

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 16, 2014

GSS Ballroom



GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY | UBC

Present: Andrea Jones, Christopher Roach, Colùm Connolly, Daniel Wood, Enav Zusman, Eric Becklin, George Furey, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Hamid Omid, Ingrid Olson, Maria Paraschos (proxy for Inti Dewey), Jack Hickmott, Julianne Jagdeo, Kevin Mehr, Kreso Sola, Luz Angelica Caudillo-Mata, Mahsa Mojahednia, Min Xia, Mitchell Meler, Nayantara Duttachoudhury, Omid Nourbakhsh, Patrick Lo, Raphael Rocco, Sarah Simon, Shona Robinson, Sima Valizadeh, Shena Balani, Vivian Lam, Kathryn Knudson, Renae Regehr, Chen Vu, Mirza Sarwar, Jonathan Obst, Susan Song, Harry Li, Xun Zhou, Yu Guo, Eva Choi, Keying Tang, Keeley Ryan, Janice Valdez, Olenka Forde, Naman Paul, Michelle Hak Hepburn, Robin Kim, Krish Maharaj, Rebecca Sherbo, Marry-Anne Shonoda, Jennifer Campbell, Dustin King, Gianluca Oluic, Antione Ponsard, Behzad Shoolestani, Jenn So.

Regrets: Alison McAfee, Angela Zhao, Julia Varela, Natalie Marshall, Tobias Friedel.

Absent: Adam Luna, Ambrose Chan, Ehsan Espid, Marcelo Bravo (proxy for Jackie Davis), Lena Patsa, Michelle Kwon, Parker Jobin, Vinodha Chetty, Tahara Bhate, Suzie Maginley.

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

1. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Enav Zusman SECONDER: Shona Robinson

Motion to amend agenda to move Council meeting in November and December to the second week of each month, to November 13th and December 11th.

MOVER: Enav Zusman SECONDER: Jack Hickmott
MOTION PASSES

Note. It was corrected the number of vacant seats on the Executive Oversight Committee to 4.

BIRT agenda be adopted as amended.

MOTION PASSES

B. Introductions

C. Seatings, Unseatings, and Appointments

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

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Jon Newell to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Matt Sacheli to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Jeff Abeysekera to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Julie Zhang to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Sofiya Lazarova to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Christopher Quick to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Alexis Black to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;
Michael Ries to be unseated as a Departmental Representative;

Jeff Abeysekera to be unseated as Chair of Executive Oversight Committee;
Jeff Abeysekera to be unseated as Executive Oversight Committee Representative;
Julie Zhang to be unseated as Executive Oversight Committee Representative;

Julia Varela to be unseated as Human Resources Committee Representative;
Min Xia to be unseated as Human Resources Committee Representative;

Natalie Marshall to be unseated as AMS Council Representative;
Daniel Wood to be unseated as AMS Council Representative;
Angela Zhao to be unseated as AMS Council Representative;

3. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Olenka Forde to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Jonathan Obst to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Michelle I. Hak Hepburn to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Naman Paul to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Jennifer Campbell to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Dustin King to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Rebecca Sherbo to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Janice Valdez to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Krishneel Maharaj to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Robin Kim to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Mirza Sarwar to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Chen Vu to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Kathryn Knudson to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Renaë Regehr to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Harry Li to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Susan Song to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Xun Zhou to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Eva Choi to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Yu Guo to be seated as a Departmental Representative;

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Keying Tang to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Mary-Anne Shonoda to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Keeley Ryan to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Gianluca Oluic to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Antoine Ponsard to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
Behzad Shoolestani to be seated as a Departmental Representative;
~~**James Lawson** to be seated as a Departmental Representative;~~
Jenn So to be seated as a Departmental Representative;

MOVER: Colúm Connolly SECONDER: Daniel Wood

Note. The Executives handed clickers and name tags to new Councillors.

Motion to amend to remove James Lawson from the list of Council seatings. He failed to submit the Affidavit of Election to GSS in a timely manner.

MOVER: Colúm Connolly SECONDER: Kevin Mehr
MOTION PASSES

BIRT the seatings as amended are approved.

MOTION PASSES

D. Presentations to Council
(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)

- **GSS Events**
 - Update on the upcoming GSS events presented by Events Director;
 - In late October – early November GSS hosts the following events: League of lasers, Halloween Party, Pop up dance party, BC Lions GSS UBC night;
 - Events Director encouraged Councillors to promote GSS events in their Departments, social media and spread a word within their graduate organizations;
 - GSS space rental is provided at a significant discount to public with rental fees waived for graduate students;
 - Events Director is available to assist with event planning and organization;
 - Graduate Student Center has capacity to cater to small (10 people) as well as large groups (up to 288 people).

Note. It was decided to hear CPIF presentation immediately after GSS Events presentation.

- **CPIF Project - Security Upgrades**

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- Vice-President Administration presented updates on the security system in the building;
- Security system has not been upgraded for several years and is aged at the present time;
- In order to avoid past incidents, namely, theft, fire and false alarm, etc. in the future, it was recommended to upgrade alarm system and fix a number of issues occurring frequently over the past period;
- Each room in the building has security cameras recording 24/7;
- CPIF envisages security system upgrade every few years;
- It is planned to start the project as soon as possible to ensure safety of the property.

It was asked and explained the CPIF budget objectives and usage to new Councillors. It was further asked and answered whether Council meetings are recorded, to which the answer was that the camera records the picture, but no audio record is kept. It was further recommended to install more cameras in the Ballroom and Thea's Lounge; It was asked and answered that there are signage everywhere in the building notifying public that the building is under surveillance.

• **Students' Perspectives on Graduate Student Mentoring**

- Qualitative descriptive study is being conducted at the request of UBC Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and GSS;
- Graduate students are invited to participate in the focus groups and are asked on their perception of mentorship at UBC;
- Despite the wide promotion over the past few months, only 29 students out of targeted 150 took part in the study;
- Preliminary analysis allowed to identify first patterns both negatively and positively influencing mentoring experience in relation to graduate outcomes;
- Speaker encouraged Councillors to extend the invitation to graduate students from their departments to participate in the study.

It was asked and answered that the research coordinators can attend mandatory scheduled seminars, workshops, lab meetings and classes to reach out to more graduate students; It was further asked whether GSS will be provided with the results of the study, to which the answer was that the speaker will notify the principal and will communicate the response back to Executives;

It was also asked and recommended to provide incentives to graduate students to increase attendance rate;

• **Budget revision**

- Budget revision presented by the Chair of the House and Finance Committee;

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- Several budget line reallocations have been submitted for Council consideration to ensure stable operation of the Society;
- Funds are to be transferred from abundant budget lines to the lines that have deteriorated due to differences from planned expenditures;
- It was requested to allocate additional \$4000 to the Emergency Fund from the surplus of the previous years. Emergency Fund has deteriorated due to high volume of applications.

It was asked for the motivation behind Committee's request of only half of the original amount to the Emergency Fund, given that it is in the middle of the budget year, to which the answer was that the amount was estimated based on the projected needs of the committee and anticipated volume of applications.

It was further asked and answered that 2 applications were approved this year. It was stated that each case is unique and Committee estimates the amount of help provided in each particular case.

It was further noted that there is no oversight over the expenditures and was recommended to request a report on the Emergency Fund spending over the past period to justify the allocation of additional funds.

E. Executive Remarks

(3 minutes)

- President – Colúm Connolly
 - has been working on the GSS survey;
 - has been analyzing the preliminary results of the survey;
 - conducted several new Councillor orientations;
 - has been working on the Code and Policy changes regarding Executive restructure;
 - attended and mentored at the PhD lunch and recommended that all councillors outreach to new students to take part in this program;
 - attended BC municipalities conference;
- Vice-President Academic & External Affairs – Daniel Wood
 - Called into CASA grad council meetings;
- Vice-President Administration – Kevin Mehr
 - Has been working on the security upgrade project;
 - Has interviewed candidates for the position of Communication and Marketing Director;
 - In the process of hiring General Manager.
- Vice-President Finance – Tobias Friedel

Note. President read letter from VP Finance.

Dear Councillors,

Unfortunately my migraines to not allow me to be here tonight, I hope the slides regarding the budget adjustments were sufficiently self-explanatory and my fellow Executives were able to fill in the gaps. If too many questions remain unanswered please feel free to postpone the respective motion until the next meeting.

Over the last month all final numbers for the first quarter have come in and it is my pleasure to report that aside from the benefit miscalculation mentioned in the presentation there are no further irregularities and all other budget lines are on track.

Regarding the GSS Events Fund we have reached the first milestone of 10 accepted applications, none have been denied. We will use these applications as a base line to fine tune the assessment formula in the upcoming weeks.

Off-Campus Outreach is off to a good start, a lot of ideas were brought to the table and we are currently working on a short survey to assess in what way existing services can potentially be expanded to off-campus locations as well as creating off-campus-specific programming. We also plan to hold one signature event at an off-campus location in early 2015.

- Vice-President Services – Min Xia
- Has been planning for the upcoming events;
- Has been working on the GSS social events project;
- Met with the graduate organizations of UBC at GSO Caucus;
- Working on the events for the next semester;

F. Committee, Taskforce, and Operations Reports
(3 minutes)

- Academic & External Affairs Committee – Enav Zusman;
 - Encouraged students to vote at the municipal elections;
 - Has been discussing international tuition fee increase;
- Code and Policy Committee – Julianne Jagdeo

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- Has been drafting a new Executives policy and staff restructuring;
- Has been finalizing new Councillors section;
- Rearranged several sections making them clear and straightforward;

- Executive Oversight Committee – Christopher Roach
 - Committee has not met since last Council meeting;
 - Actively hiring new members to seat on the committee;

- House-Finance Committee – Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle
 - Received new AO petitions;
 - Has been considering a number of applications for event funding;
 - Recommending funding of School of Music conference.

- Human Resources Committee – Jack Hickmott
 - Posted General Manager position online;
 - Has been reviewing applications for Communications and Marketing Director;
 - Has been reviewing HR terms of reference and Handbook;

- Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh
 - Has been planning for Halloween party;
 - Reviewing events and classes;
 - Sport and events coordinator resigned;
 - Experiences changes to the structure.

G. Representative Reports

(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – Christopher Roach

AMS Council has mainly been dealing with the fallout of the tuition and housing increases, these increases mainly affect undergraduate students.

- Graduate Council – Guillaume as Suzie Maginley was absent.

Had first meeting of the Graduate Council and discussed the evolution of the PhD.

- Senate – Julienne Jagdeo

Has approved policy regarding a standard parchment format for graduates doing a dual degree with UBC and another university.



H. Seatings

4. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Sarah Simon, Luz Angelica Caudillo Mata be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee.

MOVER: Shona Robinson SECONDER: Jack Hickmott
MOTION PASSES

5. BIRT the following seating is approved:

Chris Roach be seated as Chair of Executive Oversight Committee.

MOVER: Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle SECONDER: Luz Angelica Caudillo Mata
MOTION PASSES

6. BIRT the following seating is approved:

Behzad Shoolestani be seated to Student Sustainability Council.

Note. It was corrected the number of seats to the Student Sustainability Council to 1.

MOVER: Christopher Roach SECONDER: Patrick Lo
MOTION PASSES

Motion to recess for 20 minutes.

MOVER: Shona Robinson SECONDER: Jack Hickmott
MOTION PASSES

Meeting was called to order again at 7:25 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

7. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated "*September 18th, 2014*" be approved as presented.

Motion to amend Council Minutes as of September 16, 2014 to change "the society" to "GrasPods" in Section 2.

MOVER: Vivian Lam SECONDER: Ingrid Olson



Motivation: in accordance with the Policy manual, the society shall be always in reference to the GSS. The wording of the section 2 is dubious.

MOTION PASSES

Motion to amend Council Minutes as of September 16, 2014 to strike "~~and an~~", "~~(GSS top level) from the CIPF budget line.~~" in Section 14.

MOVER: Jack Hickmott **SECONDER: Kevin Mehr**
MOTION PASSES

Motion to amend Council Minutes as of September 16, 2014 to strike the sentence "~~It was further stated that renovation will include the installation of climbing wall.~~" in Section 14.

MOVER: George Furey **SECONDER: Colúm Connolly**
MOTION PASSES

Back to Council Minutes as of September 16th, 2014 as amended.

MOVER: Enav Zusman **SECONDER: Jack Hickmott**
MOTION PASSES

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

Academic and External Committee September 3.

MOVER: Jack Hickmott **SECONDER: Enav Zusman**
MOTION PASSES

J. Council Motions

9. Policy Manual

BIRT motion B4 from the July 2014 Council meeting take into effect immediately.

BIFRT section 4.3.1 does not take into effect until April 2015.

MOVER: Colúm Connolly **SECONDER: Julianne Jagdeo**

Motivation. Changes to the leave of absence section submitted to Council at the July meeting. At the moment there is no policy regarding Executive officers.

MOTION PASSES

10. Policy Manual

WHEREAS the term “slate” refers to a group of candidates who run for elected office and/or campaign on a similar platform for mutual advantage (included but not limited to Executive positions and positions in the Senate), while the term “endorsement” refers to the action of publicly declaring one's support of a candidate for elected office;

WHEREAS the practice of running in slates may provide an advantage to some candidates and not to others;

BIRT the GSS no longer supports the formation of slates during elections;

BIFRT Council approves the addition and amendments to policies 9.6.7-9.6.10 as presented.

Note. Point of privilege. It was requested to make the font of the motion larger in size.

MOVER: Christopher Roach SECONDER: Julianne Jagdeo

Motivation. Based on the Elections 2014 report prepared by the elections committee, slates were found detrimental to the fair election process. It was also identified that the candidates running in slates obtain significant advantage over the individual opponents causing them to withdraw from the campaign. It was decided to postpone the adoption of the motion prohibiting slates till before the Elections 2015.

It was asked to interpret the wording and its rationale “cannot campaign together”, to which the answer was that it lies with the Election Committee. It is at their discretion to identify the extent and legitimacy of the individual campaigns.

MOTION PASSES

11. Policy Manual

WHEREAS attendance at the All-Candidates Meetings is an integral part of candidates showing their commitment to the elections process and to the GSS;

BIRT candidate attendance at the All-Candidates Meetings and Debates is made compulsory for the ~~2014~~ **2015** GSS Elections;

BIFRT Council approves the addition of policy 9.6.11 as presented



MOVER: Christopher Roach

SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

Motivation. Based on the recommendations developed after 2014 Elections, the candidates shall be required to attend the All-Candidates meeting. It was found that low attendance has a negative impact on the candidates' awareness of policies and organization.

Note. Friendly amendment to strike "candidates" before "showing their commitment", strike "and Debates".

Motion to amend to change Elections 2014 to Elections 2015.

MOVER: Jack Hickmott SECONDER: Ingrid Olson

MOTION PASSES

It was asked and answered that it was intentional to separate All-candidates and debates motions.

It was further asked which actions shall be taken by a candidate in case of absence at the All-candidate meeting, to which the answer was that such candidate shall appoint a meeting with the Chief Electoral Officer. It was further clarified that if a candidate fails to attend that other meeting, the candidature will be withdrawn from the elections.

Back to motion as amended.

MOTION PASSES

12. Policy Manual

WHEREAS attendance at the Election Debates is an integral part of candidates showing their commitment to the elections process and to the GSS;

BIRT candidate attendance at the Election Debates is made compulsory for the ~~2014~~ **2015** GSS Elections;

BIFRT Council approves the addition of policy 9.6.12 as presented

MOVER: Christopher Roach

SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

Motivation: debates are an integral part to the function of elections process. The candidates shall show awareness and knowledge in the current issues experienced by the graduate population.

Motion to amend to strike "2014 Elections" and replace with "2015 Elections".



MOVER: Kevin Mehr
MOTION PASSES

SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

Discussion: it was spoken in favour of the motion stating that a candidate shall participate in the debate showing awareness and knowledge of the current graduate student issues, unwillingness or inability, in this regard, arises concerns as such candidate is able to represent and advocate on behalf of the entire population of the graduate students. It was further noted that the candidates are not expected to be experienced debaters; a candidate is expected to express the position.

It was spoken against of the motion emphasizing on the right of choice that a candidate should be entitled to. It was further stated that the candidates shall be encouraged to participate in the debate through other means, rather than compulsory participation. It was further noted that a candidate may wish to prioritize time allocated for the debate to meet with the electorate or present the position within their platform.

It was noted that compulsory attendance is to popularize the elections overall attracting more graduate students to witness the debate.

It was further acknowledged that there was an attempt to make the debate more accessible through livestream broadcasting; however, due to legal reasons it was never accomplished.

It was asked and answered that a candidate may submit a legitimate reason of non-attendance to the Elections Committee. It is at the discretion of the committee to release a candidate in such a case from compulsory attendance.

Motion to extend time for 5 minutes.

MOVER: Colúm Connolly
MOTION PASSES

SECONDER: Antoine Ponsard

It was stated that the debate is an opportunity for candidates to present their position and campaign to graduate students. It was further emphasized that each graduate student shall have the right to address questions to any candidate running for the Executive position at the debate.

It was further stated that a candidate may run a campaign with the platform and ideas, not necessarily participating in the debate.

Motion to extend time for 5 minutes.

MOVER: Christopher Roach
MOTION PASSES

SECONDER: Daniel Wood

It was clarified that the wording of the motion implies attendance at the debate and not necessarily taking part as a debater. If a candidate does not feel comfortable to participate, he/she can attend the debate without actual debating.

It was further noted that there is no point in making a debate compulsory if a candidate is not required to debate.

It was emphasized that the compulsory attendance will make the elections more accessible and democratic.

Motion to extend time for 1 minute.

MOVER: Julienne Jagdeo SECONDER: Mirza Sarwar

Attendance at the debate is a way to show commitment to the position. Each is expected to allocated one hour of his/her time to express interest and willingness to contribute time in future.

MOTION PASSES

13. School of Music Conference

WHEREAS at this point the School of Music does not have a graduate student organisation;

WHEREAS the proposed conference can therefore not be funded through the GSS Events Fund;

WHEREAS House Finance recommends to fund the conference with up to \$400;

BIRT Council authorized the Vice President Finance to reimburse up to \$400 of the expenses for the conference from budget line 12-813 (GSS Event Fund); and

BIFRT the reimbursement procedure shall follow the procedure for reimbursements through the GSS Event Fund.

MOVER: Shona Robinson SECONDER: Kevin Mehr

Motivation. Only graduate student associations recognized by GSS can apply for GSS Events Fund. Given that the school of music does not have a graduate student organization, the application was submitted to the House and Finance committee for further consideration.



It was stated that the School of Music hosts fantastic concerts, events, plays free for UBC students. It was further noted that the conference is held once per three years with guests invited from different countries.

It was remarked that there are many vacancies from the School of Music on GSS Council. It was further asked the reason why the school of Music does not have a graduate student organization, to which the answer was that all programs are different in length and it is difficult for graduate students to form viable association.

It was further asked and answered that conference coordinators have also applied for the funding to AMS, FoGS and Ombuds.

It was asked and answered that GSS sponsorship will be acknowledged during the conference.

MOTION PASSES

14. Budget revision

WHEREAS proposed changes to the budget have been presented to Council;

BIRT the budget for the 2014/2015 term be amended as presented.

BIRT the Acex committee shall give a comprehensive report to the November December 2014 Council meeting on the graduate student Emergency Fund. The report shall include a plan going forward to advocate for student emergency support due to the lack of sustainability of this fund.

MOVER: Colúm Connolly

SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

Motivation: budget lines reallocations presented to the Council earlier.

Motion to amend to remove additional \$4000 allocated for the Emergency Fund;

MOVER: Christopher Roach

SECONDER: Colúm Connolly

Motivation: responsibility to support graduate students in need shall be mainly assumed by UBC. The society does not possess large pool of funds available for support with financial help provided only to individual graduate students leaving out a great number of other students in the same situation. It was specified that only 3 applications were approved in this budget year.

It was emphasized that the funds are awarded only to those graduate students who are in extreme situations. UBC does not offer any instruments of support to students in their last months in the University.

It was noted that Emergency Fund has been recently revised making the process more transparent.

It was further recommended to discuss this issue in the future and request a report of expenditures for the budget year 2014-2015.

It was asked that some of the departments are more knowledgeable about the fund, to which the answer was that it is conditioned by students sharing positive experience with peer students from their department. In addition, Emergency fund should be advertised better to avoid repetitive applications from the same departments.

Motion to extend discussion for 10 minutes.

MOVER: Erick Becklin **SECONDER: Enav Zusman**
MOTION PASSES

It was stated that a number of programs have recently cut their scholarships, and more and more graduate students find themselves in a difficult financial situation.

It was further recommended to postpone allocation of additional funds till the next budget year, to which the answer was that the students in need risk to be evicted by that time.

It was further emphasized that additional funds will allow Emergency fund to continue its functioning in this budget year.

It was further noted that financial support to individual students is not fair to the collective body of graduate students of UBC.

It was proposed to keep the regular amount in the Fund with report of the expenditures for the past three years to be submitted to the Council. It was specified to include breakdown of the maximum and minimum expenditures.

It was further remarked that the same amount is to be granted for promotion and advertisement while Emergency Fund is more important to graduate students.

Motion to extend discussion for 5 minutes.

MOVER: Erick Becklin **SECONDER: Enav Zusman**
MOTION PASSES

It was asked and answered that the additional \$4000 to the Emergency Fund shall be granted from the surplus of the previous years.

It was proposed to include condition on the motion to submit Emergency Fund report with the developed approach to advocate for emergency support to graduate students at the University level.

Motion to extend discussion for 5 minutes.

MOVER: Vivian Lam **SECONDER: Christopher Roach**
MOTION PASSES

It was asked and answered that the GSS budget breakdown is available to public with more detailed information submitted to Council on a regular basis.

Motion to extend discussion for 2 minutes.

MOVER: Daniel Wood **SECONDER: Erick Becklin**
MOTION PASSES

It was emphasized that the fund shall be advertised. It was further noted that the contribution by the individual graduate students will never meet the financial help provided.

Call to question.

MOTION FAILED

Back to motion as presented.

Motion to amend to include third clause to the motion as presented.

“BIRT the Acex committee shall give a comprehensive report to the November 2014 Council meeting on the graduate student emergency fund. The report shall include a plan going forward to advocate for student emergency support due to the lack of sustainability of this fund.”

MOVER: Shona Robinson **SECONDER: Colúm Connolly**
MOTION PASSES

Note. Friendly motion to amend the date to “December 2014”.

It was stated that two months is acceptable timeframe allocated for preparation of Emergency Fund comprehensive report.

It was further remarked that the report shall not be construed as a breach of confidentiality agreement as its objective to present information on financial usage solely.

MOTION PASSES

Motion to amend agenda to move Next Council meeting section immediately after Budget revision.

MOVER: Christopher Roach

SECONDER: Shona Robinson

MOTION PASSES

15. Next Council meeting

BIRT the next two Council meetings take place on November 13th, 2014 and December 11th, 2014.

MOVER: Colúm Connolly

SECONDER: Christopher Roach

Note. 2/3 of votes required for approval.

MOTION PASSES

16. CPIF – Security Updates.

WHEREAS the Graduate Student Centre requires significant repairs and upgrades to its current security infrastructure and,

WHEREAS the proposed project satisfies all of the requirements of a CPIF project,

BIRT Council approves up to \$5000 for the 'Security Upgrades' project from the CPIF budget line.

MOVER: Kevin Mehr

SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

MOTION PASSES

17. Affiliate Organisation Recognition

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

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

- a. Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Network;

MOVER: Colúm Connolly

SECONDER: Vivian Lam

Note. Point of information. Affiliate Organization is a graduate student organization recognized by GSS in order to access Events Fund.

MOTION PASSES

18. Endorsement

WHEREAS the GSS in the past has endorsed graduate students for both the senate and board of governors;

WHEREAS the GSS in its mission statement states "The Society advocates for, promotes, and protects the academic, social, intellectual, cultural and recreational interests of its members."

WHEREAS candidate Daniel wood is a GSS member in good standing, running in the municipal election with no partisan affiliation.

BIRT the GSS formally endorse graduate student Daniel Wood in the upcoming Municipal Election for the Electoral Area A - UBC riding.

MOVER: Krish Maharaj

SECONDER: Enav Zusman

GSS previously endorsed candidates to Senate and Board of Governors of UBC. It was further stated that UBC is located within Electoral Area A with decisions made at municipal level will have indirect impact on UBC and graduate students.

It was also emphasized that GSS shall not endorse a candidate in the municipal elections as it is going apart with the mission of GSS to represent and advocate on behalf of the entire graduate population rather than on behalf of individual students. It was further noted that municipal elections represent a political environment that has no implications to graduate students of UBC.

It was further asked and answered that the candidate will not be obliged to report to the GSS Council.

MOTION FAILED

19. Municipal elections

BIRT the GSS send out emails **via GSS newsletter** to all-graduate students in both late October and early November 2014 to remind them of the importance of voting, where to vote, and when.

MOVER: Daniel Wood SECONDER: Jack Hickmott

Note. Friendly amendment to include “via GSS newsletter” and strike “all”

It was asked and answered that it is impossible to follow how many clicks have been made.

MOTION PASSES

21. GSS society act white paper submission

BIRT council supports the GSS society act white paper submission as presented to Council.

MOVER: Christopher Roach SECONDER: Colúm Connolly

Motivation. GSS society act white paper submission has been previously approved by the Executive committee.

MOTION PASSES

22. Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

BIRT council ~~supports~~ approves the Select standing committee on finance and government services as presented to council.

MOVER: Christopher Roach SECONDER: Colúm Connolly

Note. Friendly motion to strike “supports” and include “approves”.

MOTION PASSES

K. Other Business and Notice of Motions

GSS cIRcle Open Award recipients:

- Catherine Haney;
- Saule Chikeyeva.

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L. Discussion Period

- GSS involvement in the actions taken about proposed changes to international tuition and housing fees;

M. Submissions

N. Next Meeting

November 13th, 2014

O. Adjournment

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:52 pm.

MOTION PASSES