

Present: Jenny Auxlier (proxy for Adam Luna), Alison McAfee, Ambrose Chan, Angela Zhao, Antoine Ponsard, Behzad Shoolestani, Chen Vu, Christopher Roach, Colùm Connolly, Daniel Wood, Ehsan Espid, Rachel Chen (proxy for Enav Zusman), Eric Becklin, Eva Choi, George Furey, Gianluca Oluic, Hamid Omid, Harry Li, Maria Paraschos (proxy for Inti Dewey), Jack Hickmott, Marcelo Bravo (proxy for Jackie Davis), Janice Valdez, Jenn So, Julia Varela, Kathryn Knudson, Kevin Mehr, Keying Tang, Kreso Sola, Krish Maharaj, Lena Patsa, Luz Angelica Caudillo-Mata, Mahsa Mojahednia, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Michelle Hak Hepburn, Min Xia, Mirza Sarwar, Naman Paul, Omid Nourbakhsh, Parker Jobin, Patrick Lo, Raphael Rocco, Rebecca Sherbo, Renae Regehr, Robin Kim, Shona Robinson, Sima Valizadeh, Susan Song, Tobias Fridel, Vinodha Chetty, Vivian Lam.

Regrets: Andrea Jones, Dustin King, Ingrid Olson, Jennifer Campbell, Julienne Jagdeo, Natalie Marshall, Nayantara Duttachoudhury, Olenka Forde, Sarah Simon, Shena Balani, Yu Guo.

Absent: Adam Luna, Ambrose Chan, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Jonathan Obst, Keeley Ryan, Michelle Kwon, Mitchell Meler, Tahara Bhate, Suzie Maginley, Xun Zhou.

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm.

1. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Mahsa Mojahednia SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

Motion to amend the Agenda to add a motion to the Council Motions:

WHEREAS the GSS has six seats on the Graduate Council;

WHEREAS in the past student representatives held a total of 4 seats of the three standing committees of the Graduate Council;

BIRT the Graduate Student Society requests to continue occupying four seats on the standing committees of the Graduate Council according to the previous distribution to ensure the proper student participation and consultation throughout all decision-making processes in relation to the graduate student education at the Graduate Council.

MOVER: Colùm Connolly
MOTION PASSES

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

BIRT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

MOTION PASSES

B. Introductions

C. Seatings, Unseatings, and Appointments

2. Notice of unseatings (*no vote necessary*)

Omid Nourbakhsh to be unseated as Service Committee Representative.

3. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Vinohda Chetty be seated to the Service Committee.

Janice Valdez be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee.

Mirza Sarwar be seated to the House Committee.

Jack Hickmott be appointed as Chair of Off-campus Outreach Taskforce Committee.

MOVER: Parker Jobin

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION PASSES

4. BIRT the following seating is approved:

Chhavi Tripathi, Harry Li, Naman Paul be appointed to the AMS Council.

It was asked and answered that the AMS Council is held on the other Wednesday at 6 pm in the Student Union Building and is charged with the similar responsibilities as the GSS Council.

MOVER: Ambrose Chan **SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

MOTION PASSES

D. Presentations to Council

(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)

- **CiTR**

- Campus radio station 101.9 FM;
- Broadcasts in 9 different languages;
- Employs 300 volunteers and members of the community;
- Encourages the graduate students to access local media and develop professionally;
- Emphasized on the opportunity to get acquainted not only with the UBC students, but also with other members of the community;
- Station provides a large variety of services, such as DJ, broadcasting and journalism classes, monthly workshops and trainings, equipment rental at the competitive prices, etc.;

- Station offers leadership opportunities to the graduate students;
- CiTR is run by the student body that governs the affairs, develops strategic planning and is accountable to the student population of UBC;
- Radio Station has 9 positions hired to in September; there are also summer employment opportunities;
- CiTR provides sponsorship, public service announcement and advertisement, coverage of the events and research projects put forward by students;
- Speaker emphasized on the unique and valuable content created by the students that is promoted not only on campus, but also in the Lower Mainland.

It was asked and answered that the consultations are held as to acquiring a space in the new SUB.

It was further asked and answered that the DJ class is free for UBC students.

It was further remarked that the GSS had invited CiTR DJ for the Halloween party, and it was asked if CiTR can provide the discount for the next event, to which the answer was that the price is negotiable for each particular event.

- **AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan**

- Established by referendum in 2000;
- One of the largest AMS Services – 36,899 students enrolled;
- Managed by the Health and Dental Plan Committee;
- Group plan has a number of advantages, such as significant cost reduction compared to the individual plans; absence of discriminatory treatment depending on the gender or age; and accessibility regardless the pre-existing individual conditions;
- AMS/GSS Health&Dental Plan provides health, vision, travel and dental coverage to both graduate and undergraduate student of UBC;
- It was remarked that the students may choose to opt out or enroll in the Plan;

Motion to extend the presentation for 10 minutes.

MOVER: Christopher Roach SECONDER: Harry Li
MOTION PASSES

- The plan also offers additional discounts and savings at the partner locations;
- Speaker encouraged the students to complete the survey at www.ihaveaplan.ca/survey/ubc;

It was asked the discrepancy of the 36,899 students enrolled and the opt out rate, to which the answer was that the data are dated and it is difficult to track down the complex figures, for example, the number of students opted out and continuing the studies at the UBC; only numbers for the current year are available.

It was noted difficult to find the relevant information on the website, to which the answer was that the website contains the most accurate and up-to-date information. It was further suggested to contact the Health&Dental Plan Office with the unique questions and enquiries.



It was remarked that the benefits, terms and conditions' changes are available on the website in the format submitted by the coverage providers, a scanned file.

It was further mentioned that the international students travelling to their home countries are not covered by the Plan. The reason behind it that it is stipulated that the international students have their domestic coverage while traveling to their home countries.

It was further asked how students can make a drug prescription claim, to which the answer was that the students shall complete the form.

- CPIF
- Penthouse Flooring and Furniture renovation was submitted for Council approval;
- The intention of the project is to refinish the Penthouse floor and update the chairs in the space;
- The hardwood floors have not been properly maintained for the past 15 years and need to be refinished;
- The chairs are large, cumbersome, and falling apart;
- The renovations are budgeted at \$9000 with \$6000 allocated for the floor upgrade and \$3000 for the furniture;

It was asked and answered that the Penthouse accommodates 42 chairs currently in a bad shape, half broken or of a low quality;

It is intended to replace old chairs with the same quantity;

E. Approval of Minutes

5. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated "*October 16, 2014*" be approved as presented.

MOVER: Colùm Connolly

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

Motion to amend to strike "slave" and replace with "slate" in the entire motion.

MOVER: Shona Robinson

SECONDER: Patrick Lo

MOTION PASSES

Back to motion as amended.

MOTION PASSES

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

Executive Committee August 20

Executive Committee July 14

Executive Committee July 29

Service Committee August 11

Service Committee August 25

Service Committee September 8

Service Committee September 22

Service Committee October 6

Code and Policy August 1

Code and Policy September 5

MOVER: Tobias Friedel
MOTION PASSES

SECONDER: Daniel Wood

F. Executive Remarks
(3 minutes)

- President – Colúm Connolly
 - Attended the Canadian Association for the Graduate Studies conference;
 - Attended the Centennial fund committee meeting;
- Vice-President Academic & External Affairs – Daniel Wood
 - Tuition consultation for new programs;
 - Emergency Fund Revision;
 - Has been working on the report on the Emergency Fund expenditures for the Council;
 - Hiring of the Advocacy Coordinator;
 - Thanked Siobhan for her hard work and contribution in the position of the Advocacy Coordinator;
 - Moving forward - MPP consultations, the student leadership conference in January;
- Vice-President Administration – Kevin Mehr
 - Human resources hired Communications and Marketing Director;
 - Coordinating the new website;
 - Hiring for GM, this is an exciting time;
 - CPIF projects have moved forward; security, lobby updates and the study room renovations.
 - We are renegotiating the lease and we will be striking a committee in January;
- Vice-President Finance – Tobias Friedel
 - Involved in the international students tuition consultations;
 - Monthly routine.
- Vice-President Services – Min Xia
 - Hosted GSS BC Lions game night;
 - Laser Tag event took place in the GSS Ballroom;
 - 2 coffee socials were held;
 - Working on supplying a calendar to all students;

The Speaker requested opposition to recess for 20 minutes.
No objection.

Council reconvened at 7:25 pm.

G. Committee, Taskforce, and Operations Reports

(3 minutes)

- Academic & External Affairs Committee – Enav Zusman
 - AcEx Committee updates addressed in the letter from the Chair;
 - AcEx met a couple of times to work on the report to be submitted for December Council meeting;
 - Committee has received and reviewed a new Emergency Fund application;

- Executive Oversight Committee – Christopher Roach
 - Committee now has got new members and finally held a meeting;
 - Has been working on the Executive team revision;
 - Discussed the ways to make the revision process more efficient and useful;
 - Working on the report on how to improve the process;
 - Chair encouraged those Councillors who find the committee members unprofessional to commence the removal of the particular members from the committee.

- Human Resources Committee – Jack Hickmott
 - The committee met twice;
 - Hired a new Advocacy Coordinator;
 - Hired the Communications and Marketing Director;
 - Accepting GM applications;
 - Handbook revision has been started.

- Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh
 - Planning for the Family event with Santa;
 - Has been working on the Volunteer appreciation and involvement program.

- Off-campus Outreach Task Force – Jack Hickmott (acting Chair)
 - The Committee is two-month old now;
 - Primary has been collecting data;
 - Discussed what kind of services and activities shall be offered off-campus;
 - Planning for the big gala event next year;

H. Representative Reports

(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – Christopher Roach
 - New Student Union Building has been officially delayed till April; expected to be open in May with official ceremony in September;
 - Has been discussing housing increases;
 - Held AGM with 500 students in the attendance;
 - Has approved 7 motions on the housing.

I. Council Motions

7. WHEREAS the UBC GSS Bylaw change motion at AGM 2013 was rejected by Registrar of BC.

WHEREAS GSS Bylaw changes does require a special general meeting for approval.

BIRT the GSS council recommends the GSS President call a special general meeting on December 11 2014.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Daniel Wood

Motivation. Functional changes to the GSS Bylaws to move forward.

It was asked and answered that the changes were approved at the last Annual General meeting; however, the Registrar of BC rejected the wording. It was further noted that the amendment did not take into effect.

It was further remarked that the changes have been improved, restructured and made consistent with the GSS policies.

MOTION PASSES

8. Affiliate Organization Recognition

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

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in ~~September~~ **November** 2015.

- a. Statistics;
- b. Master in Asia Pacific Studies (MAAPPS);
- c. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association;
- d. Computer Science Graduate Student Association;
- e. History Graduate Student Association;
- f. Library & Archival Studies Student Association;
- g. Department of English Graduate Caucus;
- h. Neuroscience Graduate Student Association;**
- i. Botany Graduate Student Association;**
- j. Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program**

MOVER: Christopher Roach

SECONDER: Daniel Wood

Motivation. The Council recognition is a requirement to access the Events Fund.



Motion to amend to strike “September” and replace with “November”, and add Neuroscience Graduate Student Association, Botany Graduate Student Association and Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program to the list.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel SECONDER: Daniel Wood
MOTION PASSES

Back to motion as amended.

MOTION PASSES

9. WHEREAS the proposed project entitled “Penthouse Flooring and Furniture” satisfies the requirements of a CPIF project and has been approved by the HF Committee;

BIRT the GSS Council approves up to \$9,000 for the “Penthouse Flooring and Furniture” project from the CPIF budget line

MOVER: Colùm Connolly SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

It was asked and answered that over \$100,000 is left in the Capital Project Improvement Fund.

It was further explained that the proposed projects have to satisfy the CPIF requirements to be approved and implemented. It was asked and answered that more CPIF projects are forthcoming in the next year.

MOTION PASSES

10. WHEREAS Canada's Tri-Council Agencies (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC) are important sources of research funding for graduate students;

WHEREAS none of Canada's Tri-Council Agencies have student representatives on their governing councils;

WHEREAS students are well-qualified to provide high-quality input, oversight, and strategic guidance on matters relating to research funding in Canada;

BIRT the GSS supports the appointment of student representatives to the governing councils of the Tri-Council Agencies.

MOVER: Alison McAfee SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

Motivation. The initiative is coming from the GU 15, an association of graduate students' organizations, requesting the GSS to pass a motion on the student representation at the Tri-Council agencies.



It was asked the rationale behind the expression of support rather than request being invited to the table, to which the answer was that the student position has not been established yet. It was further asked the effect of the motion passed, to which the answer was that the approval will establish GSS position statement on the student representation at the Tri-Council Agencies.

Motion to amend to strike “supports” and replace with “requests”.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel SECONDER: Harry Li

Motivation. GSS shall be actively requesting the appointment of students to the Tri-Council Agencies.

It was asked and answered that the word “support” shall have the meaning of “advocate” leaving more flexibility for Executives to make further steps.

It was asked whether there will be the subsequent GU 15 motions in this direction, to which the answer was that it depends on the further developments.

It was further noted that the GSS Council decision will be of advisory nature and will give start to a letter writing campaign requesting a seat for CASA member on the Tri-Council.

MOTION FAILS

Back to motion as presented.

It was spoken against noting that the motion is a blank statement without an active position.

MOTION PASSES

11. WHEREAS UBC has proposed a policy in which the UBC Board of Governors would grant pre-approval to the tuition of future Dual-Degree Program Options;

WHEREAS this approval would apply for an indefinite period of time to future Dual-Degree Program Options which have not yet been proposed;

WHEREAS it is the duty of a Governor to "exercise the care, skill and diligence that would be exercised in the same circumstances by a reasonable person";

WHEREAS Senate does not pre-approve Dual-Degree Program Options and instead considers each proposal individually as they arise;

BIRT the GSS is opposed to any policy which would grant pre-approval for the tuition of new Dual-Degree Program Options at UBC;



~~BIRT~~ **BIFRT** the GSS supports the principle that each new dual-degree program option which has had its curriculum considered and approved by Senate should be required to have its tuition proposal considered and approved by the Board of Governors.

BIFRT the GSS supports the principle that tuition proposals for new Dual-Degree Program Options should be considered as a change to tuition and therefore subject to UBC Policy #71.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

UBC presented a policy in regards to the future Dual-Degree programs where the Board of Governors automatically grants pre-approval for the tuition fees. This policy raises a number of concerns, such as the amount of tuition and for which programs. Given that the Senate considers each curriculum proposal individually, it was emphasized that the Board of Governors should also consider each tuition proposal individually. It is aimed at avoiding a double tuition fee for the combined programs.

Note. Friendly motion to replace the second “BIRT” with “BIRFT”, remove “#” after “UBC Policy”.

It was asked how the current programs are being run, to which the answer was that each program is evaluated independently.

MOTION PASSES

12. WHEREAS the GSS has six seats on the Graduate Council;

WHEREAS in the past student representatives held a total of 4 seats of the three standing committees of the Graduate Council;

BIRT the Graduate Student Society requests to continue occupying four seats on the standing committees of the Graduate Council according to the previous distribution to ensure the proper student participation and consultation throughout all decision-making processes in relation to the graduate student education at the Graduate Council.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel SECONDER: George Furey

It was clarified that there are three standing committees with 4 seats have been offered in the past. The GSS shall maintain the same representation in the Graduate Council.

MOTION PASSES

J. Other Business and Notice of Motions

K. Discussion Period

GSS Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 13, 2014
GSS Ballroom



Alcohol at the events sponsored through the GSS Events Fund.

- It was noted that the Graduate Student Associations that applied for the Events Fund may happen to make profit by selling alcohol during their events;
- This issue was brought to the attention of the House Finance Committee for further investigation in terms of the liability to the GSS.

L. Submissions

M. Next Meeting

Special General Meeting
Council meeting
Thursday December 11, 2014

N. Adjournment

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:11pm.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel
MOTION PASSES

SECONDER: Krish Maharaj