



GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Updated: 17 July 2012, 4:30pm

**July 26, 2012 5:30 PM
GSS Ballroom**

**Dinner at 7:00
Social after @ Patio or Ballroom**

Link to Agenda and supporting materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9h9xtayvy38hgn8/oZqfnJnGxO>

Present: Suborna Ahmed, Joel Atwater, Michael Begg, Molly Campbell, Ambrose Chan, Cara Dong, Fatemeh Haghighi, Christine Hochbaum, Gwen Huber, Conrad King, Robert Klinzmann, Vivian Lam, Conny Lin, Anna Lund, Kristan Marchak, Natalie Marshall, Victor Padilla, Andrew Patterson, Radu Racovita, Jahidur Rahman, Hafizur Rahman, Sabrina Rashid, Elie Sarraf, Paul Save, Stephania Schwartz, Cory Shankman, David Waddell, Stephanie Williams, Yunfei Zhang, Ling Zhang, Ting Ting Zhou, Kenji Scott, Rob Teagle, Tom Woodsworth, Ahmad Ashoori, Cynthia Min, Niall McGarvey, Omid Nourbakhsh, Richard Bortolon, Ehsan Mohammadi Zahrani, Brenda Fitzpatrick

Regrets: Mary Jinglewski, Rabia Khan, (video file sent for candidacy), Michael Fairchild, Chris Roach, Chris Regier, Stephanie Avery-Gomm, Amanda Grochowich, Sarah Jo, Ingrid Olson,

I. Call to order 5:40pm

II. Adoption of agenda

Moved: Conrad Seconded: Victor

Adopted by Unanimous Consent

Cory would like to add a motion:

BIRT the VP Ac/Ex Election be conducted in two rounds, with the first round selecting the top three candidates, with the second selecting a single candidate.

Moved: Cory Seconded: Robert

Cory motivates. No one opposed. Motion Carries Unanimously.

III. Introductions

IV. Presentations & relevant motions

1. Election of Vice President Academic & External (2:30 mns/sec limit per candidate, and 10 minute Q and A)

There are 6 nominees currently; no nominations from the floor.

Candidate Introduction: Ahmad Ashoori, Ricardo Bortolon, Cara Dong, Rabia Khan (via video), Tom Woodsworth, Ehsan Zahrani.

Question and Answer Period.

Paul: Motion to extend time to 10 minutes

Moved: Paul

Seconded: Conrad

Some Opposed

Motion Carries.

Joel Motions to go in Camera.

Moved: Joel

Seconded: Andrew

Thirder: Conny

Need 2/3 (have 7)

Against (majority)

Motion Fails.

Michael explains the voting process via iClicker. There are 3 rounds.

Round One Results:

1. Rabia
2. Ricardo
3. Tom

Round Two Results:

1. Rabia Khan

BIRT council appoints Rabia Khan to serve as VP Academic and External until the next AGM.

Moved: Robert **Seconded:** Joel
Requires 2/3 vote

Motion Carries. 4 against, 2 abstaining

Supporting document: Ac_Ex_candidates

2. Executive annual goal

Conny Lin, President (5mins presentation, 5min question)

Supporting document: Exec Annual Objectives_20120726rev

Conny: This came out of the Exec retreat, and we have been fine tuning it. It will outline what the Exec want to do. Collaboration, community, and continuity are the themes. Collaboration with external and internal bodies. Community- what does it mean? Need identity, and can use clubs and GSS building to do this. Don't waste resources on continuity. All these goals need unity; this is driven by Strategic Plan and fixing code. And working on council and membership engagement. (Goes through individual VP, Senator, and ED goals)

No questions.

3. Services department update

Yunfei Zhang, VP Services (20mins presentation, 10min questions)

Ling Zhang, Councillor, organizer for GSS Multicultural Event

This is about what the department has done so far, and what we will do in the future. We are the front line for providing diversified services for UBC. Have made an evaluation matrix (goes through 10 point system on how to improve, and what to cancel.) Goes through items list for events, classes, etc. Goes over promotion strategy. Discusses landmark events like Orientation, International Cultural Festival. Need more to attract students. Will use waterbottles this year as a new initiative. Will hold the International Cultural Festival with the AMS, the President's office, and many other groups. Need more career- orientated events. Encourage leadership through workshops. Website is a big asset. New design is ongoing. We have a new Council benefits plan. Ting Ting will be in charge of it. It is a way to say thank you. Explains the "One time \$10 deduction for Councilors" plan. This applies to classes and events. Email Ting Ting for participation.

Ling: Information about the International Cultural Festival. Comes out of the increasing diversity and awareness at UBC. We have 3,000 international grad students. So 30% are international. Explanation of program for event. Would be held at the end of September or October. Outlines people involved, and political and financial support.

Question period:

Cory would like to suggest involving the First Nations. Talk to local parliament. Good luck.

Conny would like to thank Ling and Yunfei for putting this together. Please come and support this.

Time is up on the presentation.

Motion to extend time by 5 minutes:

Moved: Yunfei

Seconded: Fatemeh

Motion Carries.

Break for dinner, 10 minutes 7:40pm

4. Collegia

Victor Padilla, VP Admin (10mins presentation, 5min question)

Victor goes through the history and layout of the Penthouse. We received \$25,000 in revenue from this room alone. Goes over the floor-plan. Similar model is at UBC-O. Idea is to create membership and community. Will be focused on 1st year students. Estimated 250 students in the Collegia. Membership at \$75 per student. Goes over what we are losing, vs. what we are gaining. Will still have it for convocation.

Concerns:

Can all of the jobs go to grad students? And we have 2 convocations, not one- can we use both?

-As the offer stands, we will not have November convocation.

I have serious concerns with the model. We are taking it away from all grad students, and we are giving it to only some. There are not going to be engineers that use this. This is taking away space to give it to independently wealthy students.

I disagree on how this idea originated. Andrew is happy to give an in camera session. We are giving away student space and costing students cash. We are having UBC operate a space that belongs to students and are charging for it. It's a VIP club.

5. Code and Policy Annual Plan

Conny Lin, Chair, Code & Policy Committee (5mins presentation, 5min question)

Supporting document: CPC Annual Plan 201207

This began last year. We have come up with a plan. "Stop complaining! Let's do something about it" is the motto. By the end of this term, we will have the whole thing revised. Goes over report details. The timeline is important. Have completed TOR part. We will circulate it to the council- we need your feedback. We will try to pass this during the SGM in January. Please let Conny know if you want to get involved.

**Why have a special meeting in January, not just in March for the AGM?*

-This is the contingency. Needs time and consensus. We'll have feedback and a second chance.

6. Executive Remuneration

Cory Shankman, Chair, Elections Committee (10mins presentation, 5min question) Gives plan for Remuneration Proposal. How does our pay compare? Cost of living, etc. What do they deserve to be paid? Prior feedback was: they work hard, we should pay them more. Tie Exec pay to TA pay. \$29.54 an hour. 192 hours a term. VPs \$17,000, and President \$20,000. Not tied to CPI. Goes over pros and cons.

Questions:

Feedback: Like it, in general: but not sure it should be tied to TA pay. We have had trouble already changing Bylaws. If you do CPI increase, it won't cause problems.

Curious- 192 hrs? Is it more or less?

-Idea isn't to pay them an hourly wage. Pay them a salary.

Don't tie it to wages. Set it in what the wage is. Ignore TA wages.

There's a metric for it. Eliminate it from Code.

Straw poll- agree with dollar figures? Not tied to TA wages?

(Only one wants it tied to TA wages.)

Membership fee is increasing, so it is easy to increase them tied.

Second the CPI increase.

7. TA Conference

Conrad King (5min presentation, 5min question) The Union is hosting a conference for unions across North America. Co-hosting it with SFU Union. (Goes over schedule) This is free for all grad students.

No questions.

8. CASA policy and strategic conference quick report

Conny Lin (5min presentation, 10min question) Conny and Andrew just came back from New Brunswick. Went through current political government, and then second day voted on policy. Third day was prioritizing policy. (Shows presentation done at CASA)

Question: When will it happen here?

-Last week of March, 2013

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

Supporting Document: GSS Newsletter July v2 and July Report_VPAdmin

No questions.

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

- UBC AVP Research International Search Committee: *Paul Save: Description of position: to put together the international efforts at UBC. It is strategizing how UBC is doing its international efforts. Not a closed process. Position has been posted as well. Forward good names to Paul or the committee. Look online for link. If there is a good Dean or someone (they don't need to nominate themselves) Must be a Tenured person.*

VII. Approval of Minutes

9. Council Minutes

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

Moved: Cory **Seconded:** Victor

Approved by Unanimous Consent

10. Committee minutes

BIRT the minutes of *2012-06-12 AcEx minutes, 2012-06-19 CPC minutes, 2012-06-20 Graduate Student Development Advisory Committee Meeting_Rabia Khan, 2012-07-03 AcEx minutes, 2012-07-03 CPC minutes, Communication 2012_06_12, Communication 2012_05_29, Communication 2012_07_03, Exec 2012-06-11 minutes, Exec 2012-07-09*

minutes, Exec 2012-07-16 minutes_supportingdoc, sustainability 2012-06-11, Sustainability 2012-06-25, Accessibility at Orientation Task Force Meeting Minutes June 29 2012 be approved as presented.

Moved: Radu **Seconded:** Cory
Approved by Unanimous Consent

VIII. Seatings, unseatings & appointments

1. Notice of unseatings (no vote necessary)

Gavin Weedon (Kinesiology), *Floyd Bardell* (Botany) and *Ben Shear* (Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education), have submitted their resignation and are unseated from the Council

June Schudeler (English) has missed more than three council meetings and is unseated from the Council

Cory Shankman and *Vivian Lam* have submitted their resignation and are to be unseated from the Elections Committee

Cory Shankman have submitted his resignation and is to be unseated from Code & Policy Committee

2. Seatings – External

BIRT _____ (Law or Commerce), _____ (Agriculture or Forestry) be seated as representative in the Graduate council

BIRFT *Victor Padilla* be seated on UBC Ponderosa Commons Working Committee

Moved: Victor **Seconded:** Paul
Motion Carries. One abstention.

3. Seatings –internal

BIRT *Ting Ting Zhou* be seated on Human Resources Committee

BIFRT _____ (2) be seated on Elections Committee

BIFRT *Andrew Patterson* be the chair of Elections Committee

BIFRT _____ (1) be seated on Code & Policy Committee

BIFRT *Cynthia Min* and *Tom Woodsworth* be seated on Academic & External Committee

BIFRT _____ (#) be seated on Multicultural task force under the Services Committee
(*Pending for 1) Services committee approval, and 2) TOR submission*)

BIRFT *Joel Atwater* be seated on pub renewal taskforce

Approved by Unanimous Consent.

IX. Motions

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

1. AMS Representative Coordinator

BIRT “AMS Representative Coordinator” policy revision be approved as presented.

Moved: Chris Roach

Seconded: Executive, Academic & External & Code & Policy Committees

Supporting Document: AMS Representative Code Changes

Motivated by Conny

Motion Passes by Unanimous Consent

2. Changes to the code governing elections

BIRT the following changes be made to the policy manual regarding the election of Executive Officers:

Moved: Cory Shankman

Seconded: Elections Committee

Cory motivates.

9.1 Date for

Elections

9.1.1 The

date for Society Elections shall be set by the President no later than the January Council meeting in accordance with Bylaw 6.3.

9.1.2 The period of campaigning shall be set by the

Chief Electoral Officer no later than one month prior to the start of the campaigning period.

9.1.3 The period

of campaigning may extend until the closing of polls.

9.1.4 Council

shall approve the results of the Society Elections at the

February Council meeting.

9.2.1 There

shall be an Elections Committee responsible for conducting Society elections in accordance with Bylaw ~~6.4(a)~~ 6.3 and the procedures described in this manual, unless Council delegates responsibility for conducting the election to an outside organization.

(a)in the

event of a breach of Elections Policy, the Elections committee may penalize a candidate. The Elections Committee shall determine remedies for such penalties, and its decision shall be final. Any action taken along with the reasons for such action must be presented to Council. Penalty options include, but are not limited to:

(a)penalize a candidate in the event of a breach of

Elections Policy,~~the~~

~~— Elections committee may penalize a candidate.~~ The

Elections Committee shall determine remedies for such penalties, and its decision shall be final. Any action taken along with the reasons for such action must be presented to Council. Penalty options include, but are not limited to:

9.8.2 The

candidate shall forward in writing the name of their ~~scrutinizer~~ scrutineer to the Chief

Electoral Officer.

Moved: Cory Shankman **Seconded:** Elections Committee

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Motion from the Floor: Cory

BIRT that Council directs the House Finance Committee to examine the Election Committee's proposal as discussed at today's meeting for executive remuneration and report to Council on the progress by the September Council meeting on the proposal's feasibility.

Moved: Cory Seconded: Stephanie

Passed by Unanimous Consent.

Motion to reopen Graduate Council Vote

Moved: Seconded:

Hamish Stewart (Law)

Motion withdrawn.

X. Discussion Period

Interest straw poll: Presentation from Koernor's Foundation on the History of Koerner's House (Conny Lin)

Would like one.

Unanimous.

Straw poll: Pub Task Force mandate (Conrad King) ? (results unclear)

XI. Other Business

XII. Notice:

- Academic and External Committee will organize an award ceremony for the **cIRcle Open Scholar Award** that will be held on Oct 18th, 2012 at GSS Council meeting at the Ballroom for the Oct 2012 awardee, and held on April 18th, 2013 at GSS Council meeting at the Ballroom for the April 2013 awardee
- Submit your work to cIRcle to win **cash prizes!** Please advertise widely! See more: <http://circle.sites.olt.ubc.ca/gss-graduate-student-society-open-scholar-award/>
- Executive Committee invites **UBC-O GSS Council** to attend UBC-V GSS on Aug 16th Council meeting and the social after!
- **Strategic Plan** Update will come to Council in Aug 2012
- **Budget** Proposal in Aug 2012

XIII. Next meeting & Adjournment:

Moved: Victor Seconded: Gwen

Adjourned 9:01pm

**The next Council Meeting shall take place on Aug 16, 2012
Special Guest, UBC-O GSS Council**