



GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Updated: 11/19/12 10:37 AM

**Oct 18, 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/yk446590748eam5/Ql5a43tvZu>

In attendance: Joel Atwater, Gabriela Badica, Ambrose Chan, Colum Connolly, Yvonne Dzal, Michael Fairchild, George Furey, Chelsea Gao, Amanda Grochowich, Marianne Haseloff, Gwen Huber, Nazrul Islam, Adrin Jalali, Xue-Rong Jia, Henry John, Rabia Khan, Robert Klinzmann, Conny Lin, Jan Luedert, Kristan Marchak, Jamie Marra, Natalie Marshall, Cynthia Min, Omid Nourbakhsh, Victor Padilla, Sarah Parker, Radu Racovita, Hafizur Rahman, Chris Regier, Melody Ren, Chris Roach, Kathryn Rowswell, Rachel Roy, Elie Sarraf, Paul Save, Stephania Schwartz, Maxim Stykow, Alexandra Wieland, Yunfei Zhang, Conrad King, Brenda Fitzpatrick, Ken Scott, Chunman Zhang

Regrets: Valeria Castellanos (through proxy Molly Campbell), Vivian Lam, Sancho McCann, Ingrid Olson, David Waddell, Tom Woodsworth

I. Call to order, adoption of agenda and introductions

Meeting start: 5:44pm

II. Presentations & relevant motions

1. GSS Open Scholar award

Presenter: Rabia Khan, Vice President, Academic and External (5mins award ceremony)

Award originated from GSS Senator. It is a joint award from FoGS and the GSS. Purpose of award is to feature UBC as a leader in Graduate Student work.

Award Recipients:

Group 1: Lisa Marie Cornish, Victoria Marie Feige, Adriana Dawn Guenter, Christina Louise Kliewer, Emily Alexandra Mellis

Group 2: Jennifer Sylvia Gonsalves, Evin Daniel Kuyser, Tamara Mae McKay, Amy Jayne Moffat, Stephanie Allison Palmer

2. Research Ethics

Introduction: Jan Ludert, GSS Councillor (1min) Need to have ethics approval for research using human subjects, which is the basis of our presentation.

Presenter: Dr. Kirsten Bell, Research Ethics Analyst, Office of Research Ethics, UBC (10min presentation, 5min question) Lack of awareness about ethics approval here on campus. There is a national body called the Tri-Council Policy Statement. UBC abides by this. It states that any research needs to undergo upfront research approval. UBC has developed a number of policies- there are 6 different boards. The number of exemptions is limited. Include 3 categories of research- publically available info, naturalistic observation, anonymously collected data. Applies even to non-science students. Have a new "checklist" online to help decide whether you need it or not. (at UBC Office of Research Ethics)

Questions:

Do you need approval before you start total research?

-The only part that requires is the human part- other research can be begun before.

How long before approval?

-Different boards have different numbers. Some are speedier than others. 2-3 weeks on average. Time sensitive research should have you planning this in advance.

What are the repercussions?

-Depends on the level. Most vulnerable are grad students. It is complicated.

At Women and Children's board, there is an expedited process. What about others?

-Same categories exist for all of them.

3. Pub contract

Victor Padilla, Vice-President, Administration (10 min presentation, 10mins questions)

[At the end of this item, go to Motion, item#12] Would also like to talk about GSS Organizational values. Would like to set up a Strategic Plan for the GSS. The HR committee has developed a list of some values. Allows alignment of members to common goals. We need your help to pick the top 5!

Next is Sprouts- it is a new idea to explore for the GSS building. It's a volunteer based kitchen. We thought it should be here, and so sent out a survey to see if people are

interested. Majority of survey voters said yes they know what it is, and that they would like to have it here. Trying to bring life back to this building!

As for the Pub- the Pub has been closed since June 2011 due to financial concerns. We recognize the importance of having an anchor place here at the GSS. There were consequences to having it, though, in the past. In the meantime we signed a new bargaining agreement with CUPE. We had RFP, and finished the selection process. Now the contract is in with lawyers. Hoping to get go-ahead from Council. We are forming a Joint Venture. Will have 2 different leases, now. HK will have all responsibilities. 5-year lease. They will pay the greater of \$60,000 a year, or 6% revenue. We have to sign approval of renovations. We are not liable for anything. Hoping by November that the contract will be in place, and renovations can start. Aiming at opening in early 2013.

Questions:

What is advantage of having 2 leases?

-It is a requirement from UBC.

4. CUPE2278 (TA Union)

Conrad King, CUPE 2278 Executive & GSS Councillor (10min presentation, 5min question) There's been a lot going on recently, but the main points are- 2 years ago, the collective agreement ended. We wanted important language in the agreement (like academic harm) Working under net zero mandate. Put a package together from our members. Employers didn't respond to the package. Discovered that on average, 3% per year remuneration for senior staff at UBC, while we took net zero. Had a strike mandate, to get them to the table. Mediation forced them to give us an initial monetary package. 1% raise suggested, but we weren't happy about that. Core issues- wages, COLA, Extended rehiring preference, tuition waiver.

Response: 5 years for PhDs, no for Masters. Cola- no. Tuition waiver-no. Wage increase 0, 0, 1.5, 1.5 % . We are still in mediation right now. At general member meeting, wanted to express as Executives our frustration. We are at a critical juncture now. Want to inform members because of high turnover ever year of 35%. Wanted to get sense of where we stood, and if we have support. Members want us to poll membership. Next? Poll: Is our membership willing to have job action? Will be next week on Wednesday. We have email addresses of our members, so we can contact them. If you are a TA, please show up and vote.

Questions:

Why have you done a poll and not a vote?

-Members are voting, but a legal vote is not needed. Poll tells us what our members want- the vote is a legal thing. Legally, we have a strike mandate already. Question is: Should we use a strike vote now?

If you poll, pro-job action, would you vote?

-Yes, we have a mandate now.

(Make sure people know that!)

Why U of T as a model?

-Also big university. Should be the same- first package followed U of T.

Demographic- We are not TAs, but we will be soon. How can we get involved?

-Go to the website to stay informed, and we need volunteers. Cannot vote unless current members. There is strike pay. \$250 a week, without deductions.

Someone in my department asks: His pay would increase by participating in the strike- are there other considerations to consider?

-Not really- there are some repercussions. Some international students have expressed concern over job action- what it is, what it does. Is it illegal? No. Labor laws are strong, and participating in a legal job action will not put you at risk.

What is likelihood of strike? Have you considered online poll?

-Timeline? Soon. Cautious on timing. Polling online? Difficult.

Adjourn for food. 6:47pm.

Re-convened at 7:11pm

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

President – Conny Lin: Met with President Toope for the first time. Proud of my team. When the Pub opens, he wants to be there. Also talked about scholarships, CASA; invited the President and Dr. Louise to host a dinner for CASA. Will try to nail down CASA AGM date so we can have senior exec there. He was very impressed with Robert and Yunfei's work. VP Students is currently focusing on mental health- wants to connect all units across campus. Speaker interviews are underway. It is important to foster a relationship with FoGS and VP Students. Now they are starting to collaborate. Thanks to Rabia for this. At 3:05pm today you received a proposal from Toope; this is very important! We will write press releases regarding this. Rabia will help. Have your students speak up and say we need more money!

Vice-President, Academic & External – Rabia Khan: Had the VP Students meeting, one of the main items is tuition consultation. BoGs way of looking at it is evolving. Don't want tuition to go up. Want to make this more transparent to students. Dealing with WTF campaign. Will be on Halloween. Will announce on website. Childcare issue is back on table. Meeting with Andrew Parr about that. Asking if you have been around for previous debate, please email, and if you are new, join Ac/Ex! Would like to have an active committee- will send out a doodle to everyone. We also did new councilor Orientation. Want to thank you all!

Vice- President, Administration - Victor Padilla: I gave a presentation, not much to add.

Vice-President, Finance – Robert Klinzmann: I give Victor advice. ☺ Had 2 HF meetings. Would like to remind everyone that all councilors must be on committees.

Vice-President, Services – Yunfei Zhang: Coffee Social has been changed into a monthly form. Giving each Coffee Social a topic. Last month was Immigration. This month was AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan. Events: In winter, we have festivals. Last month we had a Thanksgiving potluck, this month we will have Halloween- having a costume competition. Website: It kinda sucks! It is our main target this term. We are not ready to show it to you guys yet. Still working on the International Culture Festival. UBC students have many different backgrounds; we would like everyone to learn about them. Our idea has attracted the notice of the President’s office- they have offered \$14,000. It will go to next term in March. We will have a task force, and welcome you to join us.

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

Senate – Chris Roach: Just passed two motions- one revision to #302 (have established 5 different types of leave), and one to #303 (allows grads to maintain status around a new child/birth by 8 weeks) Two new awards, too. Both will be awarded thru Sept. applications.

Board of Governors - Sumedha Sharma Supporting Document: Board of Governors Update - 2012-09-20 (not present)

AMS Council - Chris Roach: Last meeting they passed a report on Sustainability, in terms of student housing. More on Acadia Park, will take 50% of land and give it to developers- AMS has a problem with that, so we are working on that too. They established a new governance board. Only students may be hired, will have application in the GSS newsletter or contact me.

AMS Health & Dental Committee - Sancho MaCann (not present)

Graduate Council - Conny Lin: Invited to speak in front of Council. Still want to work on Supervisory relationships, address issue of changing career landscape. UBC has not adapted to this type of training.

Executive Committee - Conny Lin: We are dealing with most of the stuff offline.

Academic & External Committee - Rabia Khan: Last two meetings didn’t happen because of lack of quorum; did have a presentation, though. Had Get on Board Campaign from AMS. They will ask to sign petition to get direct rapid transit system and extended transit in general. More info on website. Also had one presentation on Airmiles.

Code & Policy Committee – Conny Lin: If you have interest, read the attached document. It is a progress report. Revisions are in progress. Please join us if you are interested!

Supporting documents: CPC Annual Plan and Progress_20121017_1759

Election Committee – Andrew Patterson (not present)

Executive Oversight Committee - Maxim Syklow: We are ensuring that the Exec do their job, have been overseeing this for the last month- noting to report means things are going smoothly!

House Finance Committee – Robert Klinzmann: *Main thing was the Pub- the new group wants to work with us for renovations. Have been discussing Sprouts, so Victor can go forward with it.*

Pub-Renewal Taskforce (House Finance) – Victor Padilla: *Been looking into the contract, doing negotiations. Still need HK to sign. Moving forward with Sprouts. We are happy as long as it doesn't cost the GSS anything. We are giving out the space.*

Human Resources Committee – Victor Padilla: *We went through performance evaluations for all our staff, and working on an HR manual. Will be the first time we have a clear document. If you want to be seated, let me know! We deal with “real” issues. Hands on issues- great for work experience.*

Services Committee - Yunfei Zhang: *No more to mention, all included in my report.*

Accessibility at Orientation Taskforce (Services) – Christine Hochbaum (not present)

International Festival Taskforce (Services) – Ling Zhang: *Postponed to next March.*

Safety and Sustainability Committee – Stephania Schwartz: *Need new members.*

Move agenda item #18 before #5 .

Moved: Jan Seconded: Conny

No objections- it passes.

V. Approval of Minutes

5. **(moved) Airmiles for Knowledge:** *Jan Ludert. Many students need to go somewhere else for their research and fieldwork. Want to work with Alumni to receive donated Airmiles. Want to create a funding pool for graduate students. Need to conduct a needs assessment. Find out what kind of costs are incurred. Where do they go, and for how long? Can you ask your departments? Also need to bring it to alumni. Then discuss with them and you on how to implement this. Could do crowdfunding. If you have ideas, bring it up!*

Ideas? Questions?

**Can we ask the floor if it is supported? Straw poll.
Unanimous majority in support.**

Questions?

*Want to ask about those departments that do get funding- some don't.
-We have discussed- how can we be sure this is done on a needs basis. We would double check.*

Logistically, who will administrate it?

-We have discussed this already, and Rabia made a good point. Conny said, we need a project to give to Alumni. Rabia made the point that we should have some ownership of it.

It is a great idea! It is expensive here. Might want to leave them the option to choosing sponsorship (participants) as they might feel more connected that way.

6. Council Minutes

BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated *Sept 20, 2012* be approved as presented.

Moved: Conrad **Seconded:** Chris

Minutes Pass Unanimously.

7. Committee minutes

BIRT the minutes of *Exec_20120827, Exec_20120927, AcEx_2012918, AcEx_20120828, HF_20120911, HR_20120911, HR_20120925, CPC_20120828, and CPC_20120928* be approved as presented.

Passes Unanimously.

VI. Seatings, unseatings & appointments

8. Notice of unseatings (no vote necessary)

Amit Kumar (Mining Engineering) has missed more than three council meetings and is unseated from the Council

Cory Shankman (Physics), Stephanie Avery-Gomm (Zoology), Noushin Moshgabadi, (Medical Genetics), Natasha Sihota (Earth and Ocean Sciences), Anna Lund (Law), Mary Jinglewski (SLAIS), Molly Campbell (Integrated Studies, Land and Food Systems), Conrad King (Political Sciences) have submitted their resignation and are unseated from the Council.

Maxim Stykow has submitted his resignation and is unseated as the representative on the Graduate Council for the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Andrew Patterson has submitted his resignation and is unseated as Chief Electoral Officer from the Election Committee.

Andrew Patterson and Conrad King has submitted their resignation and are unseated from the Pub Renewal Taskforce

Conrad King has submitted his resignation and is unseated from the Academic & External Committee

Conrad King has submitted his resignation and is unseated from the House & Finance Committee

Natasha Sihota and Molly Campbell has submitted their resignation and are unseated from the Safety & Sustainability Committee

Mary Jinglewski has submitted her resignation and is unseated from the Services Committee

9. Seatings (Council)

**Department eligible for two council seats: Sauder, Counselling Psychology, Educational Psychology and Special Education, School of Rehabilitation Services, Educational Studies, Office of Continuing Professional Education, Civil Engineering*

BIRT Colum Connolly (Medical Genetics), Omid Nourbakhsh (Physics and Astronomy), Yvonne Dzal (Zoology), Thomas Woodsworth (Geography), Nafis Rahman (Business Administration, PhD program), Cynthia Min (MD/PhD), Xue-Rong Jia (MAAPPS), Gabriela Badica (French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies), Guillaume Beaulieu (Chemistry), Marianne Haseloff (Earth and Ocean Sciences), Jamie Marra (Kinesiology), Sarah Parker (Law), George Furey (Plant Science, Faculty of Land and Food Systems), Valeria Castellanos (Integrated Studies, Faculty of Land and Food Systems), Chelsea (Hui Juan) Gao (SPPH*), Nazrul Islam (SPPH*), Kathryn Rowswell (SLAIS, iSchool*), Alexandra Wieland (SLAIS, iSchool*), Melody Ren, (Electrical Engineering) Henry John (History), Rachel Roy (Anthropology) be seated on Council

Moved: Victor **Seconded:** Paul

Motion Passes Unanimously

10. Seatings (Committee and External representatives)

Supporting document:

GSS Committee & External Rep membership_201210151432

GSS Committee & External Rep description_20121015

BIFRT *Nafis Rahman and Sarah Parker (one from Faculty of Law or Commerce), Jamie Marra (one from Faculty of Science)* be seated as representative in the Graduate council

BIFRT Cynthia Min, Yvonne Dzal, Colum Connolly, Chelsea Gao, be seated on Academic & External Committee

BIFRT Jamie Marra and Xue-Rong Jia (2 Ordinary Members) be seated on Code and Policy Committee

BIFRT _____ (1 Councillor, 2 any member) be seated on Election Committee

BIFRT _____ (1 Councillor, 1 any member) be seated on Executive Oversight Committee

BIFRT Nafis Rahman (2 Councilors) be seated on House and Finance Committee

BIFRT Henry John be seated on Pub Renewal Taskforce

BIFRT _____ be seated on Human Resources Committee

BIFRT Omid Nourbakhsh be seated on Services Committee

BIFRT Melody Ren (3 Councillors) be seated on Safety & Sustainability Committee

BIFRT Nazrul Islam and Rachel Roy be seated on International Cultural Festival Taskforce

Moved: Chris **Seconded:** Robert

Motion Passes as Presented

**Move to amend the agenda: Conny
Have network presentation
Passes.**

11. Appointments of Chairs

_____ (one Councillor) be appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer and the Chair of Election Committee

Moved: _____ **Seconded:** _____

VII. Motions

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

12. Pub contract

WHEREAS the HF and PR Task Force have negotiated and agreed on the ruling terms of the Agreement between the GSS and HK Commerce to operate the Koerner's Pub

WHEREAS the Contract was not finished in time to be presented in the October Council Meeting

WHEREAS having to wait until the November Council Meeting will delay the opening day

BIRT GSS Council delegates the responsibility of ratifying the contract between the GSS and HK Commerce in a joint meeting between the HF Committee and PR Task Force

BIFRT Vice-President Administration will report back to the GSS Council in the November Council to provide the actual finalized contract and an update

Moved: Victor Padilla

Seconded: House Finance Committee, Code and Policy Committee

Motion: Majority

Motion Passes Unanimously.

No abstentions.

13. Non-Departmental Graduate Student Organization

WHEREAS in meeting of Council on Nov 17th, 2011, the following was passed:

BIRT the GSS-V shall create an Appendix XII of the Policy Manual to officially acknowledge non-departmental student groups (NSG);

BIFRT an NSG shall be any society and unincorporated organization, granted at the discretion of Council, that serves a defined community of graduate students socially or politically and has a democratically elected Executive and a Constitution that was democratically affirmed by its membership at an open General Meeting of the NSG;

BIFRT the elected representative of an NSG shall be invited to attend Council meetings as a Student-at-Large, that they may be officially acknowledged on the GSS-V webpage, and that they may 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.

BIRT Code and Policy Committee codify the motion above and send recommended policy addition to Nov 2012 Meeting of Council.

Move: Victor

Seconded: Robert

Conny Motivates.

Motion: Passes Unanimously

14. The Network

Supporting document: The Network. (Alexis) A group of queer student support. We are a social, academic, and support group. We are here because we are a primarily graduate student group. Would like to be recognized.

Questions:

What can you do more, when you become a student group?

-Just can do more once we are recognized. Won't give a bank account if no one recognizes. And we want to be a lasting group.

Think the network is an amazing group! It has helped a lot of students, and this a great motion!

Work in the SPPH, and we collaborate, let's work together! Welcome.

BIRT GSS ratifies *The Network* as a GSS non-departmental student groups (NSG)

Move: Devyani Singh also Gwen

Seconded: Code and Policy Committee and Conny

Motion: Passes Unanimously.

15. Executive Oversight Chair honorarium

WHEREAS House Finance recommends the following changes to Bylaw and Policy Manual:

Remove Bylaw 16.2.2

16. Executive Oversight Committee

16.2 Membership

16.2.2 The Chair of the Executive Oversight Committee is elected shall be appointed by Council and compensated by an annual honorarium not less than \$200, to be set by council in the annual budget.

Add Policy 6.4.6

6. Standing Committee: Term of References

6.4 Executive Oversight Committee

6.4.6 The Chair of the Executive Oversight Committee shall be appointed by Council and compensated by with an annual honorarium of \$350

BIRT GSS Council recommends Bylaw change as stated above to be placed on AGM Agenda

BIFRT addition of Policy 6.4.6 be approved as presented.

Moved: Victor

Seconded: Chris Roach

Robert motivates.

Debate:

In creating the \$350, did you talk to past chairs?

-Did talk to Cory, but we don't care what they think. We came up with this number.

If we put this in the Bylaw- make sure it is a good wage. Nevermind- sounds great.

Can't remove Bylaw til AGM, this is just the policy to superimpose over Bylaw.

Motion: Passes

16. Election Committee Terms of References (Policy 6.6)

Supporting Document: Election Committee TOR

BIRT Policy 6.6 Election Committee Terms of Reference be amended as presented in "Election Committee TOR"

Moved: George

Seconded: Chris

Gwen motivates.

Motion: Passes

17. CIPF – Pub renovation

WHEREAS HK Commerce and the GSS wants to renovate Koerner’s Pub

WHEREAS HK Commerce has asked the GSS to cover some of these expenses

WHEREAS the GSS has \$135,000 in CIPF available

BIRT that the GSS Council approves up to \$40,000 from CIPF to be used in building improvements in the Koerner’s Pub

BIFRT that the GSS Council delegates the HF Committee to administer these funds

Move: Paul

Seconded: Radu

Victor motivates. Robert gives the definition of CIPF.

Questions:

What happens if they don’t use it?

-It sits in a low interest account that is guaranteed.

Why not give more money?

-CIPF is in our Bylaws, improvements must last more than 3 years. Not everything on their list makes it. Only covering things that last. And we have a maintenance plan- we want to spend some money on other things.

Motion: Passes

VIII. Discussion

18. Organizational Values

Victor Padilla, Vice-President Administration (10 min)

19. Airmiles reward

Jan Ludert (10 min) (moved) to Agenda above.

IX. Other Business

20. CASA AGM Taskforce recruitment

Rabia Khan (5min) Nothing to report.

X. Notice

- GrasPods report to Council: *GrasPods letter to GSS 2012, GrasPods Financial Report 2012*

XI. Next meeting

The next Council Meeting shall take place on Nov 15, 2012
Special Guest, Matt Parson, AMS President

XII. Adjournment

At 8:25pm