



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

Present: Anujit Chakraborty, Bingyu (Gloria) Liu, Charlie Deng, Chen Vu, Christie Waltham, Coco Tang, Catherine Crocker (proxy for David Gill), Dylan Burrows, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Enav Zusman, Hamid Omid, Ingrid Olson, Marcelo Bravo (proxy for Jackie Davis); James Lawson, Kevin Mehr, Kreso Sola, Maayan Kreitzman, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Clayton Whitt (proxy for Michelle Hak Hepburn), Mirza Sarwar, Nicholas Dawson, Parker Jobin, Patrick Lo, Raphael Rocco, Kelsie Lex (proxy for Rebecca Sherbo), Sarah Simon, Shona Robinson, Jennifer DeBoer (proxy for Susan Song), Tobias Friedel, Vasili Triandafilidi, Katerina Othonos (proxy for Vivian Lam), Xun Zhou, Yaseen Mottiar and Yulia Merkulova.

Regrets: Antoine Ponsard, Grant Tran, Jennifer Campbell, Krish Maharaj.

Absent: Ambrose Chan, Andrea Jones, Behzad Shoolestani, Dustin King, Naman Paul, Nayantara Duttachoudhury, Olenka Forde, Robin Kim.

Chair: Tobias Friedel, GSS President

Guests: Andrew Simpson, UBC Vice-President Finance;

Ian Burgess, UBC Comptroller;

Joanne Proft, Manager, Campus + Community Planning;

Gabrielle Armstrong, Senior Manager Consultation, Campus + Community Planning;

Julie Van de Valk, student member of the UBC Board of Governors;

Veronica Knott, student member of the UBC Board of Governors;

Mark Wellington, GSS General Manager;

Neal Yonson, GSS Policy Researcher;

Chair: Tobias Friedel, GSS President

Chair entertained the presentation “Changes to the Credit Card Payments” to hear immediately.

- **Changes to the Credit Card Payments**

Presenter: Andrew Simpson and Ian Burgess;

- Intention was to talk about changes, to clarify the basis and conclusion for the whole situation;
- The decision came up through the budget process; earlier this year started looking into the university's financial position and saw overall shortfall, the cost that needs to be cut;

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

- As a result a number of people lost their positions; around 60 people are out of Administration;
- UBC gets charged 1.5 % that equals 2.7 million dollars per year – the cost for University;
- Had meetings with the credit card companies over cost reduction, saw no progress on that;
- As a result took very difficult decision to stop accepting credit card payments; will be in effect mid October;
- The conversation with the credit card companies continues, hoping to bring it back as an option;
- This decision will allow to offset the shortage.

Questions & Answers:

It was asked what will be done for students with the money saved, to which the answer was that such cost reduction will allow to cover current deficit. This shortage is in overall University's operations. It was further noted that the discussion was either to cut on more staff, faculty or come up with an alternative solution. It was further remarked that UBC has already cut Administration significantly, and would not want to end up going to the Faculty.

It was further asked if there is a plan or suggestions in terms of flexibility, e.g. paying in installments, or terms that credit cards allowed for, to which the answer was that it will be dealt on a case by case basis by Enrollment Services. It was further specified that the discussion over different options can be brought to the Enrollment Services for further review.

It was further asked if Housing will provide options to defer payments and how it will be dealt on a case by case basis, to which the answer was that Enrollment Services will be looking into individual hardship situations; at the moment, there is no general approach regarding housing payments.

It was further asked and answered that the Administration would prefer to accept credit card payments back, will be happy to have it re-introduced. It was further added that conversation with the credit card companies continues, however, it will take at least six months to one year to see any results. It was further noted that the University did accept credit card payments in the past and it will not be an issue to accept a switch again.



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

It was further asked and answered that the office of UBC VP Finance endeavours to make UBC budget as transparent as possible. It was further emphasized that detailed budget is available on the website under Reports section.

It was further noted that Enrollment Services are already reviewing student hardships on a case by case basis, and asked if it is planned to provide any additional options, and if there is a more institutionalized approach to be in these circumstances, to which the answer was that this will be taken back for further consideration. It was further specified that if many students to be found in a difficult situation, Administration will look for a general system. It was further added that there is no data on the magnitude of it, will be reassessed when more information is available. It was further emphasized on the willingness of the University to see credit cards back.

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Vasilii Triandafilidi

SECONDER: Nicholas Dawson

Correction from Tobias: to strike House Finance committee minutes from the agenda as they were not circulated with the finalized agenda. They will be removed from the consideration today and will appear in October.

Amendment to add discussion item "Publication of position statements approved by the GSS Council".

MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman

SECONDER: Kevin Mehr

MOTION PASSED by the unanimous consent.

Back to motion as amended.

[Marcelo confirmed 5 min presentation in the Section Notices]

MOTION PASSED

B. Introductions

C. Presentations.

(10 Minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions)

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

- **C+CP Library Garden – Gabrielle Armstrong, C+CP;**

Presenters: Joanne Proft, Manager and Gabrielle Armstrong;

- C+CP project: Redesign of the Library Garden: large public green space in between two libraries; very quiet area right now.
- Over the next 6 months will be reaching out to the UBC community to participate in the consultations;
- This space is a central location on campus: large common area, very symbolic for community members, scholars, aboriginal culture, also an opportunity to educate guests; has quite a value for campus.
- It is planned to house new Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre there. Project includes powerful recognition of Aboriginal culture and the history in the heart of campus: an area associated with knowledge, records and preservation of memory; also will contribute to move beyond in terms of history;
- Project is currently unfunded; will be looking for investors to fund the ultimate constructions;
- A number of historic monuments will be preserved: trees, plantings, Clock Tower, etc.
- Dialogue Centre will be 500 sq ft, quite small;
- The design is a huge opportunity to reinforce a very central place on campus.
- Timeline: meetings start now till the project completion;
- Estimated budget: 5.5 million dollars.
- Looking for the Board's approval in April 2016.
- Early public consultations take place in October followed by development of the space concept, ;
- There is a number of technical committees that will be involved in the process, co-discovery workshops, public consultations. Looking to identify what community values, landscape desires are.
- Feedback can be submitted either online at planning.ubc.ca or in person Sept. 28th – Oct. 12th; two Open Houses in The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and Main Lobby of the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre.

Questions & Answers:

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

It was asked the prospect for funding, to which the answer was that the project doesn't have funding yet, however, UBC budget allows for some funding for the landscape. It was further noted that it is planned to develop a very compelling design to get some excitement among private investors. It was further asked how C+CP is planning to engage GSS in the consultations, to which the answer was that the office of the GSS VP Academic will be in contact with the C+CP during the whole process.

- **UBC Board of Governors**

Presenters: Julie Van de Valk and Veronica Knott

- Were looking to reserve time to present to Council since early summer;
- Would like to talk about BoGS and student role on the board;
- Board of Governors is the highest non-academic governing body of UBC that oversees management, administration, control of the property, revenues, business and the affairs of the university.
- It is comprised of 21 members: 11 appointed by Provincial Government, 3 elected students (2 Vancouver, 1 Okanagan), 3 elected Faculty (2 Vancouver, 1 Okanagan), 2 elected staff (a Vancouver, 1 Okanagan), President of UBC and Chancellor of UBC.
- 5 Board meetings are scheduled in the academic year starting September till June. All discussion items are first introduced in the committees.
- Student member: Veronica Knott, 2nd year Mining Engineering undergrad; former president of the undergraduate mining student society.
- Student member: Julien Van de Valk, 4th year Geological Engineering undergrad with a minor in Geography: campus, student engagement and political activist;
- Student role: bring students' perspective to the Board, be vocal on students' opinion; very valued part of the discussion at the Board;
- When vote very rear is in the best interest of the students, obligated to vote in the best interests of the University.
- There is a number of topics being currently discussed: varsity strategic plan, campus safety and security; looking to change policy to increase a number of cameras on campus; reviewing a couple of project updates.

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

- Want to hear your opinions. Very happy about the statements that GSS approved at the past meeting. Great opportunity for the board to interact with the community, want to hear more. And what you think what we can do for you?;
- Seek input on the issues that are important to students: international tuition, stipends, Life Building, grad student support, off campus grad students, transparency, etc.
- Contact info: Veronica Knott at vcaknott@gmail.com and Julie Van de Valk at julie.vandevalk@gmail.com; appointment if needed.
- Looking forward to attend GSS Council meetings.

Questions & Answers:

It was asked if fiduciary duty inhibits student members to be accountable to the student body, to which the answer was that student members are democratically elected by students, however are not typical representatives in terms of fiduciary duty before the Board. Still allows bringing student perspective to the table, to be vocal on issues that matter. It was further noted that student opinion is taken seriously.

It was further asked about official statements from student members, consultations and communication back to the student body, to which the answer was that student members are still learning to speak on record, to do more statements. It was also remarked it difficult to reflect on the current events, starting to get a feeling how to speak to media. It was also stated that student members could not speak more than what was said on the current events because of the non-disclosure agreement.

It was further asked and answered that student members express different perspectives to the Board; made it clear about the position of the GSS regarding current developments.

It was further suggested having regular reports and updates by student members to the GSS Council.

It was further asked if student members are given enough time to read all documents and have consultations with the student body, to which was a positive answer and further stated that student members are trying to be more proactive, connect with the right people, attend pre-meetings to learn about different aspects, and be prepared to talk on a variety of issues with the University's Administration.

It was further confirmed that student members are interested in attending GSS Council meetings on a regular basis.

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

It was further requested to notify GSS about secret meetings of the Board.

It was lastly asked and answered that student members are working to identify proper channels of communication with the student groups; open to any ideas. It was also stressed out that this doesn't replace consultations with the University.

- **Quorum**

Presenter: Tobias Friedel

- Last council meeting ended on unsatisfactory note; would like to address the issue of quorum: what it is and how it is dealt with.
- Policy Manual 7.6.3. Quorum is a majority of the duly elected representatives, but not less than 16. Quorum number today is 23.
- It is in place to ensure decisions are made by the organization; enforce bare minimum (16 Councillors) to conduct proper business. Standard is usually a majority. In our case some special regulations apply.
- How does it work? To conduct proper business, Chair is responsible to check if quorum present frequently. Any councillor can make a call for quorum.
- Loosing quorum does not mean that the motion on the floor has failed. It is always carried over into the following meeting agenda, or a special meeting may be called.
- In accordance with the Robert Rules of Order, universal rules of conducting formal meetings, should the president preside over the meeting, therefore some special rules apply. If tie, President may rule the motion either failed or approved.

Questions and Answers:

It was asked and answered that the President can affect a tie. Should President decide that a motion must pass when tie, may cast a vote in favour.

It was further asked and answered that President gets only one vote that would be exercised regardless of presiding over the meeting.

It was further noted that same rules apply at City Council, and strictly taken from the Robert Rules of Order.

It was further clarified that it is a duty of the President to ensure quorum is present, and cannot be delegated to a designated speaker.

It was further remarked that President is the Chair of the meeting unless decides to designate a speaker for the meeting.



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

Motion to recess for 15 minutes.

MOVER: Kevin Mehr

Seconded: Enav Zusman

MOTION PASSED

Meeting called to order again at 7:22 pm.

Motion to invite Veronica Knott and Julie Van de Valk to stay for the rest of the meeting.

MOVER: Nick Dawson

SECONDER: Shona Robinson

It was asked if Veronica K. and Julie V. can't stay if they want, to which the answer was that the meetings are open to the graduate student population only, for all guests invitation needs to be extended beyond the business they've been originally invited to. It was further suggested inviting student members of the Board of Governors to stay at the meeting.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent.

D. Council Motions I

2. Transparency around the former president's resignation

WHEREAS the resignation of Dr. Arvind Gupta as UBC President and Vice-Chancellor was announced on August 7, 2015; and

WHEREAS the information provided at the time of the President's resignation was insufficient to uphold the integrity of the President's office, and resulted in instability within the University;

BIRT the GSS call upon the UBC board of Governors and Dr. Arvind Gupta to voluntarily renegotiate mutually agreed-upon terms to their non-disclosure agreement in order to provide some degree of transparency around the former president's resignation.

MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman

SECONDER: Enav Zusman

Motivation from Maayan: at the last council meeting three or four position statements were adopted around president's office, academic freedom, etc. What was kind of missing from the situation is a response statement about the original events. Still important that we ask for the basic piece of information - circumstances of the resignation, because of no information out there. Eventually, I think, GSS should have a statement asking for transparency. Understand the specifics of a legally binding non-disclosure agreement, however, not asking to breach it, rather asking for a mutually agreeable way to make some information public.

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

It was requested and entertained to make font of the motion bigger on the screen.

Charlie: speak against the motion. Understand that we ask to voluntarily disclose this information, however, don't see any benefit of this. The only thing can get is the details of the resignation that are not in our best interest. Should not be asking for this specific transparency.

Maayan: don't really understand what will be in our interest what did happen.

Sarah: while we want information, yet how this directly impacts us? Arvind Gupta had the right to resign if he wanted to. This is his right. How it will impact your life?

Amendment to fix wording: capitalize "Board and Governors".

MOVER: Raphael Rocco

SECONDER: Kreso Sola

Amendment PASSED by unanimous consent.

Back to motion as amended.

Charlie: don't see how we can gain from that.

Nicholas: mostly echoing what Charlie said. University's reputation will come up ahead of it.

Shona: It was costly to do search and install a new president, probably a couple of millions of dollars. Benefit is getting more transparency. Can pressure BOGs this mistake to never happen again.

Neither against, not in favour of the motion.

Patrick: don't see any potential harm. Motion for GSS to make a call, still can ignore. To show that grad student care what is going on in the University.

Mayaan: need to move beyond this, that not what will make a better university. Even if does not look so good. If turns out there was a conflict that we can learn from, need to be worrying about UBC image. Benefit to ask is to get on the record - we took a principal position. The best thing we can do. Hopefully can make other people listen to us.

Enav: any response should be in a timely manner. Not the case here. At this stage should not target members of the BOGs.

Sarah: this was discussed at the Senate meeting yesterday: would like to follow the vision that Arvind Gupta had set up; want to see his vision fulfilled; want to follow this through. Had a brief discussion over selection process for the next president. Students role is ensure that new president aligns with that vision, that another president will stay for at least another 5 years. They are upset too that this happened.

Charlie: different case then just transparency. Compared to other examples risking a lot. Don't know fully what happened. By asking this we show disrespect.

Hamid: there is a distinction between business and public university. Don't see that UBC is on the right track to meet transparency, should request Governors to be more transparent.



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

Mary-Anne: UBC does not have a problem with the actual vision as they willing to continue the same course that Gupta has set up. More comfortable with the position about moving forward. It is not the best strategy to achieve transparency.

Maayan: timing wise ideal to have it done earlier. Tried to do it at the last meeting, but lost quorum. Our role is different - to say what we care about; should ask for transparency. There is a reason why we don't know these things. Don't think it at all suggests disrespect.

Mirza: these guys can't let this go. It's done, nothing is going to happen out of this.

Dan: speak for the motion. Nothing to lose by saying this. There is something to lose by not saying anything. Raise suspicion, some concerns over consequences. UBC budget is not fully transparent. They can choose where to cut. Ability for us to say something, to make noise.

Natalie: GSS Society's mission is to advocate for and promote academic freedom, etc.; this motion should be moved forward.

Motion to call to question.

MOVER: Kevin Mehr

SECONDER: Nicholas Dawson

MOTION PASSED

19/3/3

Voting on the motion as presented.

MOTION FAILS

10/10/6

E. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

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

David Gill to be unseated as Academic and External committee, and Human Resources Representative.

Eva Choi to be unseated as Departmental Representative.

Kathryn Knudson to be unseated as Departmental Representative.

4. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Tobias Friedel, Sarah Simon, Mary Caple, Conny Lin, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Muhammad Ali

Nikoo and Dan Kehila be seated to the AMS Council;

MOVER: Nicholas Dawson

SECONDER: Kreso Sola

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent.



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

5. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

Conny Lin be appointed Chair of the student caucus for AMS Council.

MOVER: Mary-Anne Shonoda

SECONDER: Ingrid Olson

MOTION PASSED

Note: external representatives to AMS Council receive their iclickers for voting. Conny Lin, GSS Councillor new 1; Mary Caple, GSS Councillor new 2; Elizabeth, GSS Councillor new 3; Mohammad Ali Nikoo, GSS Councillor new 4; Dan Kehila, GSS Councillor new 5.

6. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

Nicholas Dawson, Joon Seon Lee, Ran Xiang, Natalie Marshall, Mary-Anne Shonoda be seated to the Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies Graduate Council.

MOVER: Enav Zusman

SECONDER: Kreso Sola

MOTION PASSED

7. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

Natalie Marshall be appointed Chair of the student caucus for the Grad Council.

MOVER: Marcelo Bravo

SECONDER: Mary-Anne Shonoda

MOTION PASSED

Note: external representatives to Graduate Council receive their iclickers for voting. Natalie Marshall, GSS Councillor new 6; Ran Xiang, GSS Councillor new 7; Joon Seon Lee, GSS Councillor new 12.

Motion to amend item #12 CPIF to discuss immediately.

MOVER: Charlie Deng

SECONDER: Kreso Sola

MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent

8. ~~42~~ **CPIF Room Dividers**

WHEREAS the Ballroom and Thea's Lounge have room dividers which are in severe disrepair;

WHEREAS the project entitled "Room Dividers" satisfies the requirements of a CPIF project and has been approved by the **House Finance committee**;

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$4500 from the capital projects improvement fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of durable wall dividers for use in the Ballroom and Thea's Lounge.

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

MOVER: Maayan Kreitzman

SECONDER: Ingrid Olson

Motivation: need new good-looking dividers to keep storage space secured at the GSS Ballroom and Thea's Lounge. Current dividers are in a bad condition. Brought by General Manager, this was discussed and approved by House Finance committee.

Amendment to replace "House F committee" with "House Finance committee" deemed friendly.

Amendment PASSED by unanimous consent

Note: Veronica Knott and Julie Van de Valk have left the meeting.

It was asked the number of dividers that are planned to purchase, to which the answer was that the quantity that is required for GSS Ballroom and Thea's Lounge to separate space. It was further noted that they will likely cost less than budgeted to allow for flexibility. It was further remarked that new dividers are meant to be of a long-lasting functionality.

MOTION PASSED

Chair called quorum lost.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

F. Notice

- ◆ **Pathology Arts Gala**
- ◆ **UBC Design Challenge**
- ◆ **Council reseating:** *those Departmental Representatives who seat on Council for 12 or more months should be re-elected or facilitate appointment of new representatives. *Q. at aa@gss.ubc.ca*

NB! Number of seats at Council was revised at AGM 2015. Please see below a list of departments which may request a second seat:

- Civil Engineering;
- Electrical and Computer Engineering;
- Library, Archival and Information Studies;
- MBA;
- Counselling Psychology, Education Psychology and Special Education;



GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17th 2015 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

- Curriculum and Pedagogy;
- Educational Studies;
- Forestry;
- Population and Public Health;

G. Next Meeting

Thursday, October 15th, 2015

Councillor intake