

## GSS Council Minutes

Thursday September 18, 2014

GSS Ballroom



GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY | UBC

**Present:** Adam Luna, Alison McAfee, Ambrose Chan, Andrea Jones, Angela Zhao, Christopher Quick, Colúm Connolly, Daniel Wood, Enav Zusman, Erick Becklin, George Furey, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Inti Dewey, Jack Hickmott, Jackie Davis, Jon Newell, Julia Varela, Julienne Jagdeo, Kevin Mehr, Kreso Sola, Lena Patsa, Luz Angelica Caudillo-Mata, Mahsa Mojahednia, Michelle Kwon, Min Xia, Mitchell Meler, Natalie Marshall, Parker Jobin, Patrick Lo, Patrick Lo, Raphael Rocco, Sarah Simon, Sima Valizadeh, Sneha Balani, Tobias Friedel, Vivian Lam.

**Regrets:** Alexis Black, Christopher Roach, Ingrid Olson, Matt Sacheli, Omid Nourbakhsh, Shona Robinson.

**Absent:** Barack Caracheo, Ehsan Espid, Hamid Omid, Jeff Abeysekera, Julie Chang, Nayantara Duttachoudhury, Sofiya Lazarova, Vinodha Chetty.

### A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 pm.

1. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel      SECONDER: Jack Hickmott**  
**MOTION PASSES**

### B. Introductions

### C. Council Motions (Part 1)

2. GrasPods

WHEREAS the GSS has supported GrasPods with donations in the past.

WHEREAS GrasPods has used that financial support to the benefit of a large number of graduate students through off campus events and initiatives.

BIRT Council approves a donation (budget line 12-802) of ~~\$5000~~-\$3000 to GrasPods for the budget year 2014/15.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel      SECONDER: Barack Caracheo**

Discussion: President of GrasPods reinforced information presented at July Council meeting regarding the GrasPods' mission, size, composition and activities. An emphasis was made on lack of off-campus events and opportunities for both students and other people.

It was spoken in favour of motion acknowledging the GrasPods' fantastic work, and their sense of community and integrity.



It was also spoken against with reference to unsustainable development of GrasPods and total financial dependence on GSS. It was further acknowledged that GrasPods have been receiving donations solely from GSS for the past 9 years.

It was asked the amount of sponsorship in the previous years, to which the answer was \$3000 per year for the period of three years.

It was further stated that GrasPods have submitted reports and financial statement of operation to GSS Council for the past periods. Based on the previous practice, GrasPods has planned financial year ahead and failure to approve sponsorship for the current year will put GrasPods in a difficult financial position.

It was remarked that GrasPods failed to generate revenue from the organization of events. In this regard, GSS has been subsidizing GrasPods which is not the intent of GSS Events Fund.

It was asked and answered that all graduate students are invited to GrasPods events.

It was further asked and answered that request to increase sponsorship by \$2000 is based on the projected increase in the number of members.

Motion to amend the amount of financial support from \$5000 to \$3000.

**MOVER: George Furey                      SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

Motivation: sponsorship shall stay at the same level of support - \$3000.

Discussion: it was asked and answered that there have been three other organizations that applied for Events Fund.

Motion to vote by secret ballot.

**MOVER: Sima Valizadeh                      SECONDER: Luz Angelica Caudillo-Mata**  
**MOTION PASSES**

Back to motion as amended.

**MOVER: George Furey   SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

Motivation: it was noted that GSS was financing GrasPods in the past and it is a good practice to continue financial support.

**MOTION PASSES**

**D. Seating, Unseating, and Appointments**

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



**Kaleb Boucher** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.  
**Laura Bohachyk** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.  
**Arni Thrastarson** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.  
**Craig Kerr** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.  
**Martina Volfova** to be unseated as a Departmental Representative.

4. BIRT the following seating are approved:

**Adam Luna, Raphael Rocco, Enav Zusman, Tal Shaley** be seated to the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

**Enav Zusman** be appointed to Chair the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

**Tobias Friedel** be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.

**Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Eric Becklin, Sarah Simon** be seated to the Finance Committee.

**Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Eric Becklin, Sarah Simon** be seated to the House Committee.

**Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle be seated** as Chair of House/Finance Committee.

**Angela Zhao, Michelle Kwon, Sima Valizadeh, Min Xia, Mitchel Meler** be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

**Patrick Lo** be appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer (aka. Chair of the Elections Committee)

**Andrea Jones, Sarah Simon, Inti Dewey** be seated to the Elections Committee.

**MOVER: Kevin Mehr**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**SECONDER: Daniel Wood**

5. Nominations to Graduate Council Caucus.

It was asked about the dispersal of seats across departments, to which the answer was that there is no requirement regarding a number of seats from each department.

Speaker requested nominations to Graduate Council Caucus.

Note: each candidate was given 1 minute to speak to Council. It was decided to conduct paper ballot voting.

Motion to recess for 20 minutes.

**MOVER: Inti Dewey**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**SECONDER: Andrea Jones**

Meeting was called to order again at 7:20 pm.



BIRT the following seating are approved:

**Julienne Jagdeo, Guillaume Beaulieu-Houle, Natalie Marshall, Suzie Maginley, Tahara Bhate** be appointed to the Graduate Council.

**Suzie Maginley** be appointed to Chair the Graduate Council.

**MOVER: Kevin Mehr**

**SECONDER: Jack Hickmott**

**MOTION PASSES**

6. BIRT the following seating is approved:

**Tobias Friedel** be appointed as UBC GSS representative to the board of the ABCS.

**MOVER: Luz Angelica Caudillo-Mata**

**SECONDER: Christopher Quick**

**MOTION PASSES**

7. BIRT the following seating is approved:

**Sarah Simon, Natalie Marshall, Tobias Friedel** be appointed to the Faculty of Science Council.

**MOVER: George Furey**

**SECONDER: Christopher Quick**

**MOTION PASSES**

8. BIRT the following seating is approved:

**Inti Dewey** be appointed to Premier Undergraduate and Wesbrook Scholarship Committee.

**MOVER: Colúm Connolly**

**SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

**MOTION PASSES**

9. BIRT the following seating is approved:

**Angela Zhao** be appointed to AMS Council.

**MOVER: Daniel Wood**

**SECONDER: Christopher Quick**

**MOTION PASSES**

Motion to amend Agenda: include a nomination to the President Advisory committee for the Ombuds office following the appointment to AMS Council.

**MOVER: Colúm Connolly**

**SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

**MOTION PASSES**

10. BIRT the following seated is approved:

**Julienne Jagdeo** be appointed to the President Advisory Committee for the Ombuds office.

**MOVER: Daniel Wood**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**

**E. Presentations to Council**

*(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)*

- CPIF;

Two projects were presented to Council regarding the renovation of the Graduate Student Centre.

- CPIF (1): Reception area.

Reception/lobby area gives first impression to guest about the Graduate Student Centre. A number of improvements, such as new furniture, decorations, GSS logo, TV visible from outside need to be implemented to enhance the esthetics of the space. The renovations are budgeted at \$6500.

It was asked and answered that the Koerner's Pub sign would be arranged if budget allows after priority renovations done.

- CPIF (2): Study room.

Boardroom continues to be the busiest bookable room in the building. It is explained by outdated furniture, heavily scratched floor and old décor in the Study room. The project involves renovation of the Study room to be used as a second Boardroom for committee and other meetings. The renovation is budgeted at \$7100 including the estimated labor cost for floor replacement.

It was asked whether floor replacement can be done by UBC graduate students, to which the answer was that the hard wooden floor replacement is very specialized work that needs to be done by an experienced professional. It was further stated that all other renovations could be done by graduate students contracted for this particular project.

**F. Approval of Minutes**



11. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated “May15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, “June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014”, “July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014”, ~~and “August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014”~~ be approved as presented.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel                      SECONDER: Daniel Wood**

Note. President requested to strike GSS Council Minutes dated August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

**MOTION PASSES**

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

Academic and External Committee June 11	Service Committee June 23
Academic and External Committee June 25	Service Committee July 07
Code and Policy Committee May 30	Service Committee July 21
Code and Policy Committee June 27	Service Committee July 3
Code and Policy Committee July 9	House Finance Committee May 8
Executive Committee May 27	House Finance Committee May 22
Service Committee April 28	House Finance Committee June 5
Service Committee May 28	House Finance Committee June 12
Service Committee June 9	House Finance Committee June 26

**MOVER: Kevin Mehr                      SECONDER: Christopher Quick**  
**MOTION PASSES**

Motion to move section “Council Motions (Part 2)” immediately after the approval of the Committee Minutes.

**MOVER: Patrick Lo                      SECONDER: Daniel Wood**

Discussion: President expressed opposition to amend Agenda motivating that the Committee Chairs and GSS Executives were not able to report to the Council quorum for the past three Council meetings. It was further stated that Councillors shall be aware of projects and events recently held at GSS.

**MOTION FAILS**

**G. Executive Remarks**  
*(3 minutes)*

- **President – Colúm Connolly**
  - Attended Committee meeting dedicated to celebration of UBC Centennial with respective fund launched in September.
  - Requested Councillors to disseminate information within their Departments as to the Centennial fund. Proposal applications due in December;
  - Attended a large number of Departmental orientations;
  - Attended meetings regarding Vice-President Equity and Inclusion search;

- Planning for GSS retreat;
- Working on the survey data.
- Working on strategic planning focus groups.
  
- **Vice-President Academic & External Affairs – Daniel Wood**
  - Welcomed two staff members: policy researcher and advocacy coordinator.
  - Introduced Neal Yonson, policy researcher to Council;
  - Noted that the position of advocacy coordinator is part-time for the period of one year;
  - Has been involved in campus politics;
  - Has been attending conferences; inter alia, ABCs.
  - Took over the role of Chair of Academic and External Committee for the past two months;
  
- **Vice-President Administration – Kevin Mehr**
  - Has been involved in hiring of Communications director;
  - Working on the job description of General manager;
  - Working on the building projects;
  - Working on the GSS website transition.
  
- **Vice-President Finance – Tobias Friedel**
  - Has been revising the budget;
  - Working on the changes to be implemented to the budget;
  - Working on the presentation to Council next month.
  
- **Vice-President Services – Min Xia**
  - Acknowledged the successful Orientation organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies;
  - Handed out USBs with GSS Handbook to new students;
  - Has been involved in the Orientation media coverage;
  - Has coordinated Pancake Breakfast during the second day of Orientation;
  - Acknowledged significant reach out to new students by hosting Boat Cruise;
  - Planning for upcoming events and meetings;

## **H. Committee, Taskforce, and Operations Reports**

*(3 minutes)*

- **Academic & External Affairs Committee – Daniel Wood**
  - Has been revising the Emergency Fund application and procedural requirements;
  - Three applications were recently received for consideration;
  - Finished surveying different Universities;
  
- **Code and Policy Committee – Julienne Jagdeo**
  - Has been revising Policy Manual;
  - Working on the section “Councillors” in the Policy Manual and terms of reference for the committees.
  - Has observed progress on the new policies;

- **Executive Oversight Committee – Jeff Abeysekera**
- **House-Finance Committee – Tobias Friedel**
  - House- Finance Committee has not met since last Council meeting;
  - Several funding requests were approved;
- **Human Resources Committee – Jack Hickmott**
  - In the process of hiring General Manager;
- **Services Committee – Sima Valizadeh**
  - Planning for the upcoming events in October, such as Laser tag, BC Lions, etc.

**I. Representative Reports**  
*(3 minutes)*

- **AMS Council – Christopher Roach**
  - AMS Council has been busy with seating new Representatives;

Point of clarification. The Speaker keeps record of quorum present only if asked.

- **Graduate Council**
- **Senate – Julienne Jagdeo**
  - President Gupta has been appointed to Chair Senate;
  - Debate was over the advantages and disadvantages of dual undergraduate and graduate degree. The students are allowed to receive the combined degree in 4 years and 8 months. One of the issues raised was procedural requirements, such as non-refundable tuition fee of \$6000 paid up front.
  - Graduate Policy for Senate meeting was cancelled.

**J. Council Motions (Part 2)**

13. Capital Projects Improvement Fund (part I)

WHEREAS the project entitled “Lobby/Reception Update” satisfies the requirements of a CPIF project and has been approved by the HF Committee,

BIRT the GSS Council approves up to \$6500 for the “Lobby/Reception Update” project from the CPIF budget line.

**MOVER: George Furey**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**SECONDER: Jack Hickmott**



14. Capital Projects Improvement Fund (part II)

WHEREAS the proposed project entitled “Study Room Renovation” satisfies the requirements of a CPIF project and has been approved by the HF Committee,

BIRT the GSS Council approves up to \$7100 for the “Study Room Renovation” project ~~and an additional \$2500 for floor renovations (GSC top level) from the CPIF budget line.~~

**MOVER: Colúm Connolly                      SECONDER: Christopher Quick**

Motion to strike “and an additional \$2500 for floor renovations.”

**MOVER: Kevin Mehr                         SECONDER: Colúm Connolly**

Motivation: the second part of the motion was not presented to Council. ~~It was further stated that renovation will include the installation of climbing wall.~~

**MOTION PASSES**

Back to motion as amended.

**MOTION PASSES**

Motion to move the recognition of Affiliate organizations immediately after CPIF.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel                       SECONDER: Jackie Davis**

Motivation: important approvals that need to be put forward.

**MOTION PASSES**

15. 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. Experimental Medicine Committee;
- b. Life Science Institute Graduate Student Association;
- c. Mathematics Graduate Committee;
- d. Medical Genetics Social Committee;
- e. Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Organisation;
- f. Planning Students Associations;

- g. Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Student Association;
- h. GrasPods;
- i. Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Society.**

**MOVER: Colúm Connolly**

**SECONDER: Sarah Simon**

Motivation: recognition of the graduate student organizations by Council is a requirement to access Events Fund.

Motion to include Pharmaceutical Sciences to the list of Affiliate organizations.

**MOVER: Tobias Friedel**

**SECONDER: Sarah Simon**

Motivation: the above mentioned society submitted an application beforehand; however, was not included into the list in a timely manner.

#### **MOTION PASSES**

Back to motion as amended.

VP Finance requested GrasPods' leaders to investigate the fallacious statement posted on Facebook page regarding Council deliberations. GrasPods were further warned that failure to adhere to the terms of reference may result in withdrawal of Council approval and any benefits to GrasPods.

#### **MOTION PASSES**

##### 16. Off-Campus Outreach Task Force

BIRT Council creates an Off-Campus Outreach Taskforce with the terms of reference as outlined below.

BIFRT Council approves the allocation of \$5,000 to budget line 12-776 (Off-Campus Outreach Taskforce) to support and expand GSS' off-campus graduate student services.

Membership/Terms of Reference Off-Campus Outreach Task Force (expires at 2015 AGM).

- (i) be chaired by VP Finance;
- (ii) consist of VP Services and one representative of each affiliate organization located off-campus interested in participation;
- (iii) coordinate the creation and organisation of off-campus GSS events in close partnership and collaboration with affiliated organizations located off-campus;
- (iv) adjudicate funding of off-campus events and initiatives in the budget year 2014/2015;
- (v) create terms of reference for a standing steering committee to continue the outreach effort beyond 2015 AGM;
- (vi) create guidelines on funding of off-campus events and initiatives beyond the GSS Event Fund.



**MOVER: Colúm Connolly                      SECONDER: Christopher Quick**

Motivation: GSS did not hold any off campus graduate students events in the past. The implementation of a new off-campus outreach strategy is a good way of moving forward and keeping the society in a good standing.

Discussion: it was asked whether Off-campus outreach Taskforce will solve the issue of students unable to participate in the campus events by distance, to which the answer was that the Committee will ensure the organization of not only events, but also other services accessible to the graduate students outside campus.

It was further asked and answered that Executives will be sitting on the Committee.

It was also noted that VP Finance is a Chair to Task Force Committee.

It was asked and answered that there is a sub-committee.

**MOTION PASSES**

17. Policy Manual Section 6.5 and 9

BIRT council approves the proposed amendments to section 6.5 and 9 of the policy manual as presented.

**MOVER: Eric Becklin                      SECONDER: Colúm Connolly**

Motivation: change of the wording to make policy straight forward and concise, elimination of the controversial parts.

Discussion: it was asked the title of the section, to which the answer was "Election procedure."

**MOTION PASSES**

**K. Other Business and Notice of Motions**

**L. Discussion Period**

**M. Submissions**

**N. Next Meeting**

Thursday October 16, 2014

**O. Adjournment**

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

**MOVER: Colúm Connolly**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**SECONDER: Tobias Friedel**