

# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm. | Minutes by Odo Ansah

**Present:** Gen Cruz, Jennifer De Boer, Nicholas McGregor, Xiao lie Deng, Shalini Arya (Mahshid), Adam Howe, Amber Shilling, Andrew Wong (Amanda Pisis proxy), Natasha Little (Bradley Balaton proxy), Andrew Leyland, Nathanael Caveney (Andrew Alexander proxy), Jason Speidel (proxy Gillian Fuss), Charles Copeland, Christina Wiesmann, Rachel Bickel (David Gill proxy), Elizabeth Bulaeva, Morgan Shepherd, Hamza Khan, John Dupuis, Jennifer Campbell, Krish Maharaj, Marysol Garcia, Oguzhan Tuysuz, Katerina Othonos, Tal Shalev, Sarah, Clayton Whitt (proxy for Emily Allan), Emily Gray, Oksana T (proxy for Zoe L), Shadi Balandeh, Natasha Little, Kelsi Lix, Natalie Marshall (proxy Michael Thejoe), Shakun Singla, Logan McDonald, Odon Pedro, Dante Mendoza, Yaseen Mottiar

**Regrets:** Miranda Huron, Bradley Balaton, Sneha Balani, Harry Li, Karen Simmons, Dylan B, Shona, Kathleen Hare

**Absent:** Anujit Chakraborty, Chad Rickaby, Chen Vu, James Lawson, Jasleen Grewal, Jennifer Bok, Joann Anokwiru, Julie Van de Valk, Kyle Loewen, Peter Chen, Raghav Grover, Taqdir Bhandal, Veronica Knott, Yulia Merkulova, Christie Waltham, Dan Kehila, Francisco Gomez-Lopez, Jennifer Zhao, Mirza Sarwar,

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm with 28 individuals that counted towards quorum

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER:** Krish Maharaj

**SECONDER:** John Dupuis

Amendment to the agenda to include in the unseatings section, Yaseen Mottiar from the Academic and External Affairs Committee and to include in the seatings section, one councillor to join Academic and External Affairs Committee.

**MOVER:** Yaseen Mottiar

**SECONDER:** Oguzhan Tuysuz

### Adopted unanimously

Amendment to add the following two motions to the agenda in Section I, Part 5:

Whereas microphones are needed for many events at the GSC, and we currently do not have enough working mics to host events, and

Whereas the project titled "Wireless Microphones" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$880 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of two SHURE BLX288/PG58 wireless microphones.

Whereas BBQs are needed for many proposed events at the GSC, and we currently do not have any, and

Whereas the project titled "BBQs" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$600 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of a propane BBQ.

**MOVER:** Shona Robinson

**SECONDER:** Yaseen Mottiar

### Adopted unanimously

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Amendments to include “Code of Conduct” and “GSS Loft in AMS Nest” as discussion periods in Section K of the agenda

**MOVER:** Gen Cruz

**SECONDER:** Christina Weismann

**Adopted unanimously**

Point of information

Shona Robinson- Point of Information as to whether the budget presentation would be part of the budget debate.

Speaker- Will not accept the Presentation unless it is part of a plan where the presentation would immediately precede the budget debate. Do you wish to make a motion to amend the agenda to have the presentation before the motion?

President - Agrees to have a motion to amend the agenda to permit the presentation as part of the budget debate.

Speaker: In the future, a presentation as part of a motion will be ruled out of order as it is a presentation, not a debate. You will have to seek permission from the Chair to make the presentation.

Amendment to move the GSS Budget motion before the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer election.

**MOVER:** Gen Cruz

**SECONDER:** Jennifer DeBoer

**Adopted unanimously**

Vote on main motion

**31/0/0**

**Adopted**

## **B. Introductions**

- The Speaker asked councillors to introduce themselves.
- Sarah Park, Vice President for Academic Affairs, (The Science Undergraduate Society) introduced herself as part of councillor introductions.
- The speaker asked if she was a graduate student to which she replied “no”.
- The Speaker informed her that GSS Council meetings are a closed meeting for members of the GSS and she would have to leave unless invited by a member.
- She indicated she had been invited to speak.
- The Speaker apologized and welcomed her to the meeting.

## **C. Affiliate Organization Recognition**

WHEREAS the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization.

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in June 2017:

- **Centre for Hip Health & Mobility;**
- **Joint Student Chapter of Materials Engineering;**
- **Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA);**
- **Science and Technology Studies Student Society**

**MOVER:** Morgan Shepherd

**SECONDER:** Logan McDonald

## Motion passed by a unanimous consent

### D. Presentations

- **Strategic framework update from the Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee (SPAHC). Presented by Sneha Balani and Natalie Marshall.**

- Sneha
- Due to the need for GSS to have guidelines to better serve graduate students, headed by the then executives, the SPAHC was formed with an aim to define a five year vision of the GSS.
  - The framework has to be passed at council before the end of the year in order to implement the Strategic Framework (2017-2021) in January 2017.
  - In view of this, the timeline for the framework has been designed to have internal consultations with committees by July 2016,
  - Ex-executive consultations and graduate feedback by August 2016,
  - Councilor consultations by September 2016,
  - Finished draft by November, and finally presented at council meeting in November 2016.
  - The sources used included the GSS Bylaws, Mission Statement, GSS Retreat materials, GSS Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey (GSSGSS), World Cafes, GSS External Review (2010), and Place, and Promise: The UBC Plan.
  - Natalie added that the committee was a small group and would need councillors to join.
  - The Strategic Plan was organised into three themes:
    - Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics
    - Theme 2: Graduate Student Community
    - Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society
  - The following questions were presented to Council to facilitate the consultation process:
    - How would you like us to consult graduate students on the strategic plan?
      - a) Online feedback for focus
      - b) Post the draft online; Should we have a Council motion to approve this?
      - c) Host a town hall
    - How would you like us to consult you on the Strategic plan?
      - a) Come to our committee meeting
      - b) Circulation of working document to all/interested councillors
      - c) Presentation style in August
      - d) Discussion period after council?
      - e) An in-depth discussion about the draft in September?

Request to extend time to 10mins

**MOVER:** Amber Shilling

**SECONDER:** Yaseen Mottiar

**Adopted unanimously**

Natalie - Goals for the various themes are:

- Theme 1, to empower UBC graduate students to succeed in their academic experience at UBC by conducting research-based advocacy on issues affecting graduate student academics.
- Theme 2, to support UBC graduate students by fostering a safe, inclusive and global community on campus and building community and well-being through varied social and recreational events.
- Theme 3, to constantly improve its efficiency, transparency, accountability, and communication in order to better fulfill its vision and purpose.

Sneha - Pointed out that the aforementioned are goals which would require actions to ensure implementation.

## **Debate and Discussion**

- There was a clarification that the Strategic Plan will not replace the GSS Bylaw
- Rather, the Bylaw will be a source for the strategic plan.
- Also, the actions under each goal would not be limiting but would be assigned to portfolios of active committees in other not to over burden executives.
- Q. An inquiry was made based on section 14.4 of the Bylaw on the role of Executives in the Strategic Plan
- A. The Strategic Planning Committee would work with the Executives especially the President.
- A straw poll was taken as to ideas to generate feedback from councillors regarding the strategic plan.
  - Most Councillors were in favour of the following ideas:
  - Having a copy of the draft of the Strategic Plan being sent out to graduate students and Councillors for feedback to be sent to the Strategic Planning Committee;
  - Posting the draft online for students input;
  - Joining the Strategic Planning Committee;
- Finally, the Committee encouraged Councillors to send their ideas and feedback on how the GSS should be run in 5yrs.

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## **Presentation from Sarah Park on a brief overview of the mentorship program.**

Sarah Park –

- Gave an overview on the idea of having a one-to-one / one-to-two mentorship between graduates and undergraduate students.
- The aim of the program is to demonstrate to undergraduate students the nature of graduate school
- Provide additional resources to facilitate this.
- To have graduate students mentor undergraduate students on career choice and advice
- There would be fifteen (15) Mentors and fifteen (15) Mentees to begin with.
- Council is encouraged to spread the word on the need for mentors and include assurances that there will be materials available to assist graduate students in mentoring.
- The program has been scheduled to have applications ready for mentors to review in August 2016, closed in September and training following immediately after
- There will be online screening to aid in pairing mentors with mentees.
- Departmental Representatives are encouraged to spread the word to graduate students that the program organisers are looking for Mentors
  - The program would allow Mentors to be innovative in their mentoring methods.

## **Debate and Discussion**

- Q. Is the programme the same as the URO program?
- A. The program is different from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Mentorship program (URO).
- It has a little elaboration that differentiates it from the URO.
- Natalie Marshall explained that the URO program restricts undergraduate students to Mentorship on how to design research question.
- This program goes beyond that and includes career advice and mentorship for senior undergraduate students.
- Sarah Park concluded that the graduate student will be expected to meet the Mentee at least twice a term and the expectation would be solely Mentee dependent

## **Summary Findings on the topic ‘GSS Workplace Climate Survey’ Completed by the HR Committee.**

Adam Howe

- The Survey was done in two parts;
  1. GSS staff and Councillors’ attitude towards the corporate culture, the environment and internal processes at GSS.
  2. Councillors (and staff) attitudes and experiences on the topic of bullying, harassment, & safety
- The overall findings for both parts showed a positive outlook on the GSS.
- There were informed and helpful feedback and criticisms.
- The major themes that emerged from the survey were about communication, training, harassment and bullying, safety, effectiveness and accountability.
- The Survey on councillors revealed some areas that Council needs to improve on.
- On communication, the effective use of time in council, open lines of communications, and freedom to express ones opinion in council were highlighted.
- On training, the need for training of councillors as to how to engage in council, how to submit agenda items, the use of Roberts Rules of Order, clarity on the structure and interaction within the GSS, and the need for better training on dealing with bullying and threats.
- The staff survey discussed that accountability of executives’ obligations (e.g. office hours), better training for staff, and for councilors, respectful interaction among staff, and between staff & executives/councilors,
- Executives being open to suggestions and making use of expertise of staff, safety and security concerns and three incidents of internal bullying, harassment and/or intimidation within the last year.

## **Debate and Discussion**

Q. Yaseen Mottiar - Was the survey taken of current staff?

A. Adam Howe - Yes

Q. Yaseen Mottiar - When was the survey taken.

A. Adam Howe - At the same time as the council survey.

Q. Shona Robinson - Can the House-Finance Committee access the safety concerns communicated in the survey.

A. Adam Howe - I do not see why not.

## D. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

### 2. Notice of Unseating (*no vote necessary*)

**Yaseen Mottiar** - was unseated from the Academic and External Affairs committee

**Ingrid Olson**- was unseated as the Departmental Representative for Cross Faculty Inquiry in Education.

**Nimisha Arora** was unseated as the Departmental Representative for Obstetrics and Gynaecology

**Mary-Anne Shonoda** was unseated as the Departmental Representative for English

**Kyla Drzazgowski** was unseated as the Departmental Representative for English

**Olenka Forde** was unseated as the Departmental Representative for Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science

**Parker Jobin** was unseated as the Departmental Representative for MD/PHD Program

**Amber Shilling** was unseated as Chair of the HR Committee

**Sarah Simon** was unseated from the Executive Oversight Committee

**Joon Seon Lee** was unseated as the Departmental Representative for Botany

**Ran Xiang** was unseated as the Departmental Representative for Education

BIRT the following Seating are approved:

**Pedro Odon** was seated as an Ordinary Member in the House Finance Committee.

**Natasha Little** was seated to the Strategic Planning Committee (Ordinary Member)

**John. Dupuis** and **Krish Maharaj** were seated to the Strategic Planning Committee (Councillors).

**Kathleen Hare** was seated as Chair to the Human Resources Committee

**Natalie Marshall** was seated as a Councillor to the Executive Oversight Committee

**Krish Maharaj** was seated as Chair to the Code and Policy Committee

The speaker requested that the Administrative Assistant and President should work with the Committee Chairs to update Committee list for Councillors.

**MOVER:** Logan McDonald

**SECONDER:** Adam Howe

**Vote on Motion**

**Adopted unanimously**

Amend to the agenda to move the GSS budget presentation up on the council motions.

**MOVER:** Jennifer DeBoer

**SECONDER:** Xiao lie Deng

**Adopted unanimously**

## I. Council Motions

### 3. Approval of Annual Budget for fiscal year 2016-2017

Presentation from the Executive Committee on the GSS budget for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Gen Cruz-

- The Finance and Executive Oversight Officer (Xiao lei Deng) would not present the budget so as to keep the day's election process fair.
- Consulted with Tobias (immediate past President of GSS) on how the GSS budget had been for the last two years
- There had been a surplus over the previous years and so in 2014 the then Executives restructured staff and Executive positions.
- Hired staff to expand on services and proposed a fee increase of \$30 in the AGM which was not approved.
- From 2015- 2016, the Executives considered what was lacking in the GSS
- Updated insurance for general commercial liability, liquor liability coverage, Directors and Officers Insurance, and made significant budget cuts
- The previous Executives proposed a deficit and that was why they suggested a fee increase which was not approved.
- The 2015-2016 President focused on improving the budgeting process changed the fiscal year from the calendar year to the academic year,
- Changed account names for more clarity and made significant cuts
- There were no Executive meetings that were budgeted for and the Council retreat was cancelled last year.
- In conclusion, the GSS needs to improve service levels, more events and relevant programs, and improved engagement.”
- The President extended gratitude to Shona Robinson (Chair of HR) for helping with the budget and the presentation for the budget.

Moving forward

- The deficit was eating up the unrestricted funds of the 2016-2017 academic year.
- The surplus was used to fund new staff positions so that Executives could focus on services and representation rather than looking into Insurance agreements and building management.
- Some proposed options to be considered in future would be;
  - To keep spending unrestricted funds,
  - Cut full time staff,
  - Raise membership fees,

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- Cut services, hold fundraisers,
- Ask University for additional support,
- Cut services like the emergency fund,
- Cut memberships with CASA, ABCS, etc.

## Executive goals and budgets for 2016-2017

Presidents- Gen Cruz

- Goal for the year is communication, team building and overseeing projects.

BIRT the GSS extends time for 10minutes

**MOVER:** Krish Maharaj

**SECONDER:** Yaseen Mottiar

### Adopted unanimously

Vice President Academics Affairs – Shalini Arya

- Focus on student academic support, lobbying for student support
- Research funding, programming to enhance academic and non-academic experience.

Vice-President External – Nicholas McGregor

- Host regular events to identify issues on campus engage with CASA on student wellness and financial aid policies
- Host Premier Candidates' debate with AMS as part of provincial GOTV campaign.
- The budget showed 25% lower than last year's budget due to lower ABCS fees, cuts in hotel cost, reduced election budget and not attending the UBCM meeting

Vice-President Students- Jennifer DeBoer

- Develop and facilitate holistic programs and events for on and off-campus students.
- Events will include low-cost meetups (for example, rock climbing, impactful orientations, reorientations, cultural, physical, environmental activities).

The Executives concluded by saying that

- GSS invested in staff in order to grow and enhance its role and presence on campus.
- And because there is no governing body which supports graduate student needs as GSS, the GSS must run a deficit and secure a modest fee increase to sustain current operations and stimulate future growth.

BIRT the GSS approves the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2016-2017

**MOVER:** Gen Cruz

**SECONDER:** Logan McDonald

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## Debate and Discussion

- Q. The Executive retreat for councillors is 1000, and for executives it is 970. Yaseen asked for further details justifying why the Executive retreat was still listed for June even though Council specifically voted to amend the June budget to remove the Executives retreat.
- A. Gen Cruz- The Council retreat will be held in the fall and that the amount will be 970 for Executives retreat and 1000 for Councillors.
- Q. Yaseen Mottiar – Why the Emergency Fund was budgeted as \$0.
- A. Jennifer DeBoer- Stated that House Finance knew there were discussions going on in ACEX regarding the processing of emergency fund applications and HF with input from other outside the committee decided to move the funds while those processes could be looked at more closely.
- Q. Yaseen Mottiar- Would these funds be on hold if the budget was passed?
- A. Jennifer DeBoer - No, it is not on hold. HF will continue to look at improving the process but ACEX has the authority to fund emergency fund applications as they arise.
- Q. Yaseen Mottiar. How many advocacy officers are there.
- A. Gen Cruz – One but two more are being trained.
- Q. Natalie Marshall- Asked about the Executives plan for dealing with the structural budget deficit.
- A. The executives have started discussions and explorations on what actions GSS would take on the proposed deficits and ideas will be welcomed from the council.

Amendment to decrease the amount in line 11: 830 to \$970 and move from June to August (Executives Retreat) and increase the amount in line 11: 835 to \$1000 in October (Councillors Retreat).

**MOVER:** Shona Robinson

**SECONDER:** Krish Maharaj

Amendment to the Amendment to strike October line 11:835 and make it September. The amendment would read:

Amendment to decrease amount line 11: 830 to \$970 and move June to August and increase the amount in line 11: 835 to \$1000 in September.

**MOVER:** Natalie Marshall

**SECONDER:** Adam Howe

**Adopted unanimously**

## Debate and Discussion

- Q. Yaseen Mottiar- Asked a question on staff appreciation
- A. Gen Cruz- Answered that the budget line in 740 is fine

BIRT the GSS approves the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 as amended with the following two amendments: decrease the amount in line 11: 830 to \$970 and move from June to August (Executives Retreat) and increase the amount in line 11: 835 to \$1000 in September (Councillors Retreat).

Vote on main motion

**33/0/1**

**GSS budget approved.**

#### **4. Appointment of Financial and Executive Oversight Officer**

Out of the four candidates who applied, two were present and were given 3 mins each to speak to Council. The two candidates were Xiao lie Deng and Dante Mendoza. Dante was elected as the new FEOO by a count of 23 to 10 votes.

BIRT the GSS appoints Dante Mendoza as Financial and Executive Oversight Officer for the 2016-2017 academic year starting from August 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

**MOVER:** Logan McDonald

**SECONDER:** Katarina Othonos

**Adopted unanimously**

**Motion to recess for twenty (20) minutes**

**MOVER:** Jennifer DeBoer

**SECONDER:** Peter Chen

**Adopted unanimously**

Council resumed at 8:45 pm. 28 Councillors counted towards quorum

- Jason Speidel proxy for Gillian Fuss; and
- Dante Mendoza proxy for Shona Robinson;
- Natalie Marshall proxy for Michael Thejoe proxy

#### **Capital Investment Funding (CIF) projects**

- Office Chairs

Whereas five GSS board room chairs have been standing in for GSS office chairs,  
Whereas three existing office chairs were uncomfortable,  
Whereas we will not stand for this,  
Whereas the project titled "Office Chairs" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore  
BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$540 from the Capital Improvements Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase eight office chairs.

**MOVER:** Logan McDonald

**SECONDER:** Nicolas McGregor

**Adopted unanimously.**

- Portable Chest Freezer

Whereas the GSS needs a freezer to keep food frozen and safe for barbecues,  
Whereas the project titled "Portable Chest Freezer" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore  
BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$392 from the Capital Improvements Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of a chest freezer.

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**MOVER:** Krish Maharaj

**SECONDER:** Nicolas McGregor

**Adopted unanimously.**

- Microphones

Whereas microphones are needed for many events at the GSC, and we currently do not have enough working mics to host events, and

Whereas the project titled “Wireless Microphones” satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$880 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of two SHURE BLX288/PG58 wireless microphones.

**Mover:** Jennifer DeBoer

**Secunder:** Logan McDonald

**Adopted unanimously.**

- Whereas BBQs are needed for many proposed events at the GSC, and we currently do not have any, and

Whereas the project titled “BBQs” satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$600 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of a propane BBQ.

**MOVER:** Andrew Leyland

**SECONDER:** Logan McDonald

**Debate and Discussion**

Q. Yaseen Mottiar- Whether the GSS already has a BBQ, and if so the need to purchase another one.

A. Jennifer DeBoer- The GSS does have a BBQ that was recently purchased.

Q. Yaseen Mottiar- Why the item has already been purchased even though Council has not approved the expense.

A. Jennifer DeBoer- Jennifer stated that a BBQ was purchased to be used for new GSS BBQ events and that the purchase was discussed at House Finance and approved as a CIF project.

A. Xiao lei Deng- There was a deal on BBQs so the BBQ was purchased in advance of the CIF application in order to take advantage of the deals

Q. Natasha Little- Will the BBQ be accessible for off-campus events because CIF requires that the items be used in the building.

A. Jennifer DeBoer- They would be if they could find a way to transport the BBQ.

Vote on motion

**22/3/3**

**Adopted.**

- a. Event Fund Report - Nothing was reported

## E. Approval of Minutes

b. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016” be approved as presented.

**MOVER:** Krish Maharaj

**SECONDER:** Andrew Leyland

### Debate and Discussion

- Friendly request to correct the writing of Krish Maharaj and Oguzhan Tuysuz’s names.
- Request to include the ending time of Council meeting to the minutes
- Natalie Marshal spoke against adoption of the minutes because she felt the minutes did not accurately capture the discussions that occurred and because the previous meeting was rather important (attempted expulsion of a member).

Vote on motion

**12/9/5**

## F. Executive Remarks

(3 minutes)

President – Gen Cruz

- Recognized Christina Weismann and John Dupuis for their dedicated service in cleaning the attendance list, which allowed Executives to contact different Councillors who exceeded the allowable number of absences.
- Executives received a 4-hour workshop from Amber Shilling, the commissioner for Indigenous affairs.
- Interest in connecting the GSS to indigenous graduate student issues.
- Raised a question about the GSS adapting the land acknowledgement as prescribed by the UBC longhouse.
- Extended an invitation to Councillors to join in the discussion.
- Concluded with an update on plans for the website, and the well-being steering committee focused on holistic graduate student wellbeing.

The Speaker gave a friendly request for Councillors to remember to dispose off their used disposable plates in the garbage bin provided.

- Vice-President University & Academic Affairs – Shalini Arya
  - The role of the advocacy officer is being restructured and streamlined with other campus partners.
  - Will work with Gen Cruz to get commissioners more involved in the GSS.
- Vice-President External Relations – Nicholas McGregor

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- Gen and Nick will be in Winnipeg for the CASA Policy & Strategy conference at the end of the month.
- At this conference CASA will be considering the adoption of 4 priority themes for the year.
- With the ABCS we are working also on a housing campaign to get government to focus on financing housing on post-secondary campuses.
- Had a meeting with the VP External of the SFU GSS to begin building collaborative relationship.
- Spoke with the Local MP Joyce about graduate student financial aid
- Currently working on a variety of other issues affecting graduate students.
- Vice-President Students – Jennifer DeBoer mentioned three things;
  - Programming and events- Went hiking last week,
  - Orientation coming up- Need graduate students to help with the orientation of new graduate students.
  - Collaborate with AO's to help with programming and events.
- Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Xiao lei Deng
  - Signing authority for the GSS credit card.
  - Oversight is working to discover legal problems, conflict resolution and proper management

## G. Committee Reports

(3 minutes)

- Academic & External Affairs Committee – No report
- Code and Policy Committee – No report
- Executive Oversight Committee – No report
- House Finance Committee – Shona Robinson
  - Talked about CIF projects, and also the opening seats for two Councillors and Ordinary members that will need to be filled.
- Human Resources Committee – Amber Shilling
  - The committee met and dealt with previous month's business.
  - Amber Shilling stepped down as chair of the HR committee and Kaye Hare is the new chair.
- Services Committee – No report
- Elections Committee – No report
- Strategic Planning – Sneha Balani
  - The Committee has been working and will meet next week

- Harassment and Discrimination Committee – Gen Cruz

The Committee will launch a harassment survey in the first semester and are looking to get an MOU with the VP-Students office.

## H. Representative Reports

(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – No representative was present.

- Graduate Council – Natalie Marshall

Had no recent meetings and there will be seatings in September.

- Senate – Miranda Huron and Jason Speidel

Have goals which will be presented by August.

Doing consultations on finalizing goals on students' mental health

- BOG – The was no representative present

- Presidential Search Committee – Amber Shilling

There is a new president Dr. Santa Ono

Thanked Council for voting her to represent GSS at that level.

## Questions Period

Jennifer DeBoer

- Invited Councillors to sign up for any of the events mentioned earlier in her report.

Nicholas McGregor

- Responded to a question on SFU that their discussions were focused on local issues.

Xiao lie Deng

- Similar to last year, the Finance and Executive Oversight position will begin in August 31<sup>st</sup> where Dante Mendoza will officially start
- The old and new Finance and Executive Oversight officer have agreed to begin the transitioning next week Thursday.

An inquiry was made about the loft story which was in an email and Gen Cruz answered that they were working on it.

## Q. Other Business and Notice of Motions

### Code of conduct

- Amber Shilling referred to the code of conduct as 'the actions of business arising from last month's expulsion'.
- She recounted that privacy and confidentiality exists in GSS for both staff and councillors but they were not well understood.

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- She added that the committee proposes the importance to review councillor orientation as well as ordinary members that join committees that deals with sensitive information do not sign confidentiality or code of conduct agreement.
- She mentioned that they noted that governance was missing. She added that the committee debated on having a governance committee or an Ad hoc or a task force but they realised that it should not be an HR committee decision but a council decision.

## **Proposed action items:**

The house was presented with the following options for deliberation

- a. Ad Hoc committee on Government created;
  - b. A committee on governance be created;
  - c. An Ad Hoc committee on code of conduct be created;
  - d. A combination of the previously mention; and
  - e. None of the above
- Amber further mentioned that the committee sees it critical for council to address code of conduct and she invited Krish Maharaj to give an informal legal thought.
  - Krish opined that everyone should be bounded by confidentiality agreement.
  - Amber further explained that GSS has diverse individuals the survey noted the lack of communication. She continued that they realised code of conduct had other departments embedded in it and hence the recommendation for an Ad hoc committee

Further recommendations:

- To create an Ad Hoc committee that would work on the code and conduct and distribute the parts that should be handled by other committees to the various committees (code and policy would handle a part and HR would also handle a section that is within their jurisdiction)
- To create an Ad Hoc committee that would explore other options in GSS, handles orientation and training.
- To have a code of conduct committee which is made up of councillors and/or ordinary members, and to consult staff and volunteers so as to incorporate their views
- Have a governance committee that sees into GSS Council business.
- Nicholas McGregor pointed out that CASA members have research that could be referenced. CASA put together an Ad hoc committee that handles undergraduate student's misbehaviours.
- To have one Ad Hoc committee to handle everything.
- Deliverology- experience individuals that advice prime minister on how things should move
- To have a competitive HR policy book.

# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm. | Minutes by Odo Ansah

- Take codes and policy issues and include in strategic plan
- One Ad Hoc committee
- Amber Shilling concluded on the need for an Ad Hoc committee and encouraged that members send more discussion to the president.
- It was accepted unanimously to continue the discussion and forward ideas to the committee.

Due to conflict of interest, the speaker left before the 'GSS Loft' was discussed.

## **GSS Loft: Gen Cruz**

- Updated council on the message about the loft sent last Wednesday.

Motion to move to an in-camera session.

**MOVER:** Krish Maharaj

**SECONDER:**

## **R. Notices**

## **S. Submissions**

## **N. Next Meeting**

Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## **O. Adjournment**

Council adjourned at 10:15 pm.