

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | By Odo Ansah

Attendance: Adam Howe, Amanda Pisio, Andrew Alexander (Alyssa Kirlin), Anna Ringsred, Bradley Balaton, Charles Copeland, Christina Wiesmann, Dante Mendoza, David Gill, Emily Gray, Gen Cruz, Gillian Fuss, Jason Speidel, Jennifer DeBoer, John Dupuis, Karen Simmons, Katerina Othonos, Kaye Hare, Krish Maharaj, Mashid Ghaffartehrani, Marysol Garcia Patino, Morgan Shepherd, Natalie Marshall, Natasha Little, Oguzhan Tuysuz, Shadi Balandeh, Shona Robinson, Veronica Knott, Yaseen Mottiar, Zoe Lam, Jennifer Lay, Biao Zheng, Eaka Siren, Mackenzie Lockhart, Mingzhe Liu, Arjun Banghela, Sara Vazirian, Namarata Jain, Han Fei, Rachele Benjamin, Kelsey Everard, Aneet Nains, Tarajit Singh, Afifa Mahboob, Resha Sabti, Paul Bucci, Michelle Chakraborti, Jessica Li, Theresa Pauly, Balsher Sidhu, Fabian Garces, Pascal Okwundu, Evan Trofimchuk, Nandinee Hag

Regrets: Nicholas McGregor, Dan Kehila

Absent: Shakun Singla, Miranda Huron, Logan McDonald, Jasleen Grewal, Harry Li, Emily Allan,

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

Quorum- 24

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Oguzan Tuysuz

Amendment to move item D (1) before item B on the agenda

MOVER: Gen Cruz

SECONDER: David Gill

Adopted Unanimously

Amendment to move motion 13 (Affiliate Organization Recognition) before item D (presentations)

MOVER: Gen Cruz

SECONDER: Adam Howe

Adopted Unanimously

Amendment to move motions 4-6 to the beginning of the motions and make them motions 1-3

MOVER: Natalie Marshall

SECONDER: David Gill

Adopted Unanimously

Amendment to add the seating of the Government and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee (6 councillors)

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Katerina Othonos

Adopted Unanimously

BIRT the agenda be adopted as amended

26/0/0

Presentation

1. Dr. Linc Kesler

Director of the UBC First Nations House of Learning and Senior Advisor to the UBC President on Aboriginal Affairs.

Acknowledgement of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) territory in the GSS

- Dr Kesler began by acknowledging that the GSS Council is gathered on the traditional ancestral and the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.
- The reason for the presentation is to give some explanation on why it has become the custom at UBC and other Universities in Canada to make territorial announcements at the beginning of events at the Universities.
- The practice of acknowledging First Nations at events is recent in some locations in the university and it has become a common practice.
- In the Indigenous Community, it is a common convention to introduce oneself- to say where the person is from and to greet people in some form of layers, when entering someone's territory.
- He cited an example that if the Council meeting was an Indigenous gathering, he would have gone on further to introduce himself by stating his Indigenous ancestry and who his family is so that other people connected to him in some way would know who he is.
- He explained further that this helps to acknowledge relationships.

Negotiations

- Dr Kesler explained that his ancestors were nomads who travelled around a lot and so negotiations between communities happened in a different way.
- In the Coast in British Columbia, the Indigenous people have been living on a fixed place for thousands of years.
- There are archeological artefacts that proves that there have been people (Indigenous) in this area for a long time.
- For example,
 - the settlement of Musqueam community in the Delta area has been in existence for four thousand years.
 - The Point Grey area was also used by the Musqueam people for many years.
 - There are some parts of this area (UBC) that was Musqueam's which held stories of significant history which is important to the Musqueam people.
- In BC where people were in fixed location, travellers came by in canoes and when they approached the shores, they would identify where they are from.

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- They would ask for permission to land, if it was granted, the presumption would be that the interaction that would follow will be a peaceful negotiation.
- If they did not ask for permission to land or they did not identify themselves, then the presumption would be that their intentions was hostile.
- This is to say that the practice of seeking permission and acknowledging people was an act of diplomacy.
- When people in the University began making these acknowledgements, it was in the tradition of diplomacy and peaceful negotiations.
- Around 2003, it had become much more common to do such acknowledgements without adding the acknowledgement of the ancestral “unceded” territory of the Musqueam people.
- In around 2005, there was a lot of discussion about the use of “unceded”. “Unceded” is a way that the Community acknowledges that there was no treaty or formal surrender of the land by the Musqueam Community.
- Meaning that the land had never being surrendered and the ownership of the land has not been relinquished by the Musqueam people.
- Therefore, in saying “unceded”, the Community was acknowledging that there has been no process through which their ownership had ended and that the land was being occupied.
- The University was reluctant to say that (Unceded) because that will be admitting something about the legal status of the University’s occupancy of the area.
- In 2005, there was a lot of court cases between the provincial government and the Musqueam people over the disposition of the University. The BC government was attempting to transfer the land to the university.
- Musqueam secured an injunction until the land claim could be settled,
- The Land claim was settled in the Musqueam favour.
- When president Stephen J. Toope (Vice Chancellor of UBC, 2006-2014) came to UBC, there was still discussions on whether to use the term “unceded”.
- The University lawyers recommended against it but Stephen was a lawyer and putting that against the relationship of the community, He decided in favour of the relationship of the community.
- So, people began recognizing the “unceded” of the Musqueam people and that has now become a part of the university’s practice of acknowledgement.

Answer to why we should acknowledge the Musqueam community

- Last year was the University’s Centennial and most of the conversation at the Centennial was on the university’s emergence- the buildings, number of students, the university’s achievements, world rankings, etc.
 - But there was the need to acknowledge the other history which is the part of the history as seen by the Indigenous community.

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- In that history, the arrival of the university spelled the final removal of the Musqueam from Point Gray
 - The university's arrival on the land made it impossible for the Musqueam community to inhabit their land.
- Secondly, for the first fifty (50) years of the university's arrival, it was impossible for the Indigenous People to study at the university until 1951.
- if an Indigenous person could enroll and succeed, by Canadian law, they would cease to be an Indian and they would become a Canadian citizen.
 - The result implied that they will not be able to legally return to their community (reservation) again.
 - This is to say that, there was not a way for the Indigenous people to benefit from the presence of the university or the higher education system.
 - During that same period, the children were taken from their families and communities and placed in residential schools.
 - The residential school system lasted until 1996
 - Another aspect of the Canadian law until 1951, was a very deliberate suppression of Indigenous culture and policy.
 - Until the late 20th century, it was very hard to see the relationship of Canada and the Indigenous people.
 - There are cases in newspapers about disputes over pipeline, energy projects, missing and murder of Indigenous women which throws some light on the relationship Canada has with the Indigenous people.
 - Until very recently, many people in Canada had never received curriculums on Aboriginal history that would enable them to interpret these events adequately.
- The point is that there has been a long silence on the lack of acknowledgement of the relationship that is fundamental to the circumstances to which this country has evolved.
- A simple reason why acknowledge should be made is
- to address that history of silence and to say that there was a community here (UBC) and there is still a community here and there is the recognition that the Community's history is a much longer history than the history of the University.
- A meaningful relationship can be built with the Indigenous people by making that acknowledgement,
- The acknowledgement should be made not because it is formal, but a wisdom brought to the circumstance. And to hopefully address a historical event and restructure relationships that have the potential in the future of being better than the history.

Questions/Discussion

Q. Yaseen Mottiar: Could you speak more on the issue on the “unceded” and why it was accepted.

- Is the Musqueam nation engaging in the current treaty negotiation process?

A. Dr Kesler: There are no current legal disputes with the Musqueam people. There are negotiations going on with the Musqueam people which are not contentious.

- The “unceded” is important and one of the reason is that it is where the history is, and it is more important to understand where we are.

Q. Yaseen Mottiar: Do you specifically know if Musqueam people are engaged in any current treaty?

A. Dr Kesler: Musqueam has been successful legally without a treaty

Q. David Gill: How do you imagine a relationship between GSS and Musqueam community...what should it look like?

A. Dr Kesler: It will depend on the GSS’s and the Musqueam people. Not because the Musqueam people would not find GSS to be an interesting group to work with but because they have a limited capacity for relationships.

- However, there is a way to have a meaningful and much appreciated relationship with Musqueam which is by considering an acknowledgment.

Q. Yaseen Mottiar: What do you know about the overlapping territorial claims (Example the Squamish map often includes Point Grey).

A. Dr Kesler: In the traditional pattern of use in this area (First Nations in BC), there was a lot of sharing of resources.

- People had access to things in different kind of year and communities moved in and out of territory by arrangement.

- Yes, overlapping territory is a feature.

- The overlapping of territories is a common practice and it is a part of their social system as well.

- It is a bit complicated and people are getting the assumption that it is not important but it is important

Gen Cruz (president, GSS) thanked Dr Kesler for taking time to honour GSS’s invitation.

1. **Introductions**

Executives, Councillors and members of the house introduced themselves. The president mentioned that Nicholas McGregor (VP External Relations) was absent because he was involved an accident

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. BIRT the following GSS Council meeting minutes be approved as presented.

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- July 21st 2016 Council meeting
- August 18th 2016 Council meeting
- September 15th 2016 Council meeting

MOVER: Namrata Jain

SECONDER: Amanda Pisio

Adopted Unanimously

b. BIRT the following GSS Committee meeting minutes be approved as presented

- Services Committee- April 28th 2016; May 12th 2016; June 6th 2016; June 22nd; September 21st 2016
- Human Resources Committee- August 9th 2016; August 25th, 2016
- House Finance- September 9th, 2016; 26th September, 2016

MOVER: Christina Wiesmann

SECONDER: Amanda Pisio

Adopted Unanimously

2. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

3. Notice of Unseating (*no vote necessary*)

Gillian Fuss- be unseated from the Code and Policy Committee

Judith Booth – be unseated from the Code and Policy Committee

Krish Maharaj – be unseated from the Strategic Planning Committee

Dan Kehila – be unseated as an Alma Mater Society Representative

Charles Copeland be unseated from the Code and Policy Committee

Singh, Chaahat be unseated from Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee

Charles Copeland be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Botany

Hamza Khan be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Bioinformatics

Kelsi Lix be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Chemistry

Kyle Loewen unseated as the Departmental Representative for Geography

Andrew Leyland be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Population and Public Health

4. BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

Mackenzie Lockhart be seated as a Departmental Representative for Political science

Mingzhe Liu be seated as a Departmental Representative for Botany

Arjun Banghela be seated as the Departmental Representative for Bioinformatics

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John Dupuis be seated as the Departmental Representative for Land and food systems

Namrata Jain be seated as the Departmental Representative for Chemistry

Han Fei be seated as the Departmental Representative for French, Hispanic and Italian Studies

Rachele Benjamin be seated as the Departmental Representative for Psychology

Kelsey Everard be seated as the Departmental Representative for Geography

Aneet Bains be seated as the Departmental Representative for Population and Public Health

Taranjit Singh be seated as the Departmental Representative for the School of Journalism

Afifa Mahboob be seated as the Departmental Representative for Population and Public Health

Resha Sabti be seated as the Departmental Representative for Mining Engineering

Joshua Tan be seated as the Departmental Representative for History

Christina Wiesmann be seated as the Departmental Representative for Microbiology and Immunology

Sara Vazirian be seated as the Departmental Representative for Experimental Medicine

Abhishek Kar be seated as the Departmental Representative for Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability

MOVER: Jennifer DeBoer

SECONDER: Amanda Pisiso

Adopted Unanimously

Quorum at 26.

5. *Policy Manual 6.3.4 (Standing committees: AcEx, CPC, HF, HR, S, EOC) "All standing committee memberships shall be re-seated at the October Council meeting"

David G, Young L, Resha S, Balsher S, Lynn M, Dan k be seated to the Academic and External Committee.

Krish M, Resha S, Amanda P, Afifa M, Mackenzie L, Michelle C, Charles C, Evan T be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.

Shona R, Christina W, Lynn M, Pedro O, Jennifer C be seated to the House Finance Committee.

Morgan S, Adam H, Kaye H, Taranjid S, David G, Xin L, Mahraz P, Zheng B be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

Morgan S, David G, Anna R, Bradley B, Rachelle B, Evan T, Jessica Li, Matt G be seated to the Services Committee.

Natalie M, Paschal O, Lee R, Lynn M be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee.

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Krish Maharaj

Adopted Unanimously

6. BIRT the following seatings be approved

Rachelle B, Mackenzie L, Paschal O be seated to the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

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Zheng B, Theresa P be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee

Natalie M, Mackenzie L, Yaseen M be seated to the Governance Ad Hoc committee

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Mackenzie Lockhart

Adopted Unanimously

7. BIRT the following appointments be approved

Dan Kehila be appointed as Chair of the Academic and External Committee

Krish Maharaj be appointed as Chair of the Code and Policy Committee

Shona Robinson be appointed as Chair of the House Finance Committee

Kaye Hare be appointed as Chair of the Human Resources Committee

Matthew Gynn be appointed as Chair of the Services Committee

MOVER: Resha Sabti

SECONDER: Krish Maharaj

Adopted Unanimously

8. BIRT the 2015/2016 members of the Graduate Council Representatives be unseated (*no vote necessary*)

9. BIRT the following appointments be approved:

Natalie M, Resha S, Amanda P, Adam H, Balsher S, Anna R be appointed as Graduate Council Representative (6 Representatives)

10. BIRT **Resha Sabti** be appointed as Chair to Graduate Council Representatives

MOVER: Adam Howe

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

Adopted Unanimously

11. Affiliate Organization Recognition

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

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in September 2017:

- **Land and Food Systems Graduate Student Association**
- **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association**
- **Life Sciences Institute Graduate Students Association**
- ~~**Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy (EDCP) Peer Advisors**~~
- **UBC Planning Students Association**
- **Medical Genetics Student Association**
- **GrasPods**

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- **Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Society**

MOVER: Jennifer DeBoer

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

Amendment to the motion to strike the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy (EDCP) Peer Advisors from the list of approvals

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: John Dupuis

Motivation: Yaseen Mottiar

Yaseen shared his understanding that the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy (EDCP) Peer Advisors was a paid group which disqualifies it as an Affiliate organisation

Discussion and Debate

Jennifer DeBoer commented that when the group submitted their application, they explained that the EDCP does not have a Graduate Student Association (GSA) and so the group acted as a GSA for the department.

A Councillor suggested that the EDCP Peer Advisors group be contacted to clarify the issue and a report sent back to the next Council meeting.

Vote on the Amendment

21/9/0

Adopted

Main motion

28/5/0

Adopted

Motion to recess for 15 minutes

MOVER: Natalie Marshall

SECONDER: Mackenzie Lockhart

Discussion and Debate

Against the Motion

Gen Cruz suggested that the meeting continues so that Maia Wikler (Department of Anthropology) could finish her presentation since Maia has made a request to leave.

Krish Maharaj supported the presidents' suggestion and added that the decision on the date of the November Council meeting be made before recess for fear of losing quorum

Vote on the Motion

8/3/23

D. Presentations

2. A statement on the Origins of the GSS logo" by Maia Wikler

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- Maia requested for Councillors full attention because her presentation was a sensitive matter on respecting First Nations culture.
- She read a letter from Severn Cullis-Suzuki (PhD candidate, Anthropology)
- Severn explained in the letter that the GSS logo was a clan symbol for her husband's clan, the Ts'aahl Eagle Clan of the Haida Nation
- In the letter, the author said a matriarch from the Haida Gwaii Community who worked with Henry Young (believed to have handed the crest top GSS as a logo) all her life believed that My Young would never have given the crest away knowing the Haida tradition.
- The author requested a record of transaction as to how GSS acquired the crest

Questions

Q. Gen Cruz: Can you tell a little about who Severn Cullis-Suzuki is?

A. Maia Wikler: She is a PhD student in the Anthropology Department and her husband is from the Haida Gwaii Community- who's crest is being used by GSS as a logo

Q. Kaye Hare: What will count as acceptable record?

A. Maia Wikler: Anything that explicitly state what the transaction was, who gave the permission, when the permission was given, the conditions concerning the transaction. Anything that details the specifics of how the clan symbol was acquired.

Q. James Lawson: When was the GSS logo made?

A. Gen Cruz: There is no record of when GSS begun using it. The GSS archives are being checked but the best is to contact the Haida Community. It will be inappropriate to keep using the logo if a record of transaction cannot be found.

Q. James Lawson: Do we Know when the GSS logo was first made?

A. Gen Cruz: No

A. Veronica Knott: The last logo redesign was two years ago

Point of Information. James Lawson: Was the permission of ownership of the logo discussed during this redesigning?

Speaker: I do not recall a discussion as such

A. Natasha Little: Is there a place to check up the history of the Crest from the Haida Nation?

A. Maia Wikler: There can be issues of sensitivity but will inquire and report back

Motion to amend the agenda to move up the motion on "rescheduling the November Council" before the presentation on the GSS fee referendum

MOVER: Gen Cruz

SECONDER: Mackenzie Lockhart

Discussion and Debate

Q. Yaseen Mottiar: If quorum is lost, what would happen to the Sexual Assault policy?

A. Gen Cruz: It will be a weaker response without an endorsement from council. I don't know.

Adopted Unanimously

a. Rescheduling November Council

WHEREAS Policy 3.1.2 states that "Council may vote by special resolution to change the meeting date to an alternative Thursday within the same calendar month as the originally scheduled council meeting. "(GSS Policy Manual)

WHEREAS the President and Vice President External Relation of the GSS will be attending CASA Advocacy week from November 13-19;

BIRT the November 17th meeting of the GSS council be rescheduled to November 10th 2016.

MOVER: John Dupuis

SECONDER:

26/1/4

Adopted

Motion to move up the motion on "Sexual Assault policy" for immediate consideration

MOVER: Gen Cruz

SECONDER: Mackenzie Lockhart

Motivation

Gen Cruz

- Gen explained that she was not satisfied with her response to Yaseen Mottiar.
- She stated that the proper procedure is for Council to debate on the sexual assault policy.
- She encouraged Council to read through the policy so it could be passed before the deadline

Adopted Unanimously

a. Review of Policy Response to Policy 131 on Sexual Assault

WHEREAS The Graduate Student Society released a formal position statement, "Position Statement on Prevention of, and Response to Reports of, Sexual Violence at UBC"

WHEREAS the GSS Position Statement states that "the GSS recommends that there be extensive consultation throughout the development of this process, including active engagement with student societies/associations/unions, survivors of sexual violence who are willing to assist, on-campus groups working to promote equality and equity, undergraduate and graduate students at UBC-Vancouver and UBC Okanagan, and community organizations whose work addresses issues of sexual violence and gender based violence."

WHEREAS The University, through the University Counsel, has run consultations for Policy 131 (known as the "Sexual Assault Policy") from June 14, 2016 to October 31, 2016

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WHEREAS Mahshid Ghaffartehrani in her capacity as the Vice President for Academic and University Affairs and Gen Cruz in her capacity as President, are responsible for the response as outlined by their duties in Bylaw 8.5.2 and Bylaw 8.5.4

WHEREAS the following graduate students who co-authored the “Position Statement on Prevention of, and Response to Reports of, Sexual Violence at UBC” extended their time and efforts in responding to Policy 131:

Natalie Marshall, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Kaye Hare, Department of Language and Literacy Education
Yaseen Mottiar, Faculty of Forestry. Department of Wood Science.
Krish Maharaj, Peter A. Allard School of Law
Katerina Othonos, The Graduate Program in Neuroscience

WHEREAS GSS Bylaw 8.5.2.a states that the President “be the public face of the Society, speak on behalf of the Society, and be responsible for communications of the Society;”

BIRT the Council formally endorse the GSS Policy response to Policy 131 – Sexual Assault

MOVER: Oguzhan Tuysuz

SECONDER: Shona Robinson

Motivation

Gen Cruz

- Policy response was sent to Council members over the weekend via email
- The names of the people seen on the motion are Councillors who committed their time and expertise to this issue
- This motion is a support for the submission. Questions on the submission will be entertained now.

Discussion ad Debate

Q. Kaye Hare: The question is on the third-party reporting section. We had a discussion at one point that UBC policy cannot include organisations that are not UBC (e.g. AMS, GSS). In the third-party section, it does reference these programs.

A. Gen Cruz: Those programs were added as an example and so they do not serve as an endorsement from the GSS. It is just a vivid description of what a community group is. We can remove it if it is inappropriate.

Q. Mackenzie Lockhart: New Councillors were not sent these documents

Speaker: On parliamentary procedure, new members are not given materials until they are seated.

Comment: Yaseen Mottiar: We do have an active position statement on sexual assault. This response letter is largely inspired by that but it is not overlapping. It does not qualify it as a new

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position statement. This is Council's opportunity to have a say in it before Gen Cruz sends it on behalf of the GSS as a submission to the University.

Q. Natalie Marshall: Is there any plan to edit the document after council such as correcting typos and any other changes? If so what will be the process

A. Mahshid Ghaffartehrani: The executives will incorporate council feedback and send it to the group who worked on it. If they agree, the president will sign and send it

- If they feel there needs to be another meeting, the executives will have further discussion with the group

A. Gen Cruz: A response is suppose to be more responsive to the feedback that council has.

- The executives can hold another consultation if that is fit or there can be a special council meeting on this.

- This is to understand how much work needs to be done and what other steps needs to be taken

Comment: Yaseen Mottiar: I want to speak against the last point made. We cannot be endorsing something and retroactively changing it. I am not opposed to minor changes but nothing substantial

Comment Gen Cruz: Back to Yaseen's point, I am willing to remove the names if we think it is not appropriate

David Gill: I suggest that if there are any feedback or changes, it should be done now

Clarification: Veronica Knott: It will be to the benefit of GSS to send a copy of the document to the University Board of Governors

Q. Krish Maharaj: Will the names be included in the final submission?

A. Gen Cruz: No but that is up for discussion

Comment: Gen Cruz: On Veronica's point, I disagree because it has been sent to the Policy committee and I do not think it will be appropriate to send it to any third-party.

A. Veronica Knott: if you have been told this is the way but I have a different information in front of me and am sure we will get to it.

Amendment to the Policy response to include, "subject to minor typographical changes".

MOVER: Kaye Hare

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

Adopted Unanimously

BIRT the Council formally endorse the GSS Policy response to Policy 131 – Sexual Assault, subject to minor typographical changes

24/0/10

Passed

Motion to recess for 15 minutes

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Krish Maharaj

Passed

Back at 9: 25

Quorum was at 26, 30 people counted towards Quorum

D. Presentation

3. Presentation from the GSS Executives on GSS Fee Referendum

A proposed referendum for GSS Fees in response to the current organizational deficit

Gen Cruz

- During the GSS budget presentation, it was pointed out that there is a deficit which calls for a fee increase.
- It is not good for an organisation to continue running at a deficit.
- This proposal is based on the current functions of the society, as well as significant gaps that need to be addressed in the representation of graduate student population
- The GSS needs to identify key budgetary priorities for the next 5 years.
- The future of the society depends on the establishment of additional fiscal support to ensure the sustainability of the organization
- Several years ago, a vision was created for the GSS to grow to fill the need for graduate students to be better represented and supported in a sustainable and functional way.
- The surplus from prior years was used to fund this vision although ultimately the failure of past attempts to secure a fee increase has resulted in a structural deficit.
- Today the GSS is in a place where it will need a fee increase to continue supporting itself and its vision - as envisioned by past Councillors, Members, and Executives

When was the last time the GSS proposed a fee increase?

- The last time the GSS proposed a fee increase was in academic year 2014-2015
- The proposed Fee Increase was 10 dollars per term per person
- The last GSS fee increase proposal was dependent on the expectation that the GSS and AMS would separate.
- The increase did not pass
- There were issues on accountability, transparency, GSS membership did not feel that the GSS deserved the fee increase

Graduate Student Fees

- The total of the graduate student fees is \$944.10/year. The break down of the fees are available on calendar.ubc.ca

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- The executives compared this amount with the GSS of other Universities in and discovered that fees paid by graduate students at UBC are among the lowest in the U15
- The GSS UBCV operating fee is the lowest in BC
- Historical and ongoing student advocacy is currently saving students at UBC \$612/year in transit costs (compared to 1 zone monthly pass)

Dante Mendoza

- The Executives project that the expenses of the Society should be significantly reduced to the level of a break even to continue operating as a society.

Request to extend time to 10 minutes

MOVER: Mackenzie Lockhart

SECONDER: Bradley Balaton

Gen Cruz

- Instead of asking for a single fee increase to fund general operations, the current services and potential areas for growth were assessed and there is a proposal for special purpose fees
- These fees have been grouped to enhance transparency in understanding the spending

GSS STUDENT POLICY ADVANCEMENT FEE (\$5.36 member/year)

- This fee supports external affairs like provincial housing, financial aid, scholarships, health policy
- It moves \$53k/year out of the operating budget
- If this fee does not pass, GSS can terminate membership with CASA to save approximately \$50k/year
- If this fee does pass, it would fund:
 - o The membership fees for CASA and ABCS (\$33k/year)
 - o CASA and ABCS conference costs (\$18k/year)
 - o Events and campaigns (\$5k/year)

Mahshid Gaffartehrani

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT FEE (\$5.60 member/year)

- This support fees includes advocacy fees and student representations
- It would move \$36k/year out of the operating budget to provide range of programs that GSS do not already have
- If this fee does not pass, GSS would potentially cut the Emergency Fund and Advocate Program to save approximately \$23k/year
- If this fee does pass, it would fund:
 - o GSS Advocate Program (\$13k/year)

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- Public Outreach (\$5k/year) – *NEW*
- GSS Emergency Fund (\$10k/year)
- Active bystander training and support (\$5k/year) *NEW*
- Orientation (\$13k/year)
- Professional Development Programming (\$10k/year) *NEW*

Request to extend time to 10 minutes

MOVER: Krish Maharaj

SECONDER: James Lawson

Gen Cruz

GSS COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FEE (\$5.89 member/year)

- This fee supports GSS Council and Committee operations and development
- It would move \$30k/year out of the operating budget
- If the fee does not pass, there would be potentially cuts to funding for future executive and councillor retreats, cuts to food budgets for council and committee meetings, and/or the end of the commissioner program to save approx. \$30k/year
- If the fee increase passes, it would fund;
 - Data Collection and Analysis
 - (\$2k/year) -*NEW*
 - GSS Elections (\$2k/year)
 - Commissioner Support (\$6k/year) – *NEW*
 - Part-Time Policy Researchers (\$23k/year) – *NEW*
 - Council and Committee support and retreat (\$30.7k/year)

Jennifer DeBoer

STUDENT ORGANIZATION ENGAGEMENT FEE (\$6.13 member/year)

- This fee provides additional financial support to GSAs and AOs, contributes to the Event Fund, and subsidizes GSS events and programming
- It would move \$45.6k/year out of the operating budget
- If this fee does not pass, GSS would potentially eliminate or reduce the Event Fund and GSS event subsidies to save approx. \$41.3k/year
- It might potentially damage some of the relationships that GSS is trying to build
- If this fee does pass, it would fund:
 - GSA and AO direct support (annual stipends) (\$20k/year) *NEW*
 - GSS Event Fund (\$10k/year)

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- GSS Event Subsidies (\$31.3k/year)

Discussion/ Debate

Q. James Lawson: On the documents sent out earlier, \$22 000 was allocated to the student professional development program but in the presentation \$10, 000 has been allocated to it.

A. Gen Cruz: After further brainstorming, the number got reduced to \$10, 000.

Q. Makenzie Lockhart: Wondering if it is a good idea to have four different fees. Will it be an issue when after a couple of years, the priority of the organisation changes? For example, the AMS has a lot of restricted funds which cannot be used because it initially specified for a different purpose?

A. Gen Cruz: The AMS has a lot of restricted fees and that is a separate problem. GSS only has the Capital Investment Funds.

Q. Bradley Balaton: How will it be communicated to general graduate students?

A. Gen Cruz: Per BC Societies Act, there should be a referendum. For each fee, there should clearly be a yes or no question. The plan is to have an information campaign not only about the fee increase but what the GSS does in general

Q. Allyssa Kirlin: What is the current opinion on the GSS and AMS separation which came up during the last fee increase proposal at AGM?

A. Gen Cruz: There is still a lot of information needed. For example, when GSS separates from the AMS, what will happen to the AMS services that GSS enjoys like the AMS health and Dental plan.

GSS is working on identifying research priorities so that there will be answers to these questions when the referendum happens.

Comment: Natasha Little: When this is communicated to graduate students, please try to find a way to get this broadcasted to off-campus graduate students.

A. Gen Cruz: Thank you

Q. Gillian Fuss: What is the backup plan if any of the fees are not approved?

A. Dante Mendoza: To reduce some of the activities of the GSS to reduce the deficit.

Q. James Lawson: How did the deficit become such a huge number?

A. Gen Cruz: There was a fee increase that was proposed to address structural issues and hire support staff. Unfortunately, the fee increase did not pass and so the deficit is a result of the organisational structural changes that took place

Motion to extent time for 10 minutes

MOVER: James Lawson

SECONDER: Andrew Alexander

Q. Makenzie Lockhart: What is the plan on making sure that graduate students understand this fees?

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A. Gen Cruz: The proposal is for October, 2017 and so there will be enough time to engage with students to explain the need for the fee increase. It could be a person to person engagement

Q. Alyssa Kirlin: Out of the four fees, which one is of a higher priority to communicate with graduate students about?

A. Jennifer DeBeer: The goal is to figure out what is most important to graduate students. The outcome of the graduate students vote will inform GSS on what is more important to graduate students and then resources will be directed on that.

A. Gen Cruz: From the presentation, it was pointed out that any two fees can help fix the deficit so the priority is not on which of the fees but on getting the needed money to reduce the deficit.

Q. James Lawson: If people vote on one fee increase, is there a guarantee that specific things highlighted will be funded or is this a general fee increase and in the end, the money goes where ever?

A. Gen: There will be conditions placed on the funds to control its use

A. Dante Mendoza: The executives will honour what is being said in this presentation.

Speaker: When will the referendum be passed?

A. Gen Cruz: According to Policy, there should be a minimum of 14 days' notice.

Comment. Yaseen Mottiar: This is not the current executives fault, few years ago a decision was made to grow the organisation without a plan.

My general feeling on this is that the fees are too much. I like the idea of transparency and informal poll on what the priorities are, but at the same time, there is also a lack of transparency with the graduate student fee (The Operating Fees). It should be called the "GSS overhead fees" because it potentially covers the staffing cost.

There will be an AMS referendum and if that fails, GSS may have to undo what was done years ago by shrinking the organisation.

A. Gen Cruz: The funds will be open for discussion and advice

A. Jennifer DeBoer: The executives talked about this a little bit. I understand your point and I agree in part with you. I want to make it clear that the presentation is more on some of the visible fees that we wanted to address. What we have left out is not necessarily an overhead cost.

The cost of the GSS full time staff and their benefits was calculated and it covers about 40% of the Operating fees. It is a big chunk but it is not everything. Do not take it as if there is an overhead cost which the executives are hiding.

The executives cannot function well if GSS decides to cut staff, none of the five executives can work without staff.

Quorum lost with 21 Councillors counting towards quorum

Speaker suggested that the motion be revisited at the next Council

Jenn DeBoer admonished Council to suggested a way to present feedback on the budget.

Yaseen Mottiar responded to Jennifer DeBoer's comment and said that the best way is to have a discussion period in council

3. Council motions

b. ~~GSS Fee Referendum~~

~~WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver (GSS) requires increased revenue in order to maintain and expand its capacity to serve graduate students studying at UBC Vancouver;~~

~~WHEREAS GSS Bylaw 6.1 outlines the guidelines for conducting a referendum for the Graduate Student Society~~

~~WHEREAS GSS Bylaw 6.2 outlines the necessary notice that would be required of a GSS referendum~~

~~WHEREAS GSS Bylaw 6.1.1 further states that a Referendum shall only be used to obtain ordinary or special resolutions of the Society.~~

~~WHEREAS GSS Bylaw 6.1.3 further states that Council shall ensure that the wording of the referendum is clear and unambiguous, capable of being answered yes or no,~~

~~GSS Policy Advancement Fee~~

~~WHEREAS the creation of a new graduate student fee named "GSS Student Policy Advancement Fee" will fund the continued membership of the GSS in the Alliance of BC Student and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations;~~

~~WHEREAS membership in these external organizations provides lines of communication and engagement with other student societies around Canada, connections with policy makers in both the provincial and federal governments, advocacy training for officers of the GSS and staff support in the course of developing policy recommendations for the provincial and federal governments;~~

~~WHEREAS if the GSS UBCV continues to operate on its current budget, membership in these external organizations will be terminated within two years;~~

~~BIRT a referendum as defined by GSS Bylaws 6.1 and 6.2 be conducted asking the question "Do you agree to the creation of a new fee, titled "GSS Student Policy Advancement Fee" payable by all ordinary members of the GSS, which will be implemented at \$5.36 per member per year in effect beginning Sept. 2017?"~~

MOVER: _____

SECONDER: _____

~~Graduate Student Support Fee~~

~~WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver (GSS) requires increased revenue in order to maintain and expand its capacity to serve graduate students studying at UBC Vancouver;~~

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~~WHEREAS the creation of a new graduate student fee named "Graduate Student Support Fee" will fund several graduate student support programs offered by the GSS including the GSS Advocate Program, the GSS Emergency Fund and the GSS Active Bystander Program;~~

~~WHEREAS the creation of this fee will fund the creation of new GSS programs including GSS Academic Mentorship, GSS Public Outreach and GSS Professional Development;~~

~~WHEREAS if the GSS continues to operate on its current budget, these new programs will not be funded and funding for graduate student support programs will be significantly reduced within one year;~~

~~BIRT a referendum as defined by GSS Bylaws 6.1 and 6.2 be conducted asking the question "Do you agree to the creation of a new fee, titled "Graduate Student Support Fee" payable by all ordinary members of the GSS, which will be implemented at \$6.29 per member per year in effect beginning Sept. 2017?"~~

MOVER: _____

SECONDER: _____

GSS Community and Leadership Development

~~WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver (GSS) requires increased revenue in order to maintain and expand its capacity to serve graduate students studying at UBC Vancouver;~~

~~WHEREAS the creation of a new graduate student fee named "GSS Community and Leadership Development Fee" will fund several community and leadership development initiatives within the GSS UBCV including expanded data collection and analysis, improved voting systems, expanding the GSS commissioner program and improving training for GSS councillors and executives;~~

~~WHEREAS if the GSS continues to operate on its current budget, these initiatives will risk the outcomes of significant cuts;~~

~~BIRT a referendum as defined by GSS Bylaws 6.1 and 6.2 be conducted asking the question "Do you agree to the creation of a new fee, titled "GSS Community and Leadership Development Fee" payable by all ordinary members of the GSS, which will be implemented at \$5.89 per member per year in effect beginning Sept. 2017?"~~

MOVER: _____

SECONDER: _____

GSS Student Organization Engagement Fee

~~WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver (GSS) requires increased revenue in order to maintain and expand its capacity to serve graduate students studying at UBC Vancouver;~~

~~WHEREAS the creation of a new graduate student fee named "GSS Student Organization Engagement Fee" will provide additional financial support for departmental Graduate Student Associations and other GSS Affiliated Organizations;~~

~~WHEREAS if the GSS continues to operate on its current budget, funding for the GSS Event Fund and subsidies for graduate students to attend GSS Events will be reduced within one year;~~

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~~BIRT a referendum as defined by GSS Bylaws 6.1 and 6.2 be conducted asking the question Do you agree to the creation of a new fee, titled "GSS Student Organization Engagement Fee" payable by all ordinary members of the GSS, which will be implemented at \$6.13 per member per year in effect beginning Sept. 2017"~~

~~MOVER:~~

~~SECONDER:~~

~~c. Amendment to Policy 1 and inclusion of Policy Revision Form as Appendix XIII to the Policy Manual~~

~~Amendment to Policy 1 and inclusion of Policy Revision Form as Appendix XIII to the Policy Manual~~

~~WHEREAS Policy 1 in the GSS Policy Manual refers to a process for amending the Policy Manual that requires the use of a prescribed form, and~~

~~WHEREAS the Policy Manual does not presently include the Policy Revision Form referred to in Policy 1, and~~

~~WHEREAS section 1.2 in Policy 1 refers to the Policy Revision Form as being in Appendix XII when this should be XIII~~

~~BIRT GSS Council approves the amendments to Policy 1 of the Policy Manual proposed in the policy revision form dated October 11, 2016, which has been previously circulated to Council as per the requirements of section 1.2 of the Policy Manual, and attached and again circulated with the Agenda for the present meeting.~~

~~MOVER:~~

~~SECONDER:~~

~~d. Amendment to Policy 6 and Policy 7 and inclusion of new confidentiality form in Appendix IX~~

~~Amendment to Policy 6 and Policy 7 and inclusion of new confidentiality form in Appendix IX~~

~~WHEREAS the GSS approved the form and content of a revised confidentiality agreement and personal information protection agreement to be signed by all existing and incoming councillors at the August 18, 2016 meeting of Council, and~~

~~WHEREAS Policy 6 of the Policy Manual does not presently require that councillors sign a separate confidentiality agreement or personal information protection agreement, and~~

~~WHEREAS Policy 7 of the Policy Manual does not presently require that committee members sign a separate confidentiality agreement or personal information protection agreement, and~~

~~WHEREAS the confidentiality form for employees of the GSS presently included in Appendix IX must be replaced with the revised confidentiality agreement and personal information protection agreement for councillors and ordinary members,~~

~~BIRT GSS Council approves the amendments to Policy 6 and Appendix IX of the Policy Manual proposed in the policy revision form dated October 11, 2016, previously circulated to Council as per the requirements of section 1.2 of the Policy Manual, and attached and again circulated with the Agenda for the present meeting, and~~

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~~BIRT GSS Council approves the amendments to Policy 7 of the Policy Manual proposed in the policy revision form dated October 13, 2016, which has been previously circulated to Council as per the requirements of section 1.2 of the Policy Manual, and attached and again circulated with the Agenda for the present meeting.~~

~~MOVER: _____ SECONDER: _____~~

~~e. Rescheduling December Council~~

~~WHEREAS December 16th is the last day for final doctoral oral examinations in time for December 31st program end date and February degree granting;~~

~~WHEREAS several graduate students will be unavailable on the third week of December, based on past attempts of conducting GSS council in the month of December~~

~~WHEREAS Policy 3.1.2 states that "Council may vote by special resolution to change the meeting date to an alternative Thursday within the same calendar month as the originally scheduled council meeting." (GSS Policy Manual)~~

~~BIRT the December 15th GSS council meeting be rescheduled to December 8th 2016.~~

~~MOVER: _____ SECONDER: _____~~

~~f. Endorsement of petition e-572~~

~~WHEREAS the Government of Canada previously had an immigration selection system for international PhD students;~~

~~WHEREAS the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has stated that taking away the percent credit for international students was inadvisable "because if there is any group in this country who would be good Canadians — they're educated, they know about this country, they speak English or French — it's them."~~

~~WHEREAS a formal petition (e-572) has been launched by Citizens, Permanent Residents and Temporary Residents of Canada to call upon the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to take measures to give priority to international graduate students in the application process for permanent residency~~

~~WHEREAS this could be accomplished through policy changes such as adjusting the comprehensive ranking system to award more points to international students who study inside Canada and/or allowing work experience under a study permit to count towards work experience in Canada.~~

~~BIRT the GSS formally endorse petition e-572.~~

~~BIFRT the President of the GSS be directed to encourage, both through email communication and website posting, ordinary members of the GSS to sign petition e-572.~~

~~MOVER: _____ SECONDER: _____~~

~~g. Chemical biology discussion group~~

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~~WHEREAS the Affiliated Organization known as the Chemical Biology Discussion Group (the AO; recognized at the September 15th meeting) indicated to the Vice President Students of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver that they were A Non-Departmental Student Group (Policy 2.5.,6) of 109 members prior to September 15th;~~

~~WHEREAS GSS policy 2.5.6.b defines a non-departmental student group as any organization that does not represent graduate students of one particular department, but does represent a defined community of graduate students as recognized by discretion of Council~~

~~WHEREAS the AO circulated a schedule to graduate students in the Department of Chemistry indicating that their first meeting would be held from 18:00-20:00 on September 22nd;~~

~~WHEREAS this first meeting was attended by 51 individuals 4 of whom were chemistry faculty and at least 26 of whom were positively identified as graduate students affiliated with the Department of Chemistry;~~

~~WHEREAS the AO is hosting all meeting for the 2015-2016 year in the Chemistry Building with student speakers from the Department of Chemistry and no proven membership outside of the Chemistry Graduate Student Society;~~

~~WHEREAS GSS policy 2.5.4. states that Affiliate organization status may be rescinded by the organization or at the discretion of Council.~~

~~BIRT the AO be derecognized as a non-departmental student group and any payments from the GSS Event fund be stopped.~~

~~**MOVER:** Nicholas McGregor _____ **SECONDER:**~~

~~**h. — Position statement of BC Housing**~~

~~WHEREAS GSS Policy 14.1.1.A defines a “position statement” as the Society’s means of expressing an opinion, sentiment or principle. A position statement shall not be used to establish internal procedures for the Society.~~

~~WHEREAS GSS Policy 4.3.2. states that Position statements may only be adopted by: (a) a special resolution of Council, or (b) an ordinary resolution at a General Meeting.~~

~~WHEREAS the lack of housing availability has driven up the cost of living for graduate students studying at UBC;~~

~~WHEREAS the ABCS has proposed a plan to expand the availability of on-campus student housing which has been endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities, the BC NDP Party and the BC Green Party, among others;~~

~~WHEREAS the ABCS has proposed a plan to expand the availability of on-campus student housing which has been endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities, the BC NDP Party and the BC Green Party, among others;~~

~~BIRT the GSS adopt the position statement outlined in the document entitled “Position Statement — BC Student Housing”~~

~~**MOVER:** Nicholas McGregor _____ **SECONDER:**~~

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~~i. GSS Representative to the University Advisory Committee in Search for an New Vice-President Academic~~

~~WHEREAS Dr. Angela Redish, who will be stepping down from that role as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the end of June 2017.~~

~~WHEREAS Under Board and Senate Policy #18, in selecting candidates for this position, the President must convene an advisory committee that includes a student elected by and from the graduate students registered in a degree or diploma program at UBC Vancouver.~~

~~BIRT that _____ be appointed as the GSS representative to the University Advisory Committee in Search for an New Vice-President Academic~~

~~MOVER: _____ SECONDER: _____~~

~~j. CIF Motion; CIF Project - Penthouse Stove~~

~~Whereas the GSS generates revenue from Seedlings and Seedlings provides value to graduate students~~

~~Whereas the Penthouse stove doesn't work reliably enough to meet their demands,~~

~~Whereas the project titled "Penthouse Stove" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$1000 from the Capital Improvements Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of a stove, subject to HF's approval of the final model.~~

~~MOVER: _____ SECONDER: _____~~

~~3. Executive Remarks~~

~~(3 minutes)~~

- ~~• President — Gen Cruz;~~
- ~~• Vice-President University & Academic Affairs — Mahshid Ghaffartehrani~~
- ~~• Vice-President External Relations — Nicholas McGregor;~~
- ~~• Vice-President Students — Jennifer DeBoer;~~
- ~~• Financial and Executive Oversight Officer — Dante Mendoza.~~

~~4. Committee Reports~~

~~(3 minutes)~~

- ~~• Academic & External Affairs Committee — Dan Kehila~~

~~B. The committee has, for the past two meetings, consulted with athletics and recreation regarding the athletics renovation plan; revisited the emergency plan policy, considering the possibility of collaboration with UBC's Enrolment Services;~~

~~C. Consulted with executives regarding the fee increase plans; and drafted a position statement in support of the ABCS Where's The Housing? Campaign, to be passed by council this evening~~

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- ~~Code and Policy Committee — Krish Maharaj~~
- ~~Executive Oversight Committee — Dante Mendoza~~
- ~~House Finance Committee — Shona Robinson;~~
- ~~Human Resources Committee — Kaye Hare;~~
- ~~Services Committee — Matt Gynn~~
- ~~Elections Committee — Dan Kehila;~~
- ~~Strategic Planning — Sneha Balani;~~
- ~~Harassment and Discrimination — Katerina Othonos.~~
- ~~Ad Hoc committee on sexual assault policy — Gen Cruz~~

5. ~~Representative Reports~~

~~(3 minutes)~~

- ~~AMS Council — Bradley Balaton;~~
- ~~Graduate Council — Natalie Marshall~~
- ~~Senate — Miranda Huron and Jason Speidel;~~
- ~~BOG — Veronica Knott and Aaron Bailey;~~

6. ~~Question Period~~

7. ~~Other Business and Notice of Motions~~

- ~~Discussion Period~~

8. ~~Notices~~

9. ~~Submissions~~

N. Next Meeting

Thursday, November 10th, 2016

O. Adjournment

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 10 pm.

MOVER:

SECONDER: