



GSS Council Meeting Agenda
Updated: 11/28/12 12:04 pm

**Nov 15, 2012 5:30 PM
GSS Ballroom**

**Dinner at 6:30
Social after @ Patio or Ballroom**

Link to Agenda and supporting materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2nuyqrt6x9cwqwu/gmFm6v8w0m>

In Attendance: Joel Atwater, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Valeria Castellanos, Ambrose Chan, Colum Connolly, Yvonne Dzal, George Furey, Chelsea Gao, Marianne Haseloff, Nazrul Islam, Adrin Jalali, Rob Teagle, Xue-Rong Jia, Henry John, Robert Klinzmann, Conny Lin, Kristan Marchak, Jamie Marra, Natalie Marshall, Sancho McCann, Omid Nourbakhsh, Victor Padilla, Sarah Parker, Radu Racovita, Jahidur Rahman, Nafis Rahman, Hafizur Rahman, Sabrina Rashid, Chris Regier, Melody Ren, Chris Roach, Kathryn Rowswell, Clayton Whitt (proxy for Rachel Roy) Paul Save, Stephania Schwartz, Max Stykow, Alexandra Wieland, Tom Woodsworth, Ling Zhang, Yunfei Zhang, Ting Ting Zhou, Andrew Patterson, Zoe Beavis

Regrets: Gabriela Badica, Michael Fairchild, Amanda Grochowich, Fatemeh Haghighi, Christine Hochbaum, Gwen Huber, Rabia Khan, Vivian Lam, Jan Luedert, Cynthia Min, Ingrid Olson, Elie Sarraf, David Waddell

I. Call to order, adoption of agenda and introductions

Call to Order: 5:37pm

Agenda Adopted Unanimously.

II. Presentations & relevant motions

1. AMS and UBC Alumni Externship

Presenter: Tina Liu, AMS Externship Coordinator

Volunteer Connect! Externship means “internship” but you are considered an external part. They are there to learn and observe and ask questions about the organization- a job- shadowing program in part with UBC Alumni. Happens over reading week. Students will partner with an alumni already working in the field. Creating program geared towards students that weren't faculty based in the student's career field. There are pre-placement workshops that help the students prepare. There is a three-part open application process. If you know of anyone, as student representatives, please let us know! We do have an office at the SUB.

Questions:

Mentioned that a standard thing is doing a workshop on office etiquette. Usually, as graduate students, we have that skill set already. Would you enforce participation in the workshop, then?

-If you have that experience already, you can skip it. There are lots of workshops though, on after the placement as well. Some might benefit graduate students.

Is it paid?

-Unpaid.

What is the ratio of undergrads to grads?

-Program only piloted last year, but so far it shows mostly undergrads.

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

President – Conny Lin: Last week I went to a conference in Ottawa. Will have a report on this from Rabia. Highlights: Funding structure in Tri-Council and internationalization of grad student population among others. Mitacs was a presenter, setting an example. There was a good town hall. Next week I'm going to the CASA National Advocacy conference. Will meet with 147 MPs and 90 delegates from CASA. I'm in charge of grad student issues. Send me comments and suggestions!

Vice-President, Academic & External – Rabia Khan: Regrets

Vice- President, Administration - Victor Padilla: Trying to close the deal with the Pub. Were hoping to get it all done by this meeting. Agreement is taking a bit longer. Some delays are had from the other party. Not concerned now, still waiting for UBC to do the new lease anyways. Hope to wrap it up in the next few weeks. Also doing lots of maintenance around the building before the new year. Last year's Exec started the Rent Reduction conversation with UBC- it is finally happening and reflected on the December invoice! HR manual is almost ready, too.

Vice-President, Finance – Robert Klinzmann: No remarks.

Vice-President, Services – Yunfei Zhang: Winter is a good time to celebrate many events! Last month we had the Halloween party, and we have more opportunities like the Chinese New Year. If you have any ideas, contact me. We will also organize ski trips

starting in January. The website design is done (the first stage). This is not the right time to show it now, so please be patient. Thank you!

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

Senate – Chris Roach: Senate happened last night, and was fast and uneventful. Ratified 300 students for convocation. Small faculty award in cancer research., which is worth \$50,000 a year for faculty.

Board of Governors - Skipped

AMS Council - Chris Roach: Little happening. AMS ended negotiations with the Union, approved by both. Had presentation on the state of the budget- they have a \$100,000+ deficit. Businesses are not doing well, due probably to construction around the SUB.

AMS Health & Dental Committee - Sancho MaCann: Since my time on this committee for a year, we have met infrequently; however, lately things have picked up and we have had two productive meetings, though. Committee has decided to give more details on contracts that covers plan. It will be on the website. The exception process for drugs not covered by Pharmacare is being streamlined.

Graduate Council – Kristan: Had a meeting last Friday, have a document now, “Structure of a Thesis” which will go out next month, Dec. 1st. 3 minute thesis competition is coming up. Go to website 3mt.grad.ubc.ca to register. Awards page will be updated in the near future.

Executive Committee - Conny Lin: (Want to talk about items I forgot!) Several events- UBC Alumni Awards, appreciating Alumni’s contributions. Student leadership conference-Exec committee supported it with \$250. Dropped by the Student leadership conference event, and was on student jurisdiction committee. At CASA, I am the chair and we ran several meetings this month. Tri-Council and student loan limits topics were discussed. How to advocate better? CASA F05 Tuition Tax Credit- we support it! We were successful to keep the government from removing the tax credit. Exec has worked hard on committee lists. We got the hang of it! GSS 51st birthday is coming up. Will we celebrate? Not sure. Talk to us during social! Just Desserts- will recognize UBC students’ contribution. If you have ideas, talk to Conny. Also worked on Code for Council Agenda. Did a press release for Opportunity for BC- support money for secondary studies. Talked to many individuals at UBC and the AMS. Will talk to media tomorrow. Also sent out 2 supporting letters for Mitacs. MMK report- A few years back we hired them to do an external review to do a review of our organization in order to know what needs to be improved. Will strike a task force to look at it and see what needs to be done.

Academic & External Committee - Rabia Khan: Regrets

Code & Policy Committee – Conny Lin: Is awesome! Reviewed all motions, on second round of revision.

Election Committee – Rabia Khan: Not present

Executive Oversight Committee - Maxim Stykow: Nothing to say. Things are running smoothly.

House Finance Committee – Robert Klinzmann: Had two meetings, we have given our Bookings Coordinator more freedom in decision making. Archival room- we asked for money, and we are almost there- have 3 quotes. Plant Ops is 4 times more expensive. Talking with UBC Treasury to see if we can do the work on our own. Also speaker system

renewal thing is on the table. Need more equipment. Talked about HR manual and how we treat salary increases. HF will budget, and HR is responsible for the decision.

Pub-Renewal Taskforce (House Finance) – Victor Padilla: Nothing to add.

Human Resources Committee – Victor Padilla: Nothing to add.

Services Committee - Yunfei Zhang: International Cultural festival is coming soon!

Accessibility at Orientation Taskforce (Services) – Christine Hochbaum: Not present

International Festival Taskforce (Services) – Ling Zhang: Would like to improve communication between cultures. Will have a central stage surrounded by booths. There will also be food and drink particular to the culture. This event marks the cooperation between the AMS and GSS. Will be held March 29th at the square in front of the Koerner Library. Budget is estimated at \$15,000.

Safety and Sustainability Committee – Amanda Grochowich: Regrets

V. Approval of Minutes

2. Council Minutes

BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated *Oct 18, 2012* be approved as presented.

Moved: Sancho

Seconded: Victor

Passed

3. Committee minutes

BIRT the minutes of *CPC_20121005, CPC_20121026, Exec_20121004, Exec_20121025, Exec_20121101, HF_20121016, Services_20120807, and Services_20121106* be approved as presented.

Moved: Henry

Seconded: Chris Roach

Minutes Approval: Passed

VI. Seatings, unseatings & appointments

4. Notice of unseatings (no vote necessary)

_____ has missed more than three council meetings and is unseated from the Council

Suborna Ahmed (Forestry Resource Management) and *Adrin Jalali (GrasPods)* have submitted their resignation and are unseated from the Council.

Xue-Rong Jia submitted resignation and is unseated from the Code and Policy Committee

5. Appointments of Election Committee members and Chairs

BIRT *Thomas Woodsworth, Ling Zhang, Andrew Patterson* (1 Councillor, 2 any member) be seated on Election Committee

Moved: Conny Seconded: Chris

Motion Passes.

BIFRT *Thomas Woodsworth* (one Councillor) be appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer and the Chair of the Election Committee

Conny Moves to Amend to separate the motion.

Moved: Conny Seconded: Chris Roach

Motion: Carries

BIFRT the Chief Electoral Officer be paid \$700 honorarium (line 14-780).

Moved: Conny Seconded: Victor

Discussion:

Andrew thinks we should add 2% inflation from 2009, as it has remained the same for years.

Chris Roach thinks we should increase it to \$750. He would like to make that “friendly” amendment.

Robert would like the person elected to write down what they do- a report about this position should be part of the salary. This will be taken into consideration.

Paul would like to amend, and have a transition report given.

BIRT the CEO be paid \$750 upon completion of the transition report.

On Robert’s amendment.

Moved: Robert Seconded: Sancho

Call to Question: Andrew Seconded: Paul

Vote on Call to Question: Carries

Vote on Robert’s Amendment:

Carries.

Call to Question on First Amendment:

Moved: Joel

Carries.

Vote on Motion:

Motion Passes.

**Call to Question on Motion:
Joel**

Candidates Speak:

Tom: Would really like to get grad students voting- participation is a critical part. Want all departments represented. CEO job shouldn't just be a bureaucrat, but someone who pushes voter participation.

Ling: I am going to graduate next May, and before that would like to devote myself to the GSS. I have been here a long time, with Andrew, before Conny even, and have seen how committees work, and the work as done by a president and chair. I have experience on how to recruit and am experienced. Should have dignity and fairness in this. Would like to be the Chair.

Questions;

To both: If either of you didn't get position, still serve on the committee?

Both- Yes

Do you have experience conducting votes?

Tom: Yes

Vote Count: Tom 24 , Ling 8

Move to Recess:

Moved: Conny Seconded: Cara

Recess: 6:47pm

Resumed: 7:14pm

6. Seatings (Committee and External representatives)

[Election required] BIRT Nafis Rahman and Sarah Parker (one from Faculty of Law or Commerce) be seated as representative in the Graduate council

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

Postponed.

Amended:

Moved: Conny Seconded: Victor

Strike first part of motion will start with "George...".

Motion is amended

No opposition.

Discussion:

Joel says that this is not legal, as Nafis Rahman and Sarah Parker were seated last meeting. The Graduate Council is currently at capacity, at 14 members.

BIFRT *George Furey* be seated on Academic & External Committee

BIFRT _____ (1 Ordinary Members) be seated on Code and Policy Committee

BIFRT *Andrew Patterson* be seated on Executive Oversight Committee

BIFRT *Alexandra Wieland* be seated on House Finance.

Moved: Conny **Seconded:** Victor

Motion Passes.

VII. Motions

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

7. Dec Council date

BIRT Dec 2012 Meeting of Council shall be held on Dec 6, 2012.

Move: Conny Lin

Seconded: Executive Committee

Motion: Passes

8. Sprouts as Non-Departmental Organization

BIRT GSS ratifies Sprouts as a GSS Non-Departmental Graduate Student Organization

Move: Victor Padilla

Seconded: Services Committee

Motion: Passes

9. Departmental Representative commitment

BIRT every Departmental Representative shall sit on at least one Committee or act as a GSS representative in external bodies representing the Society's interest.

Moved: Conny Lin

Seconded: Executive Committee, Code and Policy Committee

Motion:

Point of Order: Cannot bind *people* to do things, only the Society.

Questions:

Is this a straw poll? Should it be brought forth in proper code? Right now this can't enforce anything.

Joel would like to note that it is out of order. Could say, "the GSS expects.." the Society can expel, but not compel.

Motion to Amend: Joel **Seconded:** Chris Roach

Council directs the CPC to draft code to express that every Departmental Representative shall sit on at least one Committee or act as a GSS representative in external bodies representing the Society's interest. Furthermore the CPC is to draft code delineating the consequences of non-compliance.

Conny thinks this amendment is friendly.

Vote:

Motion Passes.

Andrew abstains

10. Task Force code revision

WHEREAS Task Force are expired at each AGM (Policy 5.2.1) and Task Force Terms of Reference is required to be included in the Policy Manual (Policy 5.1.1)

WHEREAS current practice requires frequent Policy amendment that might cause confusion rather than increase accountability

BIRT Policy 5.1.1 as below

5.1.1. Every Standing Committee, Special or Ad-Hoc Committee, or Task Force appointed by Council (hereinafter referred to as a "Committee"), must follow this general committee policy and have its Terms of Reference approved by Council, posted on the Society's website, and included in this Policy Manual.

be amended as follows:

5.1.1. Every Standing Committee, Special or Ad-Hoc Committee, or Task Force appointed by Council (hereinafter referred to as a "Committee"), must follow this general committee policy and have its Terms of Reference approved by Council

5.1.2. All Committees shall post their Terms of Reference on the Society's website, but only Standing Committee Terms of Reference shall be included in the Policy Manual.

and the numbering of Policy in 5.1 be amended according to the insertion of 5.1.2

Moved: Gwendolyn Huber

Seconded: Code and Policy Committee

Conny Motivates.

Motion Passes.

Marianne abstains.

11. MMK Review Task Force

Part 1: Terms of Reference

BIRT MMK Review Task Force be struck and shall

1. report to the Executive Committee,
2. elect a Chair from the members of the Task Force at the first meeting,
3. make a report on the MMK review and report back to Council by AGM 2013

BIFRT the voting members of the Task Force shall be the President, the Chair of the Executive Oversight Committee, one Vice President, one Councillor, and one ordinary member appointed by Council

Moved: Maxim Stykow

Seconded: Executive Committee, Code and Policy Committee

Max motivates.

Discussion:

Andrew thinks it is a good idea to look at all of MMK's suggestions. We are more efficient, but there aren't as many of us. I think it's a great idea. Structure impacts the culture of Council. Guess that means I'll have to volunteer for the committee.

-MMK was invited before? What are you proposing?

MMK was paid, did their job. We don't need them back. Just want to see if we have implemented the changes that they recommended.

Joel was involved in the beginning stage of that report. Don't limit it to "did we implement", but "what did we reject". It's not "did we", but "did we do it out of negligence or choice"?

-part of task force would be to analyze this.

It seems like it's part of your job (Max's job). Should someone else move this?

-My job (Max) is to be the head of EOC, not the head of MMK task force.

Is this your initiative, Max?

-It wasn't just me, it was a collective agreement with the Exec.

Worried about the wording- is the motivation coming out of the EOC? If so, then it is appropriate to have you listed. But if it is a personal want, it should be listed as "Max as councilor". Not in the role of EOC chair.

Conny says that she did the groundwork in Council. It has always been her wish to go through the report. Great that Max brought it up. Not solely an EOC initiative.

Max feels that this is so related that the EOC chair should be there.

-Joel says to vote against amendment then.

Amendment:

Joel motions to remove EOC list increase to 2 councilors

Moved: Joel

Seconded: Robert

Motion: Fails

Call to Question:

Max

No one opposed.

Motion: Carries.

Robert abstains.

Part 2. Member appointment

BIRT *Victor Padilla* (a Vice-President), *Marianne Haseloff* (one Councillor), and *Andrew Patterson* (any member) be appointed as voting member of the MMK Review Task Force.

BIFRT *Chris Roach* (any member) be appointed as non-voting member of the MMK Review Task Force.

Moved: Joel **Seconded:** Victor

Motion: Passes Unanimously

12. Academic & External Task Forces

Part 1. General Task Force Terms of Reference

BIRT Two task forces shall assist the Vice-President, Academic and External Affairs and the Academic and External Affairs Committee on issues related to the Advocacy office (herein known as Advocacy Taskforce) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Annual General Assembly (herein known as CASA AGM Taskforce). The task forces shall meet no less than once a month, and are strongly encouraged to meet on a biweekly basis.

Moved: Rabia Khan

Seconded: Academic and External Affairs Committee, Code and Policy Committee

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Part 2. Advocacy Task Force Terms of Reference

BIRT The Advocacy Task Force shall be composed of 2 voting members of Council, 2 Advocacy officers, and the Vice-President Academic and External Affairs. The Vice President Academic and External Affairs shall be acting as chair unless delegated otherwise. The Advocacy Task force will require the attendance of at least one advocacy officer for a meeting to commence. The Task Force shall

- (a) Assist the advocacy office in formalizing its mandate
- (b) Assist in a plan for transitioning new advocacy officers
- (c) Create a budget specific to the advocacy office
- (d) Assist the advocacy office in creating a strategic plan

- (e) Create a final report with its findings, to be circulated to Council prior to the AGM.

Moved: Rabia Khan

Seconded: Academic and External Affairs Committee, Code and Policy Committee

Vote:

Motion: Passes Unanimously

Part 2.1 Appointments for the Advocacy Task Force

BIRFT *Chelsea Gao* (2 voting members of Council) be appointed as voting members of the Advocacy Task Force.

BIFRT _____ (any member) be appointed as non-voting member of the Advocacy Task Force.

Conny motivates.

Moved: Conny

Seconded: Chris Roach

Motion: Passes Unanimously

Part 3. CASA AGM Task Force Terms of Reference

BIFRT The CASA AGM Task Force shall be composed of Vice President Academic and External Affairs and 4 voting members of Council. The Vice President Academic and External Affairs shall be acting as chair unless delegated otherwise. The CASA AGM Task Force shall plan and implement all activities related to the CASA AGM, including but not limited to:

- (a) creating a working budget [to be approved at Council and circulated to the CASA]
- (b) providing reference materials for delegates (includes information on transportation, meeting materials, tourism information, etc.)
- (c) booking of all meeting rooms and accommodations
- (d) arranging social activities for delegates
- (e) helping in recruiting volunteers for the AGM
- (f) presenting a final report of the event to the Council

Moved: Rabia Khan

Seconded: Academic and External Affairs Committee, Code and Policy Committee

Motion: Passes Unanimously

Part 3.1 Appointments for the CASA AGM Task Force

BIRFT *Yvonne Dzal, Colum Connolly, Cara Dong, Kathryn Rowswell*, (~~4 voting members of Council~~) be appointed as voting members of the CASA Task Force.

BIFRT *Kenji Scott* (any member) be appointed as non-voting member of the CASA Task Force.

Moved: Conny **Seconded:** Chris Roach
Motion: Passes Unanimously

Separate motion:

Moved: Joel:
Votes to have (separate motion) the policy to include 5 members
Seconded: Conny
In favor of amendment: Passes

13. Non-Departmental student groups (NSG) code

BIRT Policy 20. Non-Departmental student groups (NSG) and Appendix XII are added to the Policy Manual as presented:

Policy 20. Non-Departmental student groups (NSG)

20.1 Non-Departmental student groups (NSG) shall be any unincorporated organization that does not represent graduate students of one particular department, but does represent a defined community of graduate students.

20.2 To be recognized as NSG by the GSS the organization shall:

(a) be in part composed of ordinary members of the Graduate Student Society,

(b) have a democratically elected Executive,

(c) have a Constitution democratically affirmed by its membership at an open General Meeting of the NSG, and

(d) be ratified by the Council.

(e) shall have membership open to all graduate students

20.3 The granting of NSG status is at the discretion of Council

20.4 Rights of NSG

20.4.1 one elected representative of an NSG shall be invited to attend Council meetings as a non-voting member, shall be included on any and all mailing lists, but that such a member shall not be a member of Council and shall not have voting power.

20.4.2 NSG shall be officially acknowledged on the GSS-V webpage

Appendix XII. Recognition of Non-Departmental Student Groups

The Graduate Student Society University of British Columbia-Vancouver officially recognizes _____ as an Non-Departmental Student Group with a Constitution and democratically elected executives.

Signature

*President
Graduate Student Society*

Moved: Conny Lin

Seconded: Code and Policy Committee

Conny Motivates.

Discussion on the Motion:

Joel is opposed, as the language does not have inclusivity of the group. Implicitly “allows”- could exclude people.

Victor says we realized this in committee, and that is why it has council must approve it.

Send to committee to have inclusive language

Moved: Joel

Seconded: Marianne

Conny says that we already talked about this. Don't kick it back to committee. Would rather give the decision to council. We don't want inclusive groups. This was a collective decision to CPC.

Joel makes motion to amend. Joel withdraws motion.

Motion to amend policy.

Moved: Joel

Seconded: Victor

~~“Not be discriminatory in its membership according to the Human Rights Act.”~~

“Shall have membership open to all graduate students.”

Conny is against this. Does not want to limit membership. Feels we are not here to regulate it.

Chris disagrees with this. They should adhere to our morals and beliefs. Like anyone, in the AMS clubs, can join. President of CFIS, anyone can join. Anyone a part of this should have that.

Joel thinks there is a difference between letting them do this or that, but that they don't get recognition from the GSS if it doesn't fit our standards. If they don't want to abide, there is no reason to engage with us.

Adrin thinks we have the power not to recognize that. He agrees with the others.

Vote on Amendment:

Guillaume abstains.

Amendment Passes.

Motion passes with addition of (e)

Motion passes as amended.

14. Executive Committee reporting to Council

WHEREAS Committee chairs who are mostly executives officers are required to give verbal report in every council meeting [Policy 5.4 (d)].

WHEREAS Executives officers in the past voluntarily submit monthly written report to Council

WHEREAS many projects span longer than a month and involve multiple departments, hence a trimester written report can better capture the progress of long term and collaborative project

BIRT executive officers no longer submit written monthly report

BIFRT the President coordinates a trimester progress report of the executive team to be submitted to May, Oct and March (AGM) council meeting

BIFRT Policy 3.1.2 (e) be added as follows:

The Executive Committee shall:

(e) submit and present 4 written progress reports to Council: one in May which shall also include their goals for the year, one in September, one in January, and another in March summarizing the progress for the year.

Moved: Conny Lin

Seconded: Executive Committee, Code and Policy Committee

Chris motivates.

Motion: Passes Unanimously

15. CIPF – Sound System

WHEREAS the audio system at the Graduate Student Center needs to be upgraded for the upcoming CASA 2013 AGM

WHEREAS the installation of a new audio system will also benefit the GSS as a whole and Bookings Operations

WHEREAS the GSS has \$95,000 in CIPF available (we have more, but the rest is allocated already)

BIRT that the GSS Council approves up to \$13,440 (12,000 + HST) from CIPF to be used for purchasing new sound system for the GSS

Move: Victor Padilla

Seconded: House Finance Committee

Victor motivates.

Question-

How much money is put back in our account every year?

-\$50,000 per year

Motion: Passes unanimously.

Motion to Amend agenda to add Sustainability Motion

Moved: Paul Seconded: Tom
Passes.

BIRT that the Academic and External committee recommends that Council support the creation up to a minor in Sustainability through the University Sustainability Initiative.

Motion passes.

VIII. Discussion

16. Organizational Values Survey

Victor sent it out late- don't want to rush picking values. Let's postpone.

Can we send you the top 5 via email?

-Yes

Chris suggests an online vote.

Victor agrees. One will be sent out soon.

IX. Other Business

X. Notice

- Motion - Intellectual Property Position statement
- Motion – Acadia Park position statement
- International Cultural Festival is proposed to be Friday, March 29th, 2013

XI. Next meeting

The next Council Meeting shall take place on Dec 6, 2012

XII. Adjournment

Adjourned: 8:27pm