



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday May 15, 2014

GSS Ballroom

### Present:

Adam Luna, Alexis Black, Ali McAfee, Ambrose Chan, Arni Thrastarson, Catherine Jenkins, Christopher Dickman, Christopher Quick, Christopher Roach, Colúm Connolly, Conny Lin, Craig Kerr, Dan Cohen, Daniel Wood, Ehsan Espid, Enav Zusman, George Furey, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Hamid Omid, Ingrid Olson, Inti Dewey, Jack Hickmott, Jahidur Rahman, Jeff Abeysekera, Jon Newell, Julia Varela, Julienne Jagdeo, Kevin Mehr, Kreso Sola, Laura Bohachyk, Lena Patsa, Mahsa Mojahednia, Martina Volfova, Matt Sacheli, Min Xia, Natalie Marshall, Omid Nourbakhsh, Patrick Lo, Pooya Hosseini, Raphael Rocco, Shona Robinson, Sima Valizadeh, Sneha Balani, Sofiya Lazarova, Vinodha Chetty, Vivian Lam

### Regrets:

Andrea Jones, Eric Becklin, Hafizur Rahman, Jackie Davis, Julie Zhang, Kaleb Boucher, Kristan Marchak, Luz Caudillo, Min Xia, Mitchell Meler, Parker Jobin

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:53pm.

1. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER: Natalie Marshall** **SECONDER: Colúm Connolly**  
**PASSES**

### B. Introductions

### C. Presentations to Council

*(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)*

- **Endnotes 2014: Strangely Familiar, Reading and Recognition in English Studies**, Alayna Becker  
Endnotes is an annual conference hosted by the English department. They have received funding from the Special Events Fund for the previous three years to assist with the event. They have also recently qualified for the Departmental Organisation Fund.  
The conference commences on May 16 and attracts students from Canada and the US, and in 2014, a presenter from Germany. There will be forty five (45) presenters in total. All chairs are professors (a total of 15). The keynote speaker is from Languages. The conference is interdisciplinary involving English, Languages and Linguistics presenters.  
The receptions, dinners and creative event will be held at the GSS.  
All registrations welcome.  
The conference is a great opportunity to learn about research in and between departments.  
The special events fund will assist with a reduced registration fee, catering, and the deficit.  
Conference registrations and participation has increased since last year.  
There is currently a deficit of \$308.

It was asked how much the conference has / will receive from the Departmental Organisation Fund, to which the response was \$306. As a result, the deficit amount has been reduced to \$308.00.

## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday May 15, 2014

GSS Ballroom

### D. Executive Remarks

*(3 minutes)*

- **President** – Colúm Connolly  
The Conference Board of Canada; discussions about post-secondary education, in collaboration with the VP Students Office; the development of a graduate student survey, framework for the Strategic Plan, SWAG options.
- **Vice-President Academic & External Affairs** – Daniel Wood  
Flexible Student Engagement Project, TELF project with Wendy Hall, CASA conference, Revision of the Land Use document, GSS website re-design project, the appointment of a second Advocacy Coordinator.
- **Vice-President Administration** – Kevin Mehr  
Ongoing and upcoming building projects; security cameras around the building will be fixed in the next month, the elevators will be shut down from Jun-Aug for an upgrade, exterior lights behind Koerner's Pub will be fixed. Numerous staff changes in effect including the hiring of a new Advocacy Coordinator as well as a Events Director. Council are encouraged to send their ideas for the building improvement project. Ideas will be brought to Council over the next two months.
- **Vice-President Finance** –
- **Vice-President Services** – Min Xia  
The Service department budget, continual meetings with GPS to plan the upcoming August/September graduate orientation events, the Summer Sports league registrations have been received and the schedule has been distributed, summer classes are open for registration and will commence shortly (Art, French, Zumba, etc.).

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

*(3 minutes)*

- **Academic & External Affairs Committee** – George Furey  
Changes have been made to the Emergency Fund Document which has been sent to the Code and Policy Committee for review.  
Two long standing members have been unseated and the committee is seeking two new committee members. Continual revision of the consultation document.
- **Code and Policy Committee** – Julienne Jagdeo  
Revision of section 4 of the Policy Manual is complete. Progress has been made on sections 1 and 3. The Policy Amendment Form has been sent to Council wit
- **Executive Oversight Committee** – Jeff Abeysekera  
Next month – performance review questionnaire to be sent to Councillors.



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday May 15, 2014

GSS Ballroom

- **House-Finance Committee** –

Change DOF and SEF and combine into one fund.

- **Human Resources Committee** – Jack Hickmott

Hired two new booking assistants, Events Director and Administrative Assistant job descriptons.

- **Services Committee** – Sima Valizadeh

Promotion methods for GSS events, regular socials, format and types of events.

### F. Representative Reports

*(3 minutes)*

- **AMS Council** – Christopher Roach

Contraversial code, the school of economics was not recognised and asked to come back.

Slides in sub

Block party and welcome back BBQ are off the books because of the structure

- **Graduate Council** – George Furey

Attendance from the GSS was low at 5, There was a lot of informal talk.

The GSS needs to decide how the Grad council is structured, the GSS has only 6 seats moving forward

- **Senate** – Julienne Jagdeo

Approved the suspension of 2 masters Art and science planning, Asian pacific policy studies – replacing thesis based with more professional.

Changed some policies on student appeals, students will have to make a formal rebuttle to the department first prior to it going to the senate appeals committee.

If you are not present 30 minutes after the start of the meeting they can either use the written stuff or not

Congrats to Vice-chair Christopher Roach who chaired the meeting yesterday

### G. Approval of Minutes

2. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014” be approved as presented.

**MOVER: Hamid SECONDER: Jahidur**

**Passes**

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

*Code and Policy Committee Minutes – February 17*

*Code and Policy Committee Minutes – March 3*

*Code and Policy Committee Minutes – April 11*

*Service Committee Minutes – February 27*

*Service Committee Minutes – March 13*

*Service Committee Minutes – March 26*

*Service Committee Minutes – April 14*

**MOVER: Chris Roach SECONDER: Jahidur**



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday May 15, 2014

GSS Ballroom

### *Passes*

## H. Seatings, Unseatings, and Appointments

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

**Baseer Abdul** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.

**Cynthia Min** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.

**Gabriela Badica** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.

**Vincent Chan** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.

**Yvonne Dzal** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.

**Michael Firmin** to be unseated as an AMS Representative.

**Yvonne Dzal** to be unseated from the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

**Gabriela Badica** to be unseated from the Elections Committee.

**Angela Zhao** to be unseated from the Executive Oversight Committee.

**Gabriela Badica** to be unseated from the House-Finance Committee.

**Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle** to be unseated as Chair of the House-Finance Committee.

**Vincent Chan** to be unseated from the Services Committee (non-voting).

**Cynthia Min** to be unseated from the Academic and External committee.

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

**Adam Lung** to be seated as a Departmental Representative.

**Andrea Jones** to be seated as a Departmental Representative.

**Enav Zusman** to be seated as a Departmental Representative.

**Parker Jobin** to be seated as a Departmental Representative.

**Vinodha Chetty** to be seated as a Departmental Representative.

**Pooya** be seated as **Chair** of the House-Finance Committee.

**Patrick L** be seated to the Academic and External Affairs Committee (2).

**Shona** be seated to the Finance Committee.

**Chris Roach** be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee (2).

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Services Committee.

**Julia V.** be seated as an AMS Representative.

Move: Chris R Second: Chris D



## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday May 15, 2014

GSS Ballroom

### I. Council Motions

#### 6. Special Event Fund Application – Endnotes 2014: Strangely Familiar, Reading and Recognition in English Studies

WHEREAS the organizers of Endnotes 2014 have successfully applied for \$350.00 of funding for their Student Conference event from the House-Finance Committee;

WHEREAS they would still like an additional ~~\$495.00~~ \$310 of funding from the GSS;

~~WHEREAS the House-Finance Committee has recommended the GSS Council allocates an additional \$495.00 towards this event (votes: 5 in favour, 1 abstention)~~

BIRT the GSS Council approves the expenditure of an additional ~~\$495.00~~ \$310.00 for this event from the Special Events Fund (12-809).

**MOVER:Shona SECONDER:Jon N.**

**Mover: Jon Second: Mahsa**

**Jon: This is a great event, I have attended this event in the past. There is additional expenses due to renting of a car.**

**Chris: We should support this event even more, so they can still hold GSS events with DOF**

**Ingrid: What Chris said**

**Shona: Straw poll the original motion,**

**Kevin: I was going to speak to amending the motion allow up to 495 to cover the**

**Enav: What Chris said**

**Daniel: I would encourage council not to dole out money, let them reapply if they need it.**

**Jon: Withdraw the motion**

**Gabby: Letting them have more money is a good thing, there is a**

**Chris move to amend to up to \$495**

**Moved: Chris S: Jeff Abes**

**Main motion now includes up to**

**Vote:**

**Passes unanimously**

#### ~~7. Policy Manual Amendments – Section 1~~

~~BIRT Council approves the proposed amendments to section 1 of the policy manual as presented.~~

## GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday May 15, 2014

GSS Ballroom

~~BIFRT these amendments will take effect after the policy revisions are completed for the entire policy manual, and Council approves the revised policy manual in its entirety.~~

**~~MOVER: SECONDER:~~**

### **~~8. Policy Manual Amendments – Section 4~~**

~~BIFRT council approves the proposed amendments to sections 4 of the policy manual as presented.~~

~~BIFRT these amendments will take effect after the policy revisions are completed for the entire policy manual, and Council approves the revised policy manual in its entirety.~~

~~BIFRT any current Executive who has, as of the May 2014 Council meeting, already exceeded their allocated vacation time under this amended policy shall be granted the appropriate amount of additional vacation time as to not require any reductions from their honorarium.~~

**~~MOVER: SECONDER:~~**

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

Staff appreciation – Thanks to Kristie

### **K. Discussion Period**

Policy section 4 amendment.

Current vacation policy is 6 weeks.

Policy reform is to reduce this to four weeks, including the two weeks at the Winter Break.

How many paid vacation is standard? 2 weeks paid, 1-3 years of employment.

Technically, the executive are not employees.

For GSS employees, determined in contracts.

Leave of absence can be taken unpaid; the definition has been amended. If more than two weeks is taken, someone should be appointed in the interim.

Has this been an issue? Is this motion a result of lack of leadership in the past?

Yes, it has occurred that executive members have been gone for up to six weeks at a time, leaving the department underrepresented.

Two executives are currently on leave – they should be consulted before policy changes are made.

Rather than amend the change from 6 to 5, amend the policy to specify gaps in leadership and appointing an interim.



## **GSS Council Meeting Agenda**

Thursday May 15, 2014

GSS Ballroom

Tobias was part of the previous executive and has been consulted.

Potential for Council to pre approve Executive vacation.

These positions are not greatly paid; therefore the additional two weeks may be considered additional compensation.

Problematic with council approval is the gap between council meetings, issues meeting quorum in order to pass motions, etc.

The 4/6 weeks does not necessarily address the issue of coverage – address issue of leadership.

Rather council approval, perhaps EOC approval for executive leave.

Revision of policy includes a Council appointed representative for a period of more than two weeks.

The importance of an effective handover.

What is the statement being made, if we are reducing vacation to a period below some other standards.

International students would not be able to visit home with a period of two weeks.

Executives are aware of the level of commitment when taking on a position.

Shared schedules are a way to track office presence.

Currently, leave is not being tracked.

### **L. Submissions**

### **M. Next Meeting**

Thursday June 19, 2014

Motion to amend the agenda to seat Catherine Jenkins to the Ac Ex Committee

George, Colum

PASSES

PASSES

### **N. Adjournment**

9. BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at pm.



**GSS Council Meeting Agenda**  
Thursday May 15, 2014  
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***MOVER: SECONDER:***  
***Jack H, Kreso***  
***PASSES***