



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, November 26th 2015 | 5:30 pm

Multipurpose Room, Liu Institute for Global Issues | 6476 NW Marine Drive

Present: Amber Shilling, Andrew Leyland, Andrew Alexander, Bingyu Liu, Bradley Balaton, Chandan Sejekan, Charles Copeland, Charlie Deng, Christie Waltham, Christina Wiesmann, Conny Lin, Dan Kehila, Dylan Burrows, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Emily Allan, Enav Zusman, Francisco Gómez- Lopéz, Hamza Khan, Hooman Shahrokhi, Ingrid Olson, James Lawson, Jennifer Campbell, Miki Narukage (proxy for Jennifer DeBoer), Jennifer Bok, Joann Anokwuru, John Dupuis, Joon Seon Lee, Kate Jaffe, Kaye Hare, Namrata Jain (proxy for Kelsi Lix), Kevin Mehr, Krish Maharaj, Kyla Drzazgowski, Logan MacDonald, Maichael Thejoe, Nicholas Dawson, Patrick Lo, Raghav Grover, Ran Xiang, Shona Robinson, Tal Shalev, Tobias Friedel, Xun Zhou, Yaseen Mottiar, Yulia Merkulova, Zoe Lam.

Regrets: Chen Vu, Jennifer Zhao, Mary Caple, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Natalie Marshall, Sarah Simon.

Absent: Anujit Chakraborty, Chad Rickaby, Grant Tran, Maayan Kreitzman, Matthew Gartner, Mirza Sarwar, Mohammad Nikoo, Olenka Forde, Parker Jobin, Peter Chen, Vasilii Triandafilidi.

Speaker: Abdul Alnaar.

Guests: Mark Wellington, GSS General Manager
Veronica Knott, BOGS Student Representative
Julie Van de Valk, BOGS Student Representative

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:54 pm.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Andrew Leyland

Motion to add Forestry Graduate Student Association for recognition as affiliate organization.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Amber Shilling

Amendment passed by unanimous consent

MOTION PASSED

27/0/1

B. Councillor seating

2. BIRT the following seating is approved:

Chandan Sejekan to be seated as Departmental Representative for Mechanical Engineering.

Joann Anokwuru to be seated as Departmental Representative for Educational Studies.

Jennifer DeBoer to be seated as Departmental Representative for Forestry.



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Jennifer Bok to be seated as Departmental Representative for Master of Business Administration.

Andrew Alexander to be seated as Departmental Representative for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

MOVER: Shona Robinson

SECONDER: John Dupuis

Motivation: all candidates have submitted their Affidavit of Election and attended new councillor training.

It was asked and answered that three councillor intakes is a guaranteed minimum in a given year, and take place in October, February and June. It was also stated that the mentioned policy is not restrictive and allows having additional seating if needed.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

C. Council Motions (Part I)

3. Policy Manual 3.2.1 “Attendance at Council”¹ *Introduced by: Code and Policy Committee*

WHEREAS Board of Governors student representatives deal with matters that affect graduate students; and

WHEREAS Board of Governors student representatives are not always graduate students and thus are not members permitted to Council as per the current policy 3.2.1.

BIRT Council approves the amendments made to Section 3.2.1 of the Policy Manual as presented to allow any Board of Governors student representative to attend Council.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Nick Dawson

Motivation: no invitation will be necessary for student representatives to provide report and discussion items to Council.

It was asked and answered that amendments to the Policy Manual are adopted by special resolution.

MOTION PASSED

32/0/1

Note: Tobias F. welcomed Veronica Knott and Julie Van de Valk to the table.

Motion to add BoGs report to the Section J Representative Reports.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Nick Dawson

¹ Special resolution



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Motivation: to ensure that GSS Council is aware of what is going on and to make it a part of agenda.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

D. Introductions

E. Presentations

(10 Minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions)

- **Recommendations for the 2016 GSS Executive Elections**

Presenter: Patrick Lo, Chief Electoral Officer for 2015 GSS Executive Elections.

- Presented proposal by Elections Committee for 2015 GSS Executive Elections; report has been also submitted to the Code and Policy for further review as procedures and forms comprise sections and appendices of the Policy Manual.
- Changes are outlined as current and proposed policies;
- Nomination form (proposed) will ask for cell-phone number and email info instead of home/work phone number and website; re-phrased last sentence to make it more informative about the deadline and location of the GSS office.
- Ballot layout: applies to both paper (has not been used for a while) and electronic format, contains option for re-open nominations and abstain. There was some confusion last year; proposed format has definitions included for the voting options available.
- Preliminary Results (proposed): will add percentages and more figures all over the place; make results more informative to address concerns over lack of transparency;
- Elections Procedure (proposed): move reporting at the Council meeting following the elections. Originally voting was held in January, now moved to March to align with the AMS Elections; February reporting does not make sense anymore as it is in essence before the elections.
- All candidates meeting (proposed): to have at least one session with an option to have as many additional sessions on- and off-campus as needed.
- Deadline (proposed): will allow extension when required; any decisions made by the committee have to be reported to Council; Last year three positions had 0 applications that's why committee decided to extend nominations period for 1 week.
- Other (proposed): changes to the appendices numbering; ballot rules apply to paper ballots where possible, minor changes, etc.

Questions & Answers

It was suggested setting deadline at 5 pm to avoid confusion. It was further discussed voting options on the ballot and emphasized on the difference between casting abstaining vote and re-open nominations. It was further noted



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that if a grad student chooses to abstain from all other options available, he/she is considered an elector (a recorded abstention) and a graduate student, who does not vote at all, isn't.

It was further asked and answered that elections committee decides on any additional sessions of the all candidates meetings to be held either on- or off-campus.

It was also asked about the examples when voters had been coerced and/or pressured to cast their vote in a particular way, and made reference to the complaints from 2015 Elections. It was also noted that some people choose to use different words to describe unwanted behavior in favor of one candidate over another; both terms fall under one umbrella.

It was lastly suggested using the guidelines of Elections Canada.

Motion to extend time for 5 minutes.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Hamza Khan

It was also discussed about the layout of the paper ballots and the ways how it can be seen as one that favours one candidate over another. It was further mentioned that the layout of the ballot is an appendix of the Policy Manual. It suggests using randomized name order.

F. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

4. Unseating (no vote necessary)

Sarah Simon has been unseated as GSS Representative to AMS Council.

5. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Elizabeth Bulaeva be seated to the Elections Committee.

Hashem Jeihooni, Dante Mendoza be seated to the House Finance Committee.

Shakun Singla, Shadi Balandeh be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

Chandan Sejekan, Jennifer DeBoer be seated to the Services Committee.

Sarah Fernando be seated to the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

MOVER: Kate Jaffe

SECONDER: Maichael Thejoe

MOTION PASSED

6. BIRT the following appointments are approved:

Amber Shilling be appointed Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Sneha Balani be appointed Chair of Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

MOVER: Maichael Thejoe

SECONDER: Patrick Lo

MOTION PASSED

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7. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

Charlie Deng be appointed GSS Representative to AMS Council.

MOVER: Maichael Thejoe

SECONDER: Charles Copeland

MOTION PASSED

G. Approval of Minutes

8. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “October 15th, 2015” and “October 22nd, 2015” be approved as presented.

Motion to replace all mentions of “3015” with “2015” deemed friendly.

MOVER: Amber Shilling

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION PASSED 33/0/1

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

House Finance October 6, 2015;

House Finance October 27, 2015.

MOVER: Maichael Thejoe

SECONDER: Francisco Gómez-Lopéz

MOTION PASSED

H. Executive Remarks (3 minutes)

• **President – Tobias Friedel**

- ABCS: full office have resigned; re-building from the grounds;
- CASA: attended Policy and Strategy conference in Halifax; advocacy week will be held in February;
- Fifth Estate: graduate students have been affected; media provided coverage before and after the documentary; Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee has done an excellent work – MyGradStory.ca campaign will go out tomorrow; invite grad students to share their experience both confidentially and publicly; press release will be going out tomorrow.

• **Vice-President University and Academic Affairs – Enav Zusman**

- Was on maternity leave and now back;
- Faculty of Arts is looking for a new Dean and asked for a student representative to get involved in the process.

• **Vice-President External Relations – Gloria Liu**

- CASA: attended Policy and Strategy conference in Halifax; reviewed CASA policies, Liberal Party platform and results of the Federal Elections; organization is working on the lobby document for the next year which include financial matters, equity and research, employment, etc. Two CASA policies that are being discussed at the grad committee – increase to 10% the amount received from Tri-Council, and immigration opportunities.



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- Bill 41: will influence student unions in terms of the way fees are collected from students. First draft is currently being reviewed by the provincial government. Collaborate together with other student associations to ask for some amendments.
 - BC Lobby on grad scholarships: AcEx discussed provisions of the proposal; planning on collaborating with other universities.
- **Vice-President Students– Kevin Mehr**
 - Finishing up Fall Programing: craft beer tasting, Winter-themed/Christmas/Holiday/Family events, etc.;
 - Working on Spring Programming together with Services committee and Events Director; trying to include more professional development and cultural fluency social events, wellness, shows, music shows, opera, departmental beer gardens, etc. - trying to diversify as much as possible.
 - Now run coffee socials in the GSS Loft (Nest); planning on setting a regular time every two weeks; will follow up as to departmental coffee socials in the next couple of weeks.
 - Event Funds: receive approximately 2 applications per week; GSS EF is getting more popular since it was started.
 - **Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Charlie Deng**
 - Looking into actuals to find more areas to maximize cost reduction;
 - HF is currently working on the Event Fund procedures;
 - Attended committee reviewing misconduct involving romantic relationships between TA and a grad student; there are updates available.
- I. Committee and Ad Hoc Committees Reports (3 minutes)**
- **Academic & External Affairs Committee – Tal Shalev**
 - Discussed two main issues in the past month: tuition and AcEx TOR;
 - Talked about having a protocol on tuition increases and put it in the bylaws to be followed;
 - Reviewed Policy Manual and purpose of the committee.
 - **Code and Policy Committee – Julienne Jagdeo**
 - “Since our October Council meeting, CPC has nearly completed a section revision of the committee terms of references within section 8 of the policy manual, following a second round of consultation with each committee. Thank you to all the committees for their continued support with these revisions. We aim to bring the final revised draft before you for approval at our December Council meeting. We have also completed the final revision of Section 16 on the Capital Improvement Fund, which you have now had the opportunity to review and is up for approval tonight. Our current focus is on Section 12 on the Election Procedures. As per request of last year’s Elections committee and in consultation with this year’s Elections committee, we are updating this section based on feedback from last year’s election.”²

² Written report submitted by J. Jagdeo, Chair of the Code and Policy Committee.

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- **Executive Oversight Committee – Charlie Deng**
 - No report.
- **House-Finance Committee – Shona Robinson**
 - Had several meetings since last Council;
 - Have been working on CIF projects that are up for approval tonight;
 - Getting into the budget already; every meeting going into different items and develop recommendations to it;
 - Currently reviewing antisurplus and possible recommendations;
 - Discussing GSS Event Fund procedures: cap and general terms;
 - Lease Renewal: HF took over looking at the contract for the next 10 years; ad hoc committee failed to reach quorum.
 - GSC: discussed mutual goals, and plan of building usage; presented as discussion item.
- **Human Resources Committee – Tobias Friedel**
 - No report.
- **Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh**
 - Planning for the upcoming social events.
- **Strategic Planning ad hoc committee – Tobias Friedel**
 - No report.
- **Harassment and Discrimination ad hoc committee – Katerina Othonos**
 - No report.
- J. **Representative Reports (3 minutes)**
 - **AMS Council – Conny Lin**
 - Oct. 28th AMS Council voted to leave ABCS;
 - Held tuition rally: petition was available for signing;
 - Student Caucus met on Nov 20th to figure out roles and strategy;
 - Update from NewSub Committee about financial matters.³
 - **Graduate Council – Natalie Marshall**
 - “At Grad Council this month, we discussed English language requirements for graduate student applicants to UBC. The UBC TOEFL requirement for incoming graduate students (from countries where English is not the primary language) is the lowest of all U15 universities in Canada. The TOEFL requirement is higher for UBC undergraduate students and for UBC-Okanagan graduate students compared to UBC-Vancouver graduate students. Therefore, we’re discussing policy changes to increase the TOEFL requirement at the university level.

³ Report by Hooman S.; for more details: amsrep@gss.ubc.ca

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A second major topic was the Graduate Supervision Leadership Initiative, which aims to “improve UBC graduate pedagogy and practices,” experiment with new approaches, and form a community of practice. The Faculty is compiling the data from various experiments and writing it up – a document that will be interesting to read. Part of what they want to do is develop guidelines for evaluating supervision and looking at which metrics to use. Finally, we discussed UBC’s collective scholarship results. UBC is #1 in Canada for Vanier scholarships and #2 nationally, including other national Doctoral scholarships and Master’s level funding. U of T is #1 overall, BUT (in case it’s a competition), UBC has more Vaniers in each funding agency than U of T. So ha. We’re doing great.”⁴

- **Senate** – Sarah Simon and Nick Dawson
 - Met last week: President Search Committee and its terms of reference have been established;
 - In the process of developing presidential profile - characteristics that President should have; feedback and more details on BoGs’ website;
 - Passed changes to make easier to apply and graduate;
 - Clarified policies as to leave of absence;
 - Approved new programs: Master of Data Science and Master of High Performance Coaching & Technical Leadership;
 - Reviewing exam scheduling: when terms start and end; orientation and graduation time frames.

- **BoGS** – Veronica Knott and Julie Van de Valk
 - Next Board meeting is scheduled on Dec. 3rd at the Alumni Centre.
 - Reviewing capital projects, financial reports, fees for new programs; report from Senate;
 - Approved International tuition with some adjustments;
 - Strategic Investment Fund :more TA and PhD funding; will be discussed in February,
 - Brought up the topic about sexual assault.
 - New draft policy on research is up for consultations on BoGS’ website.

- **AMS/GSS Health and Dental Committee – Conny Lin**
 - Two major discussion items: fee increase in addition to annual CPI adjustments (cost is going up and needs to be revisited, otherwise fund will dry up or less services will be provided); launch of two tier program – students will be able to opt in to pay a bit more for better coverage.
 - AMS is planning to call a referendum in early 2016;

K. Question Period (5 minutes)

It was asked and answered that BoGs meeting will take place on Dec. 3rd at the Alumni Center 8am-5pm. It was suggested visiting BoGS website to look up time for specific agenda items of interest or text Veronica and Julie for more details.

It was asked about AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan referendum timeline, to which the answer was that it is planned to have motion passed end of January, and call referendum in February.

⁴ Report submitted by N. Marshall, Chair of the Graduate Council Student Caucus.

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It was further asked and answered that formal communications are held with AMS Executive as to GSS Loft; suggestions were submitted accordingly including request regarding access to the space. It was further mentioned that it is planned to program doors, so graduate students can use the space within the hours that the building is open.

Motion to recess for 20 minutes.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Ingrid Olson

MOTION PASSED

Meeting was called to order again at 8:04 pm

L. Council Motions (Part II)

10. Financial Statements December 31, 2014 – May 31, 2015 *Introduced by: Executive Committee*

BIRT GSS Council approves Financial Statements as for December 31, 2014 – May 31, 2015 by Tompkins, Wozny, Miller and Co as presented.

MOVER: Charlie Deng

SECONDER: Christina Wiesmann

Motivation: financial report was presented last month; asked Councillors to come up with questions and have them discussed at the November Council.

It was stated that the GSS as a reporting entity under the Society's Act is required to adopt audited financial statements annually. It was further noted that the fiscal year of the Society was changed to align with the Executive term. The presented report is an interim audit review that covers a 5 month transition period. In the motion as presented Society is in order, in compliance with the generally accepted audit rules; good standing in financial matters. Next time financial statements will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

MOTION PASSED

28/0/1

11. Policy Manual 16 "Capital Improvement Fund"⁵ *Introduced by: Code and Policy Committee*

BIRT Council approves the amendments made to Section 16 of the Policy Manual as presented.

MOVER: Tobias

SECONDER: Christina Wiesmann

Motivation: "we have changed the title (and any subsequent reference) from 'Capital projects improvement fund' to 'Capital improvement fund' since that is the name the fee is collected under. The majority of the changes made to this section have been improving the language and style of this section to clarify the intent and improve the flow. For the most part, the spirit of this section has not changed."⁶

⁵ Special resolution

⁶ Written report from Chair of the Code and Policy Committee.



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One Councillor voiced her disappointment about the acronym.

MOTION PASSED 28/1/0

12. CIF “Server Shutdown”⁷

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS GSS server motherboard containing sensitive information has stopped functioning and cannot be repaired; and

WHEREAS the project entitled “Server Shutdown” satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, and

WHEREAS the emergency expense to replace non-functioning components of the server motherboard was made from Equipment (budget line 10-761).

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$448 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the replacement of the non-functioning components of the server motherboard.

BIFRT GSS Council approves the transfer of these funds from CIF (budget line 10-785) to the Equipment (budget line 10-761) after project completion.

MOVER: Ingrid Olson

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

Motivation: whereas clause speaks for the motion.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

13. CIF “Hard Drive Shutdown”⁸

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS one of the hard drives containing sensitive information has stop functioning and required an immediate repair; and

WHEREAS the project entitled “Hard Drive Shutdown” satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, and

WHEREAS the emergency expense to replace the non-functioning hard drive was made from Equipment (budget line 10-761);

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$79.50 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the installation of a new hard drive.

⁷ Special resolution

⁸ Special resolution



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BIRT GSS Council approves the transfer of these funds from CIF (budget line 10-785) to the Equipment (budget line 10-761) after project completion.

MOVER: Nicholas Dawson

SECONDER: Christina Wiesmann

It was asked and answered that the emergency expense to replace hard drive had been made to a different budget line and needed to be approved from the Capital Improvement Fund. The reason behind it was to replace non-functioning hard drive as soon as possible to avoid having GSS server down for a couple of weeks.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

14. CIF “Replacement of office equipment and new building maintenance equipment”⁹

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS expenditures on carpet cleaner, keyboards, mice, and an office desk were misattributed, and satisfy the requirement of the CIF (Capital Improvement Fund); and

WHEREAS the project entitled “Replacement of office equipment and new building maintenance equipment” was recommended by House Finance Committee for Council approval; and

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$2,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-875) for the purchase of carpet cleaner, keyboards, mice, and an office desk.

BIFRT GSS Council approves transfer of these funds from CIF (budget line 10-785) to the Equipment (budget line 10-761).

MOVER: Hamza Khan

SECONDER: Kevin Mehr

Motivation: one of those situations when there has been no time to go through Council process; want to avoid using equipment budget for capital projects.

It was asked and answered that Equipment (budget line 10-761) is designated for any purchases that does not qualify for Capital Improvement Fund, such as light bulbs, moving parts - perishable supplies with a useful life of less than 3 years.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

15. CIF “Drop-over cable protectors”¹⁰

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS cables pose a safety hazard throughout the GSC, and using mats or tape to cover them is not appropriate;

⁹ Special resolution

¹⁰ Special resolution

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WHEREAS the project entitled “Drop-over cable protectors” satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval.

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$637 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of 30 feet of cable protectors.

MOVER: Christina Wiesmann

SECONDER: Maichael Thejoe

Motivation: expenditure to meet safety standards for the events held outside, like BBQs, Orientation, etc. Should any injury happen on the premises will cause liability for the Society. Ensure that no one gets injured.

It was asked about the cost and answered that the proposal as presented is the cheapest option of professional equipment currently available on the market.

MOTION PASSED

16. CIF “Thea’s Lounge Laminate Flooring & Bar Backsplash Repair”¹¹

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS the floor in the Thea’s Lounge near the bar is severely damaged due to water leakage and heavy traffic;

WHEREAS the backsplash in the Thea’s bar area is out-dated and hideous;

WHEREAS the project entitled “Thea’s Lounge Laminate Flooring & Bar Backsplash Repair” satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval.

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$14,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the replacement of flooring and backsplash in the bar area of Thea’s Lounge.

MOVER: Andrew Alexander

SECONDER: Zoe Lam

Motivation: area between wall dividers and washroom has seen some damage, and is in such a bad shape that can no longer defer. It makes sense to replace 500 sq. feet of laminate with tiling; the option we’ve chosen is very sustainable and heavy duty.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

17. CIF “Ballroom Bar Area Tile Maintenance”¹²

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

¹¹ Special resolution

¹² Special resolution



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WHEREAS UBC Building Operations approached the GSS and strongly recommended that the tile floor in the Ballroom bar area be professionally cleaned, buffed, and sealed; and

WHEREAS the flooring has not been treated for several years and if not cleaned and sealed, will eventually deteriorate and require replacement; and

WHEREAS the project entitled “Ballroom Bar Area Tile Maintenance” satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval.

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$420 from the Capital Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the recommended maintenance of this flooring.

MOVER: Maichael Thejoe

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

Motivation: has already adjusted the inside flooring at the bar. Outside hall area is not in a totally bad shape, but will deteriorate. UBC Build Ops has offered us a sweet deal.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

18. Affiliate Organizations Recognition

Introduced by: Executive Committee

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

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in November 2016:

- a. Neuroscience GSA;
- b. Computer Science Graduate Student Association.
- c. English Department Graduate Caucus.
- d. GSAT-CRC.
- e. Graduate Law Students' Society.
- f. Botany Graduate Students' Association.
- g. Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics Grads.
- h. Forestry Graduate Student Association.**

MOVER: Hooman Shahkrokhi

SECONDER: Kaye Hare

Motivation: all organizations have submitted their Petitions and everything is in order.

It was asked and answered that GSAT- CRC stands for Genome Science and Technology [Cancer Research] Centre. It was further stated that the most impactful benefit for affiliate organizations is to be eligible for financial support from GSS Event Fund. In return organizations oblige to follow



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GSS Bylaws and Policy Manual and act in the best interests of the graduate students at UBC Vancouver.

It was further noted that the matter of other responsibilities shall be addressed by the House Finance Committee. It was also answered that recognition is granted for a period of one year to ensure that proper communications are held when/if Executive turn over takes place. All organizations are given one month notice before expiry date. Should any given organization apply for recognition, it shall follow advertising and promotional materials guidelines, follow House Rules and do not slander GSS.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

N. Other Business and Notice of Motions

O. Discussion Period

- *GSS Commissioners;*

First announced in the President's executive report on October 22nd and advertised two weeks ago, this is a new initiative by GSS. The idea was to open up professional leadership volunteer positions; to get more students involved apart from the other positions available. For 6 commissioner positions have received 22 applications in total; 2 at least for each position considering this is a first try.

It was discussed how these positions will be administered and what kind of projects they will be working on. It was also touched on accountability of Execs and about reports to Council. It was noted that each position falls under Executive portfolio and will be supervised accordingly. It was also remarked that it will allow to expand on the current and/or start new projects. Reporting will be included in the executive updates on a monthly basis with a final report at the end of April. Volunteers will assume in their positions early January and will finish late April when Executive turnover takes place.

- *Strategic Plan for the Graduate Student Centre and GSS Space requirements.*

Discussion points:

- GCS useful life (cost/ upgrades/ CIF/Koerner's Pub/occupancy); benefits/pitfalls;
- Lease Agreement;
- Potential location: development on the University Blvd and Wesbrook Mall; Old Sub; floor in a building;
- Recent practice: Abdula building for Engineering Student Society; AMS Nest;
- Fundraising: through referendum + UBC sponsorship; CIF; alumni donations.

P. Notice

R. Submissions

- Financial Statements December 31, 2014 – May 31, 2015 (draft as of Nov.24, 2015)
- Policy Manual Section 16 "Capital Improvement Fund";
- Policy Manual Section 3.2.1 "Attendance at Council".

S. Next Meeting



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Note: Thursday, December 10th 2015 (second week)

T. Adjournment

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:19 pm.