and

WHEREAS budget line 42-757 (Telephone/Pager Rental) of the 2011 budget was exceeded by \$471

BIRT Council approves to pay \$246.50 out of budget line 42-799 to pay these expenses.

BIRT Council approves to pay \$33.60 for cell phone reimbursement of the Bookings and Office Manager out of budget line 42-757.

BIRT Council approves to pay \$581.28 out of budget line 42-751 to pay operating expenses for an event in December that will be paid back by the client.

Moved: Robert Seconded: Sarthak

Robert motivates.

Discussion:

* Bylaw 11.4.2 reads, *“All expenditures of the Society must be authorized in a budget or budget revision duly approved by ordinary resolution of Council.”*

*Think that maybe the motion was heard wrong- don't need to do every one like this—
-But this is the end of the budget year, hence all the items.*

Vote:

Motion Carries Unanimously

D.

BIRT Council direct the Elections Committee to treat budget line 14-780 as continuous through February rather than as a monthly limit

Moved: Robert Seconded: Joel

Motion Carries.

Note: Motion D asks to treat line 14-780 (Elections) as continuous to February. We have passed a budget only for January and February 2012. We will pass a new budget in February for 2012. The VP Finance can pass a revisited budget for May 2012 - April 2013 on the AGM. This is a necessary structural change because our fiscal year ends April 30.

Elections Update: (Cory) *Please look at the positions, and think about running! Please do take posters, and push some emails thru your departments. Thank you!*

Agenda Amendment: (Jamie)

On the title of Motion #3:

“Separation” sounds more aggressive than what is being said here. Could we find another word?

Propose the word “Relations”

Moved: Jamie Seconded: Bahador

Motion Passes Unanimously.

3. AMS/GSS Relations

Dan Adleman motivates/gives small presentation of his report.

(Report had been sent out to Councilors via email)

Discussion of separation, or do nothing, or dissolve the GSS.

Goes over risks of separation, i.e., lawsuits from AMS, some contracts like Health and Dental.

Some negotiating points are the BoGS seat, CASA membership, and Lobbying fees.

This came to Council as a motion, rather than a report- if this doesn't look right for your constituencies, this is a window for you to ask. This is also so if other research is needed, it can be discussed.

Point about clubs: They can put limits, (like the sailing club) that may fill up and not be available- these things need to be dealt with.

Seconding Paul's request for more in depth cost benefit analysis.

-Referring it back to Ac/Ex would not be a good idea, as we already discussed it for 4 hours. Might be better to send it to House Finance, as they have better subject expertise. Also, we do have a lawyer looking at many of these questions.

Not a bad idea to send it to HF, but need more resources. If we delegate, appropriate proper resources.

Should have a section on Sustainability. Cost and benefit, cultural and social, do we have enough funds to lobby at the provincial level....

-Lawyer will answer question on logistics. Other things could be done by poll...

The AMS range of clubs is wide, and we want these things to remain. Not possible for GSS to afford these students. As grad students, these are good services.

Compromise is a good word, and it is clear from AMS visits they are paying attention. How can we gauge how to work this out with them?

-AMS is aware of this and poised to listen, as is BoGS. Ready to negotiate now.

How seriously are we going to be now, when we haven't been happy before?

Financial side- how much will it cost? If AMS is selling things, (ie Lodge, Art) do we get a cut of that?

One thing we decided at Ac/Ex was a list of demands...we came up with one. It is difficult to negotiate, as many orgs are going thru changes. We are formally working this with our groups and Dr. Louise Cowin. Hard to get them to work with us....We want political freedom, etc. so we need something to hold up (i.e. carrot & stick).

It's good to have a document, on record, as this issue seems to come up every few years.

Think we are being emotional because of the CASA issue. It would be wise to look into matters that create a "stick".

Time is held

Cory objects to extending

Motion to extend by 5 minutes:

Moved: Jamie Seconded: Joel

Motion Passes.

Would like to counter the carrot/stick quote....don't like the idea of needing something to threaten the AMS with. Let's just be honest. If we threaten to leave, be willing to seriously discuss it. Otherwise, that's not being fair.

We pay a lot to the AMS- we need to ask how it is worthwhile for the graduate students. Need a process to educate students, and find out how it should be used.

Dan is non-partisan on this issue, and feels all avenues should be investigated. On infrastructure, housing, etc., AMS amenities, that's the sort of thing we would have to hire to do- beyond his capabilities as a Lobbying Coordinator.

We should get an external body to do some work. Put \$10,000 in a pot to look at these questions. None of us have the skill set to do what is being of Council.

Please stick to the topic of Dan's document!

Michael rules the Motion out of order. This should have been under "Reports".

Motion to amend agenda:

BIRT the Council will allocate up to \$10,000 for an external review of the AMS-GSS relationship.

Motion to put this on the agenda:

Moved: Jamie Seconded: Robert

Vote: Motion fails.

1)

WHEREAS the Academic and External Committee recommended receiving the AMS/GSS

“Exploratory Separation Report” (ESC) with revisions, and

WHEREAS those revisions have been made,

BIRT the GSS-V Council receives the ESC.

Motion is ruled out of order.

2)

~~WHEREAS the Academic and External committee has recommended that a question about the~~

~~GSS separating from the AMS should be debated at the February Council meeting before it is formally placed on the AGM agenda,~~

BIRT Council directs the Academic/External Committee to propose a question about the AMS-GSS relations

BIFRT this proposed question shall be brought to the February Council meeting for Council's deliberation.

Amendment proposed:

Moved: Bahador Seconded: Cory

BIFRT This proposed question shall be brought to the Feb. Council meeting for Council's deliberation.

Moved: Jamie Seconded: Bahador

Jamie motivates.

Discussion:

Wording is very unclear...shouldn't be decided in Council or the AGM.

*We will bring this to the February meeting, so if you have questions, please bring it to us now!
Let's stick to this motion as it is phrased!*

*Should they be two separate motions?
There is some confusion. Maybe it needs to be discussed in a subsequent meeting.
-It is friendly to divide the question.*

*Pass motion as is, and in the general spirit of discussion. Can debate whether we want to do it.
Let's just say we are interested enough to talk about this.*

This is like a notice of a motion, so we have a month, and I encourage Execs to call an Open House before the meeting.

Concerned about staying, we have momentum now, it might be good to act on it!

Please direct us to begin on this, or not.

**Go to vote on Amendment:
Amendment Carries.**

Back to Main debate.

Amendment: strike the "Whereas" clause.

Moved: Joel Seconded: Cory

Struck by Unanimous consent.

Call to Question:

Moved: Joel Seconded: Robert

Rabia is opposed.

Vote on Call to Question:

(needs 2/3)

Carries.

**Main Motion Vote:
Motion Carries.**

4. Executive Remuneration

BIRT Council directs the Executive, House Finance, EOC, and Code and Policy Committees to bring recommendations or alternative structures for assignment for work presently done by the Executive Officers for Executive remuneration that would bring Executive pay in line with other Canadian graduate student societies, or alternative structures for assignment of work presently performed by Executive Officers.

Moved: Andrew Seconded: Floyd

Andrew Motivates.

Discussion:

How out of line are we with other societies?

-Alberta is well ahead of us.

--At GT13, we found out we are the lowest of all schools in BC. Average is \$18, 000-35,000.

And Alberta people are very effective with what they do.

Not for or against- will argue with assumed causation and negative performance. It is more about engagement rather than pay. There's a bigger question of the structure of the Society. Can have it done by Execs, challenge to recruit. Another structure is that you have more of a core of dedicated professionals.

Motion to amend: Look at this, and balance structure.

Moved: Joel Seconded: Robert

Call to Question:

Moved: Robert Seconded: Noushin

(2/3 vote needed)

Motion fails.

Still in debate on Amendment:

Joel Motivates.

In regard to the year long process- it was not just about Stephania's position, (Executive Director), it was about the whole Society.

Can't discount one alternative over the other. Let's see what HF thinks about this.

Exec pay should be looked at by Code and Policy.

This will take too much time!

There is a structural and fiscal component to this, and it should be considered.

Would like to amend the amendment to say “Code and Policy”, instead of HF.
Moved: Bahador Seconded: Cory

Call to question:

Moved: Joel (no one opposed to Call to Question)

Motion Carries

Move to Amend Bahador’s Amendment
(Jamie)

Change text to, “Joint meeting for Code & Policy, House Finance, Executive, and EOC”.

Discussion of Order of amendments.

Motion to postpone indefinitely.

Moved: Joel Seconded: Rabia

Motion Carries.

VI. Discussion Period

VII. Other Business

The EOC would like to note a “Slap on the Wrist” for the Exec Team. No EOC Reviews were received from the Executives in December.

Counter: Executives said they did not receive any reviews themselves, this year, and thus were not motivated to send them in.

Joel (EOC Chair) would like to note that there was no EOC committee, only himself, and this is why the work was not done. Now there is a full committee.

VIII. Notice of Motions

IX. Next meeting & Adjournment

X. Date of next meeting: February 16, 2012

Meeting adjourned 9:50pm