



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, October 22nd 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

Present: Anujit Chakraborty, Amber Shilling, Andrew Leyland, Bradley Balaton, Chad Rickaby, Charles Copeland, Charlie Deng, Chen Vu, Christie Waltham, Christina Wiesmann, Conny Lin, Dan Kehila, Dylan Burrows, Judy Booth (proxy for Enav Zusman), Hamza Khan, Ingrid Olson, Jennifer Campbell, John Dupuis, Kate Jaffe, Kaye Hare, Namrata Jain (proxy for Kelsi Lix), Krish Maharaj, Logan MacDonald, Maayan Kreitzman, Mary Caple, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Matthew gartner, Mohammad Nikoo, Parker Jobin, Patrick Lo, Peter Chen, Raghav Grover, Ran Xiang, Hooman Shahrokhi (proxy for Shona Robinson), Tal Shalev, Tobias Friedel, Jun Sian Lee (proxy for Vasilii Triandafilidi), Katerina Othonos (proxy for Xun Zhou), Yaseen Mottiar, Abhinav Ajay Kumar (proxy for Yulia Merkulova) and Zoe Lam.

Regrets: Bingyu Gloria Liu, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Emily Allan, James Lawson, Joon Seon Lee, Kevin Mehr, Kyla Drzazgowski, Maichael Thejoe, Natalie Marshall, Nicholas Dawson, Sarah Simon.

Absent: Francisco Gómez-Lopéz, Grant Tran, Jennifer Zhao, Mirza Sarwar, Olenka Forde.

Speaker: Abdul Alnaar

Guests: Mark Wellington, GSS General Manager

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:43 pm.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Kaye Hare

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

B. Introductions

C. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

2. Unseating (no vote necessary)

Saimou Zhang has been unseated as Departmental Representative.

3. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Kaye Hare, Jasleen Grewal be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

MOVER: Amber Shilling

SECONDER: Krish Maharaj

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

Motion to reconsider, to add Jasleen Grewal to the seating to Harassment and Discrimination Committee, was entertained.

MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman

SECONDER: Krish Maharaj

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

4. BIRT the following appointments are approved:



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Dan Kehila be appointed Chief Electoral Officer for the 2016 GSS Executive Elections¹.

Tal Shalev be appointed Chair of the Academic and External Committee.

Julienne Jagdeo be appointed Chair of the Code and Policy Committee.

Shona Robinson be appointed Chair of the House Finance Committee.

Sima Valizadeh be appointed Chair of the Service Committee.

MOVER: Bradley Balaton

SECONDER: Amber Shilling

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

5. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

WHEREAS the GSS is a member of the Alliance of BC Students; and

WHEREAS each member of the Alliance is entitled to appoint one director to sit on the Alliance's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS each member of the Alliance is entitled to also appoint one alternate to vote at meetings of the Board of Directors, in the event that the director is unavailable, therefore

BIRT the GSS appoints **Conny Lin** as an alternate to vote at meetings of the Board of Directors of the Alliance of BC Students, until April 30, 2016, in the event that Gloria Liu is unavailable.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Ingrid Olson

MOTION PASSED

27/0/1

6. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

Hooman Shahrokhi be seated as GSS representative to the AMS Council.

MOVER: Tal Shalev

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

D. Approval of Minutes

7. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated "August 20th, 2015", "August 27th, 2015" and "September 17th, 2015" be approved as presented.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

MOTION PASSED

30/0/1

¹ Special Resolution



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

<i>Service Committee May 4, 2015;</i>	<i>Code and Policy August 5, 2015;</i>
<i>Service Committee June 1, 2015;</i>	<i>Code and Policy August 17, 2015.</i>
<i>Service Committee June 29, 2015</i>	<i>Academic and External July 29, 2015;</i>
<i>Service Committee July 13, 2015;</i>	<i>Academic and External August 10, 2015;</i>
<i>Service Committee July 27, 2015;</i>	<i>Academic and External September 1, 2015;</i>
<i>Code and Policy April 27, 2015;</i>	<i>House Finance August 11, 2015;</i>
<i>Code and Policy June 1, 2015;</i>	<i>House Finance August 25, 2015;</i>
<i>Code and Policy July 6, 2015;</i>	<i>House Finance September 8, 2015;</i>
<i>Code and Policy July 20, 2015;</i>	<i>House Finance September 24, 2015.</i>

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: John Dupuis

MOTION PASSED

25/0/4

E. Executive Remarks

(3 minutes)

- President – Tobias Friedel
 - International tuition consultations have been going on through the whole summer; there is some tension around the issue; some student groups are speaking in favour, others are strongly against; grad students and professional programs are mainly influenced; encouraged to provide feedback on the matter.
 - Student Mental Health and Wellbeing, final report will be out soon.
 - Working on volunteer positions to increase student engagement: job descriptions, etc. Keep eyes open on our newsletter; will cover topics like sustainability, wellbeing, etc.
- Vice-President University and Academic Affairs – Enav Zusman
- Vice-President External Relations – Gloria Liu
- Vice-President Students– Kevin Mehr
- Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Charlie Deng
 - Attended UBC committee that is currently reviewing a confidential complaint filed as to inappropriate relationship between a student and TA. Committee discussed to have TA association involved; conflict of interest and infringement for grad students; this is Enav's portfolio; there should be a centralized training;
 - EOC is reviewing Policy Manual as to minimum performance standards;
 - Reviewing actuals for July and August.

F. Committee and Ad Hoc Committees Reports

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(3 minutes)

- Academic & External Affairs Committee – Tal Shalev [written report]
 - Suggested topics for presentation to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;
 - Discussed seismic risk of university and where money should be taken from to address the risks;
 - Tuition consultations for a number of new professional master programs;
 - Suggestions for library garden;
 - Participation for UBC conflict of interest committee;
 - Suggestions for policy 71 revision.
- Code and Policy Committee – Julianne Jagdeo [written report]

Since our last Council meeting, CPC has finalized the draft for the newest policy section on Executive Spending, which is up for approval tonight. Also up for approval is the revision of Section 18 "Employee Guidelines", which we also finalized this month in collaboration with the VP Students and HR Committee. We are also in the final revisions of the Committee terms of references within section 7 as well as continue updating the policy manual with the new Executive Officer positions. Our goal is to bring it forward to Council in October.
- Executive Oversight Committee – Charlie Deng
 - Discussed policies on Executive vacation and leave of absence;
 - Reviewing performance standards for Executive members.
- House-Finance Committee – Shona Robinson
- Human Resources Committee – Tobias Friedel
 - Nothing to report
- Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh
 - Nothing to report
- Strategic Planning ad hoc committee – Tobias Friedel
 - Nothing to report
- Harassment and Discrimination ad hoc committee – Katerina Othonos
 - Newly formed committee will be collecting stories from grad students;
 - Conducting research on cases in different universities;
 - Based on the findings committee will develop general guidelines;
 - Had first meeting last month; discussed survey and how to keep information confidential;
 - Members will have training by the end of the month;
 - Invite Councillors to participate in the campaign "Tell your story".

G. Representative Reports

(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – Conny Lin
 - Congrats to Dan who secured a seat in Innovative Fund Committee;
 - Discussed the idea of having "Want a ride" app;
 - External review is coming soon;
 - Federal Elections: had advance polling system on campus; saw great turn out;
 - Will be discussing possibility to withdraw from ABCS again on Oct 28th;
 - Umbrella Sharing Program;

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- AGM was held on October 21st; discussed tuition increases. GSS members were very active. AMS created forum for discussion: ams.ubc.ca/tuitionincrease; Dec 3rd up for vote at BOGS.
- Graduate Council – Natalie Marshall [written report]
 - *At Grad Council, we discussed an interesting new pilot program called the “Public Scholars Initiative,” which aims to learn how to best customize PhD dissertations to better prepare UBC PhD graduates for careers beyond academia.*
 - *Grad Council is also beginning to survey graduates, between 1-11 years out from graduation to track career outcomes, etc. If you have suggestions about the types of questions that would be valuable in this survey, please contact Natalie.*
 - *Admissions to UBC graduate programs is being streamlined so that (generally) you can now submit unofficial versions of your documents (e.g. undergrad transcripts), and also electronically, for a ‘conditional acceptance,’ saving you money and time when applying for grad school.*
 - *Policies on graduate student leaves of absence have been reworded to increase flexibility for students; now it is clear that you can take a leave of absence to (e.g.) take a job unrelated to your field to help with finances. They also defined which UBC services you can or cannot still use while on leave (e.g. Library access–yes; childcare–yes; housing–generally yes; UPass–no; Extended health and dental–opt-in).*
 - *Finally, Grad Council highlighted the value of building an “Individual Development Plan” (or “IDP”) to plan careers and graduate study timelines using online, interactive tools. These are customized to each user to help you improve your skills to meet your long-term goals. IDPs are more common in the sciences and there are discussions to bring them over to the humanities, as well.*
- Senate – Sarah Simon and Nick Dawson

Senate met last night and while most things were routine approvals (awards, etc), a couple things pertained to us. Firstly, in response to the findings from Lynn Smith regarding the University’s failure to protect the academic freedoms of Prof. Berdahl, the University is creating initiatives to safeguard academic freedoms on campus.

 - *A new staff member will be hired and their purpose will be to ensure that academic freedoms are safeguarded at UBC.*
 - *The University will create an education program focusing on what academic freedom is, how it must be protected and how to handle matters related to academic freedom. This program will be aimed at all new faculty members, directors and deans.*
 - *An online tool will be created to disseminate how to deal with academic issues and understand the concepts of academic freedom. This tool will be available to the public.*
 - *Finally, the University will develop a program that will be a mandatory course for all governors and senators to ensure they understand the concepts of academic freedom.*

Secondly, a faculty member brought forward a motion that would have asked the President to approach the Board of Governors and Prof. Gupta and asked them to renegotiate their non-disclosure agreement so that more transparency could be provided. A number of faculty members spoke for and against the motion, but in the end, most senators voted against the motion and it failed.

Finally, the budget committee saw an update on international tuition hikes. After the typical 7.5% put away for international student aid, the majority of the remaining money will be set aside for “Strategic Investment”. What exactly this means is quite murky and has not been decided. There are ongoing discussions and student consultations to help decide how this money will be allocated.

As always, if there are any questions please do not hesitate to email either myself or Sarah at senator@gss.ubc.ca



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Thanks,
Nick

Hello,

I'm very sorry to not be with everyone tonight, mostly because I'm in a room with 40 other grad students marking midterms right now.

Senate is a very slow body, however, with the recent drama of this summer there have been very interesting conversations about academic freedom. There are no current actions being made in regards to this concern, but it is at the forefront of the academics at this university.

There is also exciting movement for the mental health and wellbeing adhoc committee. The university has hired outside consultants. The consulting period is beginning with student senators and the student government executives. The consultants provided a presentation to senate yesterday evening and I believe the work they will be doing will have significant impact on the university. I will be attending the consultation and I will lobby for graduate students.

I don't have much more to add and I hope whatever dinner you all have is delicious.

*As always,
Sarah*

Motion to include section Questions Period; allot 5 minutes.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Tal Shalev

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

H. Questions Period

It was asked who is assigned to hold consultations with C+CP on Library Garden Re-development project and if indigenous community is involved, to which the answer was that the committee had discussed the project in general, did not touch on specifics.

It was further noted that GSS will be contacting indigenous community members inviting them to join conversation about the development of the Dialogue Centre at the upcoming Council meetings.

It was further asked and answered that the conversation to renew agreement with the Pub has just started.

It was also asked about the groups that are in favour of tuition increase, to which the answer was that some professional programs like MBA or Law School are open to conditional agreements, i.e. secure money for particular cause and/or if it results in significant improvement for the program. It was further mentioned that this is an opportunity for students to provide feedback and voice different perspectives. There is GSS standing policy on tuition increases that international tuition shall be held the same as for domestic students.

I. Council Motions

9. Graduate Council Committee Appointments²

Introduced by: Executive Committee

² carried over from GSS Council, September 17th 2015, October 15th 2015;



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BIRT committee appointments of the Graduate Council, i.e., Academic Policy Committee, Scholarships Committee, and Graduate Curriculum Committee are deferred to the Graduate Council Student Caucus.

MOVER: John Dupuis

SECONDER: Judy Booth

Motivation: would make sense to defer appointments to Student Caucus. This has been the practice in the past.

MOTION PASSED

25/1/3

10. Dissolution of Building Lease Renewal ad hoc Committee³ *Introduced by: Executive Committee*

WHEREAS the Building Lease Renewal ad hoc committee has been unable to reach quorum for several months, and

WHEREAS the first deadlines towards the lease renewal have passed, and

WHEREAS under the direction of the GSS Executive the General Manager has provided the necessary documents to UBC Treasury to adhere to the deadlines as laid out in the current lease agreement, therefore;

BIRT the Building Lease Renewal ad hoc committee be dissolved.

BIFRT the duties laid out in the terms of reference of the ad hoc committee be deferred to ~~the Executive Committee in consultation with~~ the House Committee.

BIFRT any progress towards lease renewal be included in the executive reports to Council.

MOVER: Peter Cheng

SECONDER: Christina Wiesmann

Motion to amend to strike “Executive committee in consultation with”

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Andrew Leyland

Motivation: consulted with the House Finance Committee; felt it best to put House Finance upfront and Execs as consultants. Responsibility lies with the House Finance.

It was asked and answered that three Execs seat on the committee as ex-officio members.

AMENDMENT PASSED

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³ carried over from GSS Council, September 17th 2015, October 15th 2015;



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It was noted that ad hoc committee never had enough members to meet quorum, so wasn't able to make any decisions. The only deadline set was to signal interest by the end of June/July. GSS has submitted a letter of intent to renew lease to the university. There were a few changes that are being suggested, i.e. pest control should be taken care of by UBC. University has also notified GSS that they would like to slightly change the wording. House Finance will be reviewing the changes.

It was further asked the reason why ad hoc committee was initially struck, to which the answer was that previous Executive team felt appropriate to form a separate committee just for this purpose with a low time commitment, and in order not to overburden existing committees.

It was also mentioned that anyone is invited to the committee meetings.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

11. Policy Manual Section 5 Executive Officer Spending⁴ *Introduced by: Code and Policy Committee*

WHEREAS policies regarding Executive Officer spending for the purposes of Society business were not within the current policy manual.

BIRT Council approves the addition of the proposed section titled "Executive Officer Spending" to the policy manual as presented in section 5.

BIFRT the position of the current section 5 and all subsequent sections of the policy manual shifts down one section number.

MOVER: Krish Maharaj

SECONDER: Patrick Lo

Motivation: this new section was created at the request of and in collaboration with the Executive Oversight Committee. The general purpose of this section is to make sure Executives are being reimbursed or not paying out of pocket for the necessary, but appropriate costs that arise due to Society business. We have outlined clearly areas that are eligible for reimbursement/payment by the Society such accommodation and transportation, as well as items that are not eligible as outlined in 5.8. Reimbursements will be subject to approval by the FEOO to help monitor appropriate spending of the Society's money.

It was emphasized that there is no standing policy on Executive spending; also have seen some issues in the past like lost receipts, etc. The proposed policy is based on the staff reimbursement guidelines, policies adopted in other Universities: UFT, UVIC and U of C. GSS offers the lowest amount of reimbursement across Canada.

It was also mentioned that this policy will allow to eliminate financial inconsistencies and make Execs more accountable.

⁴ carried over from GSS Council, September 17th 2015, October 15th 2015;



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It was further asked and answered that \$60 per diem includes expenses for meals, coffee, medicine, etc. Non-essential or non-allowable expenses, i.e. liquor, etc. are not covered.

It was further noted that all charges to the budget lines will be reviewed by Financial and Executive Oversight Officer to monitor how money is spent.

It was further asked and answered that approved by Council annual budget includes all projected cost of conference expense attended by Execs (CASA, GU 15, UBCM, etc.)

It was further clarified that Policy Manual 5.3.2 refers to special circumstances: in case Execs do not have funds to travel and in order to remove financial burden due to their office, per diem may be provided in advance of departure. It was further stated that Execs will still have to justify all expenses and follow reimbursement guidelines.

MOTION PASSED

28/0/2

12. Policy Manual Section 48-19 Employee Guidelines⁵ *Introduced by: Code and Policy Committee*

WHEREAS Section 48-19 contains policies regarding employee hiring for the Society;

WHEREAS Council recently adopted the GSS HR Handbook containing revised procedures on hiring employees for the Society, thus rendering the current Section 48 19 of the policy manual redundant;

BIRT Council approves the amendments made to Section 48 19 of the policy manual as presented.

BIFRT Council approves the addition of the GSS HR Handbook as Appendix VII of the policy manual.

MOVER: Logan MacDonald

SECONDER: Andrew Leyland

Motivation: preparation of this document first started four years ago. AMS HR manual was used as a template that was later developed in many ways; very mature.

Motion to amend to change all mentions of section 18 to section 19 deemed friendly.

MOTION PASSED

30/0/1

13. Affiliate Organizations Recognition⁶

Introduced by: Executive Committee

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 October 2016:

⁵ carried over from GSS Council, September 17th 2015, October 15th 2015;

⁶ carried over from GSS Council, September 17th 2015, October 15th 2015;



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- a. GrasPods;
- b. Planning Students Association;
- c. Life Sciences Institute Graduate Student Association;
- d. Physics and Astronomy Graduate Students Association;
- e. Pharmaceutical Sciences;
- f. Economics Graduate Student Association.
- g. Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA.
- h. Civil Engineering Graduate Student Society;
- i. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association;
- j. Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy (EDCP) Peer Advisors;
- k. The Network;
- l. Land and Food Systems GSA;
- m. History Graduate Student Association;
- n. Statistics.

MOVER: Christina Wiesmann

SECONDER: Dylan Burrows

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

14. CPIF “Loading dock exterior door”⁷

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS the door to the back of the GSS, near Koerner’s pub, is in severe disrepair; and;

WHEREAS the project entitled “Loading dock exterior door” satisfies the requirements of the CPIF, and has been approved by the House Finance Committee, and;

WHEREAS the expense to replace the door was made from Repairs/Service/Maintenance (budget line 10-760), because it posed an immediate safety and security risk;

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$2,080 from the Capital Projects Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the replacement of the door and the frame with an appropriate steel door and the frame.

BIFRT GSS Council approves the transfer of these funds from CPIF (budget line 10-785) to the Repairs/Service/Maintenance (budget line 10-760) after project completion.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Amber Shilling

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

⁷ carried over from GSS Council , October 15th 2015;



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15. CPIF “Lavelier Microphone”⁸

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS the two lavelier (lapel) microphones owned by the GSS have been malfunctioning frequently, and are needed for events in the building, and;

WHEREAS the project entitled “Lavelier Microphone” satisfies the requirements of the CPIF, and has been approved by the House Finance Committee;

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$200 from the Capital Projects Improvement Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of one lavelier (lapel) microphone for use in the GSC.

MOVER: John Dupuis

SECONDER: Bradley Balaton

It was clarified that mics cannot be repaired as their frequencies do not match current technical specifications set by government. It is planned to upgrade all microphones in the future.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

16. CPIF “Thea’s Lounge Bar”⁹

Introduced by: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS the bar unit in the Thea’s Lounge is in severe disrepair and by design inhibits the necessary level of cleaning, and:

WHEREAS the project “Thea’s Lounge Bar” satisfies the requirements of the CPIF, and has been approved by the House Finance Committee;

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$1,085 from the Capital Projects Improvement Fund (Budget line 10-785) for the replacement of the bar unit with a new 5’ stainless steel prep unit with sink insert in the Thea’s Lounge.

MOVER: Christina Wiesmann

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

17. Next Meeting¹⁰

Introduced by: Executive Committee

BIRT next Council meeting is held on Thursday, November 26th, 2015 (fourth week of November);

BIRFT Council meeting in December being held on December 10th (second Thursday);

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Andrew Leyland

Motivation: three Execs will be away third week of November on Society’s and personal business.

⁸ carried over from GSS Council , October 15th 2015;

⁹ carried over from GSS Council , October 15th 2015;

¹⁰ Special resolution



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MOTION PASSED by special resolution
30/2/0

N. Other Business and Notice of Motions

O. Discussion Period

P. Notice

R. Submissions

- Policy Manual Section 5 Executive Officer Spending
- Policy Manual Section 19 Employee Guidelines.

S. Next Meeting

November 26th 2015

T. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.