



GSS Council Meeting Agenda
Updated: 2/21/13 8:22 pm

Jan 17, 2013 5:30 PM
GSS Ballroom

Dinner at 7:00
Social after @ the Pub

Link to Agenda and supporting materials:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zh0odw26krk5j4u/hQibPNOafz>

I. Call to order, adoption of agenda and introductions

II. Presentations & relevant motions (10mins presentation, 10min questions)

1. AMS election candidates

30 second per candidate

Candidates speak for 30 seconds about their campaign platforms.

2. Election Committee

Tom Woodsworth, Chair, Election Committee. Lots to be proud of as a ubc grad! We have over 10,000 students! So why are we only getting 5% vote? Only 1/3 of these programs are here at Council. There are some departments that are better represented, but there are more opportunities. (Shows a list of stats on percentages) We need to step up. Nothing beats a good ground game- human contact. Next week, as we encourage grads to vote in AMS, we can remind them it's the opening of nominations for us. UPass is a great opportunity to talk to students about referendums. On referendum years, voter turnout goes up to 20%. Ditto for provincial election. Constant lack of continuity- pass on the torch. You are responsible. Make an official proxy...why are we punching whole

departments when a rep is unseated? Key dates: Jan 24th start for noms., Election takes place over reading week. Feb 18-22. Use of FB and other social media. But not as important as face to face contact! Nom forms are online. Reminder of email protocol. elections@gss.ubc.ca, please send ideas!

SGM & AGM plan: Code revision plan

Conny Lin, Chair, Code and Policy Committee. Goal was to fix our broken code- we are almost there! By March AGM we will have this done. Started this with Paul last year, line by line, section by section. Gwen's idea was to put it into themes, and that worked. (Goes over remaining timeline) March 28th is AGM 3rd attempt to pass bylaw revisions. Referendum is not doable. Will finalize marketing strategy, and membership consultation. Before that, will send to Brendan for review. SGM will be first attempt, and then will pass leftovers in March. Overarching revision- key points- just answer questions, give ideas- focus on structure. Trying to put in an understandable format. Will change into electronic format, and work on conflicting code. Will go thru clusters now: Definition of the Society- please read and revise. Simplify 2.1 a)- e)? Next is Membership. Issue is who can be affiliated? Please comment on this and affiliated members. Good example is SPIE and Chinese Grad Association. Next is Decisions. Like Council intake, have to take orientation. This inhibits people from joining. Next is Information Management. Big project. Victor is working on it. Next is Execs and Election. Clarifying some things, making items categorical. Next is General Revisions. Then Committees. Like re-allocation of committees. HR is next, and one of my favorites! Getting better at it. House Finance has some funny code, but we fixed it. Robert is working on it. No revisions for Services. Want to thank all of the committees. Need council to help pass it!

Q: Paul has a comment instead. A total revision of everything- if we change one thing, we submit it to Victoria, it bounces back and forth- we did a complete change of everything so we don't have to go back and forth and just pass it all at once. Need you to come out and vote in February. Replacing old with fresh. Thanks to C and P.

Victor: Adding to what Paul said, as every time we send to Victoria we need to pay them, so Conny is saving money for the GSS!

BIRT Special General Meeting be called on Feb 28, 2013 and Annual General Meeting be called on March 28, 2013

Moved: Conny **Seconded:** Victor

February falls into reading week... want to push it sooner? Straw poll? Feb 14th- only 1. Very few more for 28th.

Amended to Feb. 28th.

Motion Passes.

3. **CFIS.GSA & GSS Merges**

Presenter: Chris Roach, President, CfIS.GSA. CFIS is closing- what happens to us now? Just asking a question, not bringing a motion. Represents 7 grad programs. The GSA hosts social events, competitions, sports leagues, academic competitions. Need a home. Have these options: Become an independent club at Green;s College, or become a part of the GSS as subsidiary. Ind club on provosts office. Like GSS option best. Would have our own members, budget, exec tho still answerable to GSS. Money can't go from one org to another. Our journal would become a GSS publication. Any problems? Can you see any? Would like your feedback as board of directors. CFIS will close in August. It will cost GSS nothing. GSA will pay for all legal fees. And UBC admin likes this. One downside is, if we become a subsidiary, we are under you and you are liable.

Do you see any problems?

Is it possible to be a member of both GSA and GSS? Conflict of interest?

-Yes can be both. Conflict? Not sure- will try to work with CPC.

Think this is a good thing- advantages- legal liability is an issue. Signing authority? \$14,000 becomes our money, so need to be careful how we design code. Will be increased admin costs. Would IGSA bear those costs?

-Can't answer for UBC- but I think UBC should. Will look into that.

Advantages-could get those if they became normal members of GSS- so what is benefit? And how do you see the future- provost giving money now, but what about later? -David Ferrar said he will fund it as long as we do good things. Most imp thing would be to assure them we are doing good stuff. But can't guarantee next provost will give money. If there was a situation, would like it be in code that we don't need to drain money from GSS.

Take out liability insurance for liability?

-not sure

Joel says no, can be contractual issues too. If IGSA takes out contract, and then doesn't have money, we are liable. So insurance wouldn't cover it.

Come find Chris if you have questions.

Surprise Item: Joel Atwater. Conny would like to thank him for all of his contributions. He has been working all levels- no part of GSS he hasn't touched.

Joel- It has been a pleasure. Congrats to all the people who no longer have to deal with me. This org is fantastic, lots of potential, look forward to seeing what you will do in the coming years.

4. **Financial Updates**

Robert Klinzmann, Vice President, Finance & Simon Ma, GSS Accountant. Would like to review our performance from May to November. Goes over summary of financial operations. Difference between what was budgeted and what we got was \$5,000 more, which was nice. Will end up with a little surplus in the revenue. We can see costs went down, in Services. The biggest part is the Operational Cost to keep the GSS running. We were conservative when we budgeted. Not as many departments applying for DOFs, and Emergency Fund is not utilized much, which saves around \$15,000. So consider this- you can apply annually for DOF. Business operations- still need to pay rent for Pub, but got rent reduction. Had many bookings managers. It's nice that the bookings department is making more profits than expected- will make \$25,000 profit. Will have surplus of \$94,670, hopefully. But that includes CPIF number, so it is actually around \$40,000. We should use it for useful things. It's a good sign that we do not start this year with a disaster.

Q-

Bookings- someone came from Fogs. If there is a surplus, how does that affect them?
- Fogs wants to ask for us to lower prices and keep some the same. We lose a lot of money. We asked them to cover costs. Any money we make can be used for GSS. Why should a big department take up so much money from us? They are not happy about increase.

Can we make numbers larger next time?

-yes

Can find document on dropbox link. Bookings mandate is in own department. If council decides to subsidize, it can come from other departments You are free to decide that.

Robert talks about Special Events fund- if you want to create an event, we can fund \$350. Extra surplus can flow into increasing student services so that students get something out of the GSS.

5. **Sprouts**

Nicole Jahraus . Presentation on Seedlings. Will open here on Monday! We are an offshoot of Sprouts- an AMS club. We are a volunteer run food cooperative. We have a grocery store and try to make fair trade and organic affordable for students. We have several different programs- one is SproutsBox, which funds most of our initiatives. You can subscribe to get a box for \$15. All local veg. Have Community Eats, Workshops, Events. (Shows menu for seedlings) 9-4 Monday-Friday, lunch to 2pm. Let us know if you have suggestions, visit our website!

Q- Where is Community Eats?

-In basement of SUB.

III. Executive Remarks (5mins max. each report)

President – Conny Lin- BC grad scholarship trying to push for many years- collaboration with many Universtite- secured meeting with minister- feedback is minister is in support, but need to balance the sheet. Got good feedback. Need support from province though. Need to get out and tell people. Please let me know if you want to participate. Had lots of committee meetings. Finishing CPC code.

Vice-President, Academic & External – Rabia Khan- Hello Everyone. I am very sorry that I was not able to be there today. The evil Norovirus has me and, although I believe "Sharing is Caring", when it comes to contagious diseases precaution is best. With that said, I'm glad we are all back and ready to continue on what was a very productive last year. CASA planning is well underway now. CASA AGM will be happening Tuesday, March 19th to Friday March 22nd. Secondly, we have a new hire. Natalie Lyn Johnson is our new Advocacy officer and will train under Elie and Brenda until the summer where she will take over full time. During this transition period I hope you all introduce yourselves to her and make her feel very welcome. Ac/Ex met this week and we got to meet some of the candidates here today. We discussed a student emergency funding case, and briefly touched on Policy 85 - Academic Integrity, for which we will be putting forward amendments during the consultation phase. If anyone has any questions on any of these issues please feel free to email me directly.

Vice- President, Administration - Victor Padilla- have new hires, like advocacy officer in training. Also have Cara Dong, a councilor, as new hire for Services, sports coordinator. Closer to getting agreement for Pub. Close to having HR manual approved.

Vice-President, Finance – Robert Klinzmann- none.

Vice-President, Services – Yunfei Zhang- Please look at our new website- not perfect, but need your comments and suggestions. Check out our classes beginning soon. Still have offer of \$10 off any class for first timers.

Elie- mental health symposium on Jan 26th. Will get free breakfast and lunch. Just register. Feb. 6th suicide awareness, wear orange.

Recess 7:11pm

Meeting starts again at 7:32

IV. Committee Chair and Representative Reports (5mins max, each report)

Senate – Chris Roach: Last meeting was short- most interesting was Forest name change.

AMS Council - Chris Roach- referendum was discussed, do go online and read them.

AMS Health & Dental Committee - Sancho MaCann- not present

Board of Governors – N/A

Graduate Council - Kristan Marchak [no meeting]

Executive Committee - Conny Lin- We just came back from vacation, we reestablished connection with VP Research. Will continue meeting in future.

Code & Policy Committee – Conny Lin [skip due to oral presentation]

MMK Task Force – Chris Roach-Planning on bringing 3 motions on Council. Exec training and continuity- do one week shadowing training, required. Execs have to submit transition report linked to last paycheck. Must also have one office training day with staff.

Academic & External Committee - Rabia Khan absent

CASA AGM Task Force – Rabia Khan

Advocacy Task Force – Rabia Khan

Election Committee – Tom Woodsworth [*skip due to oral presentation*]

Executive Oversight Committee - Maxim Syklow- couldn't do any over the holidays, but Execs are still alive so I guess it's ok.

House Finance Committee – Robert Klinzmann (none)

Pub-Renewal Taskforce (House Finance) – Victor Padilla (none)

Human Resources Committee – Victor Padilla- (none)

Services Committee - Yunfei Zhang (none)

Accessibility at Orientation Taskforce (Services) [*Inactive*]

International Festival Taskforce (Services) – Ling Zhang- Nothing.

Safety and Sustainability Committee – Amanda Grochowich [*Inactive*]

V. Approval of Minutes

6. Council Minutes

BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated *December 6, 2012* be approved as presented.

Moved: Jahidur **Seconded:** Vivian

Motion Carried

7. Committee minutes

BIRT the minutes of *Service 20121106, CPC_20121130, Exec_20121129* be approved as presented.

Moved: Sabrina **Seconded:** Jahidur

Motion Carried

VI. Seatings, unseatings & appointments

8. Notice of unseatings (no vote necessary)

Sarah Jo have missed more than three council meetings and are unseated from the Council

_____ have submitted their resignation and are unseated from the Council.

_____ submitted resignation and is unseated from the House and Finance Committee

9. Seatings (Committee and External representatives)

BIRT *Jahidur Rahman* be seated on the *Executive Oversight* Committee

BIFRT *Christine Xu* be seated on the *Code & Policy* Committee

BIFRT *Bethany Schmidt* be seated on the *Academic & External Affairs* Committee

[External committees]

BIFRT *Behzad Shoolestani* be seated on the *Student Equity Awards adjudication* Committee

Moved: Vivian

Seconded: Yvonne

Motion Passes

VII. Motions

max. 3 min. for motivation; 15 min. for debates; 2 min. per question

10. Chinese Spring Festival GALA sponsor

[recommended by Services Committee, House Finance Committee & Code & Policy Committee]

Whereas GSS sponsored the 2012 Chinese Spring Festival GALA event with \$675

Whereas the Chinese Spring Festival GALA in Jan 2012 was successful as shown in the Dec 6th 2012 Meeting of Council presentation

Whereas the Chinese Spring Festival GALA is a good opportunity for UBC students to be exposed to traditional Chinese culture

BIRT GSS sponsors the 2013 Chinese Spring Festival GALA event with \$900.

Moved: Ling Zhang

Seconded: Tom

Q- (for Ling, who is motivating)

Sounds like a good idea, but how do you plan to record ticket sales, etc.?

-Do same as last year- we listed all costs and income from all sources.

Conny would like to echo what Robert Klinzmann said- we have excess money, so we should support these things.

One suggestion- could you record how many tickets sold before hand, at the door, etc.

Motion Passes.

11. Council engagement: Committee & External Rep duties
[from Code and Policy Committee]

WHEREAS Code and Policy Committee is working on amendment to:

4.5.1 Each councillor shall endeavour to join at least one Council Committee and participate in its activities.

WHEREAS the Code and Policy Committee wish to know the desire of the Council before continue to amend this code, therefore, would like the Council to vote on the following questions:

A) Do Council support obligations to serve on committees/rep

BIRT Council supports that Councillors shall **(be obligated/not be obligated)** to serve on a minimum of one committee or as a representative of the GSS in external bodies such as AMS or FoGs

Moved: Vivian **Seconded:** Sabrina

-Comments:

Could this cause some to drop out? (not answered)

Kind of agree...worried about wording. There's carrot and stick, and this is a stick. Already disadvantage councillors with the unseating process. Worried more about lack of representation. Would be more comfortable with softer language.

Two sides of argument: One side is, there is already soft code on this, it's encouraged, but to run this society we need committees to run this. We want to hear what you think. On the other side, every one of you has too many responsibilities, and don't want to take you away from that. Please tell CPC what you think.

Serving as a Councilor is important as that's where everything is explained to us. It helps us in Council meetings to have a better idea of what we are doing.

Sitting on AMS, it says must try to join a committee. But they are smaller- while that could be useful at the GSS- if people want to be involved, they will be. Think we should not pass this.

Very interested in joining, when I look at list it is a big commitment, and they don't fall in line with my schedule. Would like more information would be a good idea. My program is a one year, so it's difficult to find people to join- so if you tell them they have to come here and do a committee as well, it's too much. They are scared away.

Perhaps this could be encouraged in Orientation? We don't have lots of department reps now, compared to how many exist.

What if we were to have "be encouraged" (though it can't be enforced) what about it?

-CPC wants to know if you want code for an obligation or not.

Suggestion- maybe we can institute something like martial law, if there is scarcity, President can institute this and when it is filled, it can be removed. Don't have it 100% of the time.

Motion Fails

B) If the #1 question is positive, by when shall a new councillor start serving on committees/or as a rep

BIRT Council supports that Councillors shall take on a committee/external representative

- Immediately upon seating in Council

- By the next council meeting after being seated on Council

Moved: Conny Lin **Seconded:** _____

(was conditional, so not addressed)

12. Restructure of Sustainability and Accessibility Committee

[from Code & Policy Committee, Sustainability and Accessibility Committee, Executive Committee]

BIRT Council supports removing Sustainability and Accessibility Committee from our standing committee and reallocates its duties to Human Resources, House Finance, and Services Committee

Moved: Conny Lin **Seconded:** Michael

Motion Passes

Introduce a Motion: Chris Roach

Societies can endorse candidates- would like to support/endorse the five candidates running that are graduates.

BIRT the GSS endorses Philippe Edgecumbe, Nathalie Marshall, and Jeff Abeysekera for Senate and Erin Rennie and Conny Lin for BoGS.

Moved: Chris Seconded: Paul

Comments

Have had some discussion on this prior- not sure about endorsing, but it is in our interest to do so.

There are two BoGs seats, but there is a thorn in our side, as we are running against undergrads. It is harder to spread the word. I support the idea of Council endorsing this.

Motion Passes.

13. GU15

BIRT Council supports the Society hosting GU15 in Spring 2013

Should be some time in April. This comes to Council because you would be binding next year's Exec to it.

Would it be hard to organize, bearing in mind we are organizing CASA before it?

-No, we'd be doing most of the same work first for CASA anyways. And it's less people to worry about, around 15 or so.

Moved: Conny Lin **Seconded:** Gwen

Motion Passes.

VIII. Discussion

IX. Other Business

X. Notice

XI. Next meeting

The next Council Meeting shall take place on Feb 28, 2013

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:21pm