

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 20, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm.

**Present:** Alice Yu (Proxy for Zeynab Nosrati), Alyssa Kirlin, Amanda Pizio (Proxy for Krish Maharaj), Arezoo Mehrizi, Arjun Baghela, Atefeh Mohammad Samani, Balsher Sidhu, Bradley Balaton, Christina Wiesmann, Claire Gregoire, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Francisco Gallegos, Hanna Murray, Heather Mackay, James Lawson, Jennifer Campbell, John Dupuis, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Lisa Zhu, Mackenzie Lockhart, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Natalie Marshall (Proxy for Addyson Frattura-Kampschroer), Nathaniel Lim, Nirma Khatri Vadlamudi ( Ordinary Member ) , Pablo Silva, Paul Bucci, Peter Musser, Shona Robinson, Souvik Ray, Taran Dhillon, Teilhard Paradela, Zoe Lam, Arif Arif ( Proxy for Namrata jain )

**Regrets:** Abhishek Kar, Jasleen Grewal

**Absent:** Aneet Bains, Emma Watson, Han Fei, Jun Sian Lee, Kelsey Everard, Maia Wilker, Michael Wibe, Miranda Huron, Rachele Benjamin, Resha Sabti, Sara Vazirian, Sarah-Nelle Jackson, Sebastien Rettie, Shalini Arya,

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

The meeting will be called to order at 5:34 pm.

Quorum- 22

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER:** Nathaniel L.

**SECONDER:** Bradley B.

**For (25):** Bradley Balaton, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart , Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Souvik Ray, Balsher Sidhu, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

## II. Introductions

## III. Approval of Minutes

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

November 2016, January 2017, June 2017

**MOVER:** Bradley B.

**SECONDER:** Keskine P.

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**Shona:** Jennifer was absent but not actually a councillor; the GSS constituted 50% but only get 20% of their time—that doesn't make sense. I didn't say that.

**Taran:** There are many errors. I was present in the minutes but was not actually there. Moving to amend by removing the June 2017 minutes.

BIRT the following GSS Council meeting minutes be approved as presented:

November 2016, January 2017, ~~June 2017~~

**MOVER:** Addyson M.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

**Amendment passed unanimously.**

**For (23):** Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, Nathaniel Lim, Arezoo M., Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisio, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Call to question for the main motion.

**For (26):** Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Arezoo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisio, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Pablo Silva, Lisa Zhu

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee: June 8, 2017; June 22, 2017.

Human Resource Committee: June 12, 2017; July 17, 2017

Harassment and Discrimination ad hoc Committee: March 13, 2017, April 18, 2017

Services Committee: July 11, 2017

**MOVER:** Christina W.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

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**For (26): Bradley Balaton, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pizio, Balsher Sidhu, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu**

**Abstained: Shona Robinson**

**Motion passed.**

## IV. Affiliate Organization Recognition

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

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in July 2018:

1. IGSN: Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Network
2. Master of Engineering Leadership/Master of Health Leadership & Policy (MEL/ MHLP) student Executive committee
3. The Association of Population and Public Health Students (TAPPHS)
4. Center for Hip Health and Mobility
5. Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Society (MIGSS)

**MOVER:** Nathaniel L.

**SECONDER:** Atefeh S.

**Alyssa:** What is Hip Health and Mobility?

**James:** Not from there myself, but they are graduate students doing research in HH. They are slightly separate in terms of access, but generally research oriented students off campus.

**Shona:** RE TAPPHS: I don't see anything about grad students. I don't really want to support voting the HH as GSA – shouldn't it be the grad student group? Why would the grad student have the same name as the centre?

**James:** I'm not sure either. They have 70 members and are called Hip Health and Mobility. It is well-connected to senator itself ... I don't know.

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**Alicia:** RE TAPPHS: I have a friend in program, and I think it is grad student heavy.

**Arezoo:** They told me there are ~200 grad students.

**Natalie:** The school for Population and Public Health is a graduate student school, so there are no other grad students in it at all.

## Call to question

**For (24):** Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Arezoo M., Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisiso, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Lisa Zhu

**Abstained:** Paul Bucci, Atefeh M.S, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann

**Motion passed.**

## V. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

### 1. Notice of Unseatings:

**Natalie:** Motion to amend the agenda to unseat Tobias Friedel as member of Governance and Accountability adhoc committee, and add seating for the vacant seat for the committee.

**MOVER:** Natalie M.

**SECONDER:** Bradley B.

**For (29):** Arjun Baghela, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Arezoo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisiso, Souvik Ray, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Angelica Reyes** be unseated as Departmental Representative of Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Shakun Singla** be unseated as Departmental Representative of Architecture

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**Nathan Mingyu Kim** be unseated as Departmental Representative of Business Administration

**Anna Ringsred** be unseated as Departmental Representative of Forestry

**Nandinee Hag** be unseated as Departmental Representative of Electrical & Computer Engineering

**Dan Kehila** be unseated as Chair of the Academic and External Affairs Committee

**Min Xia** be unseated as member of Human Resource Committee

**Tobias Friedel** be unseated as member of Governance and Accountability Adhoc Committee

2. BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

**Jun Sian Lee** be seated as Departmental Representative of Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Nandinee Hag** be seated as Departmental Representative of Electrical & Computer Engineering

**John Dupuis** be seated to the Services Committee (4 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)

**Jennifer Campbell** to the Executive Oversight Committee (1 Ordinary Member)

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the House Finance Committee (1 Ordinary Member)

**Arif Arif** be seated as Chair of the Human Resources Committee

**Souvik, Natalie, Atefeh, Soheila** be seated to the Human Resources Committee (4 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)

\_\_\_\_\_: member of governance and accountability adhoc committee (1 ordinary member)

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Academic and External Affairs Committee (1 Councillor)

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated as chair of the Academic & External Affairs Committee

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\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Code and Policy Committee (1 Councillor, 1 Chair)

**MOVER:** Bradley B.

**SECONDER:** Alyssa K.

**For (27):** Bradley Balaton, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirilin, Zoe Lam, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pizio, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

**Against (1):** Namrata Jain

**Abstained:** Addyson Frattura-K

**Motion passed.**

## VI. Presentations and Motions (Presentations are set at 10 minutes each unless stated otherwise and 5 minutes for questions)

### 1. Presentation on the UBC Sexual Assault Education Plan (10 Minutes)

Presenter: Ashley Bentley and Janet Mee

**Janet:** Our team is a cross functional team. Our responsibility is to create, and monitor a comprehensive education strategy that will support sexual assault prevention. We have been doing this prevention for 50 years at UBC at one faculty or another. The AMS and GSS had been doing this for a long time.

Our goals:

1. Reduce incidents of sexual assault; hoping to reduce assault and cultures that support it.
2. We look for sex positivity, healthy relationships, and issues around consent.
3. We support effective implementation. It is a community responsibility. There is a lot of work to do in terms of educating our community—everyone has responsibilities. A large part of the work is to get the word out to ensure that every member of UBC understand the commitments we make and our expectations of behaviour.

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4. We strive for a safe and respectful campus. We want others to understand rape culture. There are a lot of debates about the term [rape culture]; we've seen examples on social media, movies, TV, the news, etc.

Based on research, literature, and practice:

We look at things such as HIV prevention, smoking, drinking and driving—those campaigns can give us examples of how we can approach this work. Would suggest that programs need to be peer and community based. We also need to focus on individual behaviour.

We have campaigns running in September that will target first year students of our consent campaign. We used emojis and simple concepts of consent to make people stop and think. We are not looking to change behaviour, but to target those who haven't thought about it. We are also doing workshops, training, and are really seeking to make a significant cultural change on campus.

Fundamental pieces of research:

## 1. Bystander intervention.

- a. Make people more aware of environment and behaviours that will support violence and assault.
- b. Make people more likely to intervene.
- c. It doesn't reduce incidents, but creates a safer environment when people practice the bystander intervention.

## 2. Masculinity.

- a. Engaging men in conversations about socialization and masculinity.
- b. Research shows that 60% of sexual assaults occur by repeated offenders. Values that lead to repeated sexual assault are formed at grade 7 or 8. By the time those people come to our campus, there is little we can do to change those attitudes. The majority of sexual assault are committed by those who don't realize they have done it.

## 3. Education about supporting survivors

- a. Literature shows survivor behaviour: 60% of victims will tell someone what happened.
- b. How that person responds has significant impact—to seek help or choose to report.

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c. If the interaction is positive, then they are more likely to go forward and seek support that will help them.

d. Survivors will disclose to someone that they trust. It is important that academic advisors, those in leadership positions, graduate supervisors, etc. understand how they can respond, should someone tell them.

#### 4. Resistance training—self defense.

a. We intend to look at resistance training but haven't done so yet.

Questions:

**Katerina:** What kind of programs do you have catered to grad students?

**Janet:** We will tailor work that is effective of interest to grads. We have workshops for many TAs; TAs are the front line people working with grads. We have done a lot of work and training with the Faculty and staff. We are just beginning the process of how we can get attract the attention of Faculty.

**Francisco:** RE the community: What support do your offices provide for outside the school—specifically, students visiting campus that are not considered students but international, and family members of students needing support.

**Janet:** That question is outside of my scope. We are just in the final stages of finalizing offers. That will be a question they will need to address.

**Teilhard:** With support of access and diversity, we are holding a disclosure workshop in August. Sign up if you're interested in doing this work.

**Peter:** Does UBC have mandated reporter and requirements? If so, is there unrestricted reporting?

**Janet:** UBC's policy is completely survival centric. The survivor has control over what they engage in. Should they choose to begin a formal process and change their mind—no problem.

**Keskine:** There is currently no policy between Faculty and students. Suggestion: Would you be interested in looking further into advocating for such a policy?

**Janet:** Conflict of interest policy applies— this speaks to power relationships. It doesn't state that a Faculty member can't date a student, but it outlines what will happen should that relationship go wrong.

**Keskine:** The issue is not *if it will go wrong*, but that it shouldn't exist in the first place.

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**Janet:** This is outside of our scope, but I'll find out where it might go.

**Francisco:** Can presenter send us slides?

**Taran:** Yes. I'll do that.

**Janet:** I will also send you a 3 year education plan.

## 2. Presentation on GSS Budget 2017-18 (10 Minutes)

Presenters: Dante Mendoza, Taran Dhillon, Teilhard Paradela, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Hanna Murray

**Dante:** This is a brief presentation and brief summary about revenue; we have presented information about this in previous meetings:

The GSS fee increase referendum 2017 did not pass, so we need to be careful about how we spend our money. We approved the budget from last year with a deficit of \$70k because we were betting on having an increase. The actual results were positive, mainly due to resignation of our General Manager.

Our expense is in the range of \$683k for the GSS budget 2017 – 18. To avoid eroding unrestricted funds, we are presenting a balanced budget where revenue and expenses are at the same level.

There is a slight shift on one of the revenue streams, but no significant changes. The main change: we are considering a change in the revenue stream that is complementary to our fees: reducing the activity of commercial bookings and trying to rent some of our spaces to UBC.

Items included in budget 2018:

- Additional training for councillors, resources committees, and executives.
- More engaging council meetings
- GSS new logo

Another important topic we will have to cover in this council are Referendum related expenses.

**Taran:** Fiscal responsibility by proposing a balanced budget that promotes GSS sustainability. More training for councillors and committee members. We will look for alternative sources of revenue to complement student fees. We will use our plan as a guide to develop priorities and propose to recuperate a senior staff positions, such as General Manager, who will be helpful with risk management and legal issues.

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**Teilhard:** Goals:

1. Develop systems and processes of collecting, archiving, and examining data to advance and maintain data-drive policies, programs, and campaigns.
2. Improve the capacities of the GSS advocacy office to address grad students' needs.
3. Foster broader discussions on GSS advocacies among graduate students to energize participation.
4. Review major initiatives under my portfolio to ensure their efficiency, effectiveness, and relevance.

**Hanna:** (To VP External Affairs) Budget remains the same as last year. Attend 2 extra conferences in the year. No hotel costs in Ottawa—I have a lot of relatives there. We can save costs for the upcoming Montreal conference because there is free accommodations.

**Conny:** Objection to extend 5 minutes? (No objections)

**Arezoo:** I use a Strategic Plan as a guide to get up my goals:

1. To promote academic, professional, social etc. community programming for GSS members.
2. Setting up events that give more discounts for the grad students.
3. Budget for programming for off-campus programs i.e. yoga.
4. Execute an impactful orientation program, and to use some of the revenue for orientation for winter and spring semesters.

**Taran:** Conclusion: we are presenting a sustainable budget which is aligned to the GSS strategic plan 2017 – 2021. We are running a balanced budget.

Questions:

**Alyssa:** (To the VP Students Office) My question is based on the excel file. I didn't notice anything about the events fund that AOs draw out of. What is going on with events fund? I represent an AO that relies on fund

**Arezoo:** We don't want to run out of money, so we have to put cap of \$3k. We encourage AOs to apply for the next semester. But we are receiving suggestions that event funding is not working and everyone has some expectation from it.

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**Nathaniel:** (To VP Students) RE 2<sup>nd</sup> statement on slide—about giving more discounts to student events. By House and Finance resolution, we have advised that subsidising events may not drive an increase of attendance. Curious for what source of information we use to make this decision to increase discounts?

**Arezoo:** The discounts are not taking money out of GSS. We can get good group discounts, for ex. For 2-3 people, you have to pay \$126. But with the number that we propose, we get discount of \$47 for each person.... we will make it 35-40 people pay. That doesn't mean the GSS is paying all of the discounts. Generally, the idea of students is that the GSS is making money and don't contribute to the students because the way they look at it is that the GSS is not giving us money, but making money. If people want to come with us, there are lots of Groupon deals. We have to make it competitive that make it appealing to students to come. When I present my budget, the deficit of my budget is \$2k. We are not taking too much money out of GSS.

**Jennifer:** There is a drastic increase in our spending compared to last year (spending \$18k less). I was wondering how the decision came about to increase spending to VP Students at the same time cutting last year's budgets—how was this decided?

**Conny:** Objections to 5 minute extension? (No objections)

**Arezoo:** Each executive has a different definition of what is a program or orientation or an event. We don't know, for example, what they considered a program or orientation or event.

**Dante:** RE revenue: The original proposal was to subsidize those events, but after your feedback about house finances, we increased the expected revenue to that of last year. One of our strategies was to look for discounts, but the point is, we are targeting to reach the same level of revenue as last year. The reason for cost increase: we wanted to invest in other activities that will engage more students. We are saving for investment opportunities. We passed a file that includes the same revenue for VP students.

**Francisco:** To clarify: The budget item event costs—every executive will have an item for the events cost. Some didn't spend any on events, particularly the VP external. But for 2018, there is going to be a \$2k budget item. What are these event costs? What internal campaign are we going to do? What are we going to do with that money?

**Natalie:** These questions are not about the presentation, but about the Excel.

**Shona:** To follow up on Nathaniel's question: providing an event at low cost will make them feel like their fees are going somewhere. But the budget we have is \$9k subsidy in events and programming. Last year, we got \$6k in programming. Question: This is big amount of difference.

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(16 000). I wonder if we can speak to student satisfaction survey or speak with councillors because we have a more direct relationship with constituents. Do you have more data?

**Conny:** Objections to 10 minute extension? (No objections)

**Arezoo:** There is no data on surveys but we don't have the data that a student doesn't want that. I have to review my work every 2-3 months. I need to see results. I want to keep the balance, ex. if we don't see attendance we expected. The second thing I want to mention: the numbers I put here during my first month of work we had searched and planned. For each month we planned what event we wanted. Based on code we chose the best deals. These are planned so far, but it doesn't mean that we are on there because we are using less money as well. The cost is lower than what is proposed. My cost is \$13k so revenue is \$10k.

**James:** (To VP Students) In point 3, it says that the budget for programming for off-campus i.e. yoga—how do you intend to run these events?

**Arezoo:** I received a lot of complaints that off-campus students are being neglected. Events from VP students are mostly off campus, except some programs i.e. yoga. We have an instructor so we need to make an extra contract. Off campus, we discussed that we have a problem regarding venue—we have to pay for that. For yoga classes, the director has promised me to help me with that. I'm hoping they will give us the budget. I also need the collaboration of the campus AOs.

**James:** A couple years ago, they started an off-campus fund where they put \$5k funds aside for GSS representatives. We realized that the GSS didn't have the infrastructure to hold events. One of my worries is running these events through GSS campus. Even with the money, it is tough using the money in an efficient manner. I would like to see collaborating as a good initiative. My point is, we should be careful with where the money is being spent with the off campus events.

**Arezoo:** The difference between on and off campuses are those programs. I will need your collaborations.

**Nathaniel:**

1. (To VP students) What is the proportion of grad students that are on and off campus—would that be the ratio in which we divide the spending?

2. (To Service Committee) Based on what information are you selecting the programs. There is a chance that those programs will be very unpopular.

3. You will review how you spend the money about months of experimenting. What kind of metric are you using to evaluate when you stop, or when we pump in more money?

**Arezoo:**

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1. Proportion is 30 000 students... the program we put—off campus students are paying, there will be revenue out of yoga and other programs.
2. For events, first we take the data from attendees—what events were popular last year? We kept those ones. Another measure is we asked the opinion of the people—when we choose events we try ones that will be fun and have a good and reasonable discount on those events. I don't think it's possible to say—each event targets a specific interest. Not all our events are interesting to certain students.
3. What measure? After September we are trying to do event surveys – what do you think of the pricing? We will give booklets regarding our events. I encourage them to give me their opinion on the event.

**Motion to extend question period by 5 minutes passed.**

**MOVER:** Natalie M.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

**Motion failed.**

3. Approval of Annual Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 with the condition that the VP Students budget is re-evaluated at the Aug GSS Council Meeting

BIRT the GSS approves the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018

**MOVER:** Bradley B.

**SECONDER:** Mackenzie L.

Discussion:

**Alyssa:** RE budget line about the student initiative program—why is there no decision to increase the number, given the demand?

**Bradley:** Line 855—old logo, and 899—old logo. Is that a mistake and a duplication?

**Shona:** Should the GSS fees be subsidizing events for the grad students? Seems that surveying the attendees of the event is not representative of what the grad students want from GSS events. Should we be spending 10k more on events? (To Arezoo) Why did she send me a spreadsheet about the budget that doesn't match on what we're voting on today?

**Arezoo:** We are not subsidizing as much as it sounds. We are spending less as well.

**Shona:** That is not my question.

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**Taran:** Our budget is same as last year. We kept the event fund as it is so we are trying to provide the same events with the same budget. We have limited resources for funding. Secondly, we as an organization are growing.

**Francisco:** In the budget, there is a line item called event costs. In the 2017 budget, the president spent \$1.4k. The budget for 2018 changed a lot. Question: What are you planning to do with the money in your respective portfolios?

**Taran:** The previous president and I made an outreach event. We collected feedback from all the attendees. Looking at the success, we increased funding because we want to have that event twice a year.

**Teilhard:** I won't address that question directly. It will take a long time. Let me explain the principle behind event costs:  
*It speaks to the priorities we have in our portfolios.* Arezoo directly engages with the students which is why her costs are higher. Hanna doesn't focus on those types of events. I want events to reach more participation—bigger events i.e. workshops, but this year I am focusing more on advocacy than events. That's why you see differences in the event costs. There are different priorities.

RE Alyssa's comment about why we didn't increase the student funds: We've been looking for other sources of funding for student activities. Eventually, we will talk to the AMS to source more funding for student events because we agree: this funding is necessary to do the events that they want to do. Unfortunately, we're circumscribed with our materials. We want to be fiscally responsible with our budget.

**Dante:** I wanted to steer the budget process. Sometimes the decisions and number were driven by myself. Back to Shona and numbers, when you were asking about the information about the events, Arezoo provided what she had at first, which is why it is different. Based on the feedback I told her to increase the total amount. I asked her to increase as the target in terms of revenue or sales. That was the thinking process. Second step is that the proportion we increased in revenue, we increased the same amount in expense so we can keep the same level of bottom line. We want to keep those resources for different events that could engage more students. Not all events paid by students have revenue because there are some activities that we just pay for them without charging the students.

RE Brad's comment about the logo: There were 2 requests:

1. To give donation to support First Nations,
2. To give a gift (blanket) to them, which is why we used 2 different line items.

(To Francisco) About the external portfolio—we used the wrong line item which is in the line above. We use the program that was wrong, but we have corrected it.

**Nathaniel:** Comment about the break down in terms of the program for the year: One of my concerns based on the numbers is that they are not very high. I am concerned how much

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within the GSS has been targeted, and to those who feel they are left out because they are not getting those services. Original concerns Shona mentioned: the information of what do students want—this needs to be done in a more nuanced manner.

**Mackenzie:** This should be reserved for services committee. Focus on numbers.

**Natalie:** I heard a lot of feedback from council such as, it might be helpful to rename the Student Initiative Program line as the AO events fund in the budget so that it is easier to interpret. It might be helpful to increase the event fund budget in the VP student budget.

My own concern: Our experience as GSS leads us to believe that events for those off-campus students are most effectively delivered to off-campus AOs that are more connected to the constituents and to the infrastructure there to have successful events with high attendance at reasonable costs. When we talk about the plan, we might not look like it based on what it looks like now, but a lot of consideration went into the parts about off-campus students. How to really provide for off campus students most effectively. Do we spend more money or support the AO to do that for their constituents? We should give more money to AOs and do more collaborations to see who we should support. I suggest that I would speak in favour of approving the budget with a phrase that says that the VP student budget will be re-evaluated.

Can I move to amend to include that phrase?

BIRT the GSS Council approves the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2017- 18 with the condition that the VP Students budget is re-evaluated at the Aug GSS Council Meeting.

**MOVER:** Natalie M.

**SECONDER:** Alyssa K.

**For (29):** Arjun Banghela, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirilin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart , Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pizio, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Shona:** I think this is a great idea. Something like move \$5k from the event costs and \$5k from the programming costs can go into the student initiative fund. The students will work with AOs to use that money for demands. On top of that, the preliminary budget has \$7k less spending than those 2 lines. We're asking Arezoo to cut \$3k less. I want to get people thinking for the next month.

**Alyssa:** In terms of priorities vs. what was outlined in the Strategic Plan, there's great stuff in the Strat Plan that supports the AOs off and on campus. It would be great to see revisions.

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**Francisco:** Do you know the difference between a product cost and an event cost? It would be good to consider what goes in what and what goes in the other.

**Shona:** (To Francisco) Join the committee.

**Natalie:** (To Dante) In line 405, RE Capital Improvement Fund, there is no money being recorded towards this fund. But the policy says it will be collected until it is revoked. Noticing that there is no money for CIF here, can you tell us where the CIF funds appear in the budget? How to tell what is a number that doesn't consider CIF and what is a number that does consider CIF. What would be involved in getting the CIF line item to be filled with the appropriate amount of money for the budget?

**Dante:** We are not including that number because we agreed that it was confusing for some members. Normally we include the funds for capital investments at the top, but no plan for investment for the year. Therefore it can be misleading because we will believe we will have more funds for operating purposes. From what we have to update the situation in the Capital Investment Fund in the beginning of 2017, we have \$186k, we collected \$53k, spent \$80k. The two main projects: 1. The renewal of our pay capacity of the GSS and 2. The repairing of a pipeline. We ended up with a balance of \$160k. We are expending to collect the same amount (\$53-54k). The fee is adjusted by CPI which is just 1.5% for this year. We can explain further with House and Finance to see better ways of representing this.

**Taran:** (To Natalie) We did follow the Strategic Plan goals. We had meetings with 3 AOs, and we talked about the events they wanted to organize, and the venues. We are trying to have successful events for all of them. We are following all the Strat Plan goals.

**Shona:** Should it be that GSS council approves? I move to make a friendly amendment.

## Call to question

**For (31):** Bradley Balaton, Arjun Banghela, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pizio, Souvik Ray, Sebastien Rettie, Balsher Sidhu, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

**Against (2):** Paul Bucci, Emily Murphy

**Abstained:** Shona Robinson

**Motion passed.**

## 4. Appointment of Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

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BIRT the GSS appoints ([Keskiné Owusu Poku](#)) as the GSS Financial and Executive Oversight Officer from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

**MOVER:** Mackenzie L.

**SECONDER:** Arjun B.

## Candidates speak for 2 minutes.

**Keskiné:** I believe my work experiences makes me a good fit. There are 2 things I can assure you: 1. Everything I do will support the executive members. 2. You will not be disappointed.

**Nirma:** This is my first time in the meeting. I will ensure smooth financial transactions.

**Taran:** Speaking on behalf of YangFan, he will contribute to financial management.

Questions:

**Katerina:** (To Nirma) What external funding are you going to apply for?

**Nirma:** I did research when I was serving in APS that there are avenues to search for funding, and I am going to apply the same research to identify the kinds of funding at the graduate level.

**Alyssa:** (To Nirma) Have you read the GSS Strategic Plan?

**Nirma:** I have not. I went through the budget and all the info through the website.

**Keskiné:** I've dealt with it.

**Taran:** I cannot speak on behalf of YangFan.

**Francisco:** To all candidates: How would you deal if one of the executives is using the money for personal use and they ask you to not report it?

**Keskiné:** It is my integrity to protect. If the president fails to act, then I'll ask the council.

**Nirma:** A lot of this issue is written in the bylaws. The situation must first be brought up to the president, then the executives. I will inform members: if you are not willing to lose money, then don't be here.

**Natalie:** Could you expand on your experience on creating and managing budgets?

**Nirma:** I have created budgets for the investigator tasks in the past. From the Social Organization perspective, I have organized events for 10k people, and we looked after all the activities, and paying the transactions.

**Keskiné:** RE UBC experience: We had to develop our own budget—from my side, I had to bring up the budget. After we failed to pass our resolution, we had to think about how to bring up a good budget.

1. Talk to AMS to get our money to get our budget running
2. Don't spend what you don't have.

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**Nathaniel:** What kind of experience do you have on reading or drafting financial contracts?

**Keskine:** I have brief idea.

**Nirma:** I have prepared many contracts for the investigator tasks. I am well versed with the contract language.

**Natalie:** In addition to working on your own grad degree—how will you balance your time with the financial components and your position in the GSS?

**Nirma:** I am a TA and RA, and engaged in courses. I preplanned all my activities. I plan to divide my time and efficiently report to GSS the progress I am making in terms of looking at financial aspects etc. or the good work the GSS community is doing.

**Keskine:** I have committed a lot of time to GSS already. I believe that I need to realign priorities—I will have a responsibility to complete. I will have to balance my time and set my priorities right.

**Jennifer:** What would each of you do if there is a divide between executive and council?

**Keskine:** We need to take good feedback and be responsive. We are trying to build an association. That is the only way you can put up good work. We must be tolerant to different ideas.

**Nirma:** It is natural to have disagreements—the best thing to do is to fall back on the strategies we have formed. These debates help us learn about each other.

## Private voting

**Keskine P. is elected.**

## Call to question

BIRT the GSS appoints Keskine Owusu Poku as the GSS Financial and Executive Oversight Officer from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

**For (28):** Bradley Balaton, Arjun Baghela, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Arezoo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisio, Souvik Ray, Sebastien Rettie, Lisa Zhu

**Against (1):** Namrata Jain

**Motion passed.**

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5. Presentation on the Preliminary plan to prepare for the 2018 GSS/AMS Referendum, from Academic & External Affairs Committee, the Executive Committee, and the AMS Caucus (20 Minutes)

Presenter: Amanda Pisio

**Amanda:** To provide background:

In March 2015, at the GSS AGM, there was a motion for the GSS council to have a referendum in 2018 in which we want to leave the AMS. This presentation is the Terms of Reference for the ad hoc committee.

Now: 2018 AGM

1. We need to conduct a legal assessment because we are unclear as to how to separate.
2. We need to conduct a usage and needs assessment of AMS services, clubs, and resource groups by graduate students.
3. This committee is going to liaise with the AMS executives and staff.
5. All of this info will give a framework on identifying the scope for negotiation and consultation with the AMS.
4. We must determine how the different referendum results would affect:
  - a. Grad students
  - b. The GSS.
6. Develop concrete scenarios for either outcome of the referendum – staying or leaving the AMS.
7. July 2018, present plans for the execution of the referendum to Council.
8. Present the referendum question wording for discussion and approval in council one month prior to the planned referendum date.
9. Report to committee every month—important for committee to stay on target.
10. Form in July 2017 and seek to be formed again at the March 2018 council meeting in order to hold a referendum in autumn 2018.
11. Have the following composition:

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- 2 seats for members of the AMS-GSS caucus
- 2 seats for councillors
- 1 seat for representative from the AMS-GSS Health and Dental committee
- 3 seats for ordinary members
- 1 seat for GSS president

**Amanda:** We decided that these Terms of References are up to the AGM. It is just a fact finding mission— it is important it is impartial.

**Amanda:** In order to sit in our committee you have to be a graduate student.

**Mackenzie:** I'd like to move that we go in camera.

**MOVER:** Mackenzie L.

**SECONDER:** Arjun B.

**For (27):** Bradley Balaton, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirilin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Arezoo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pizio, Shona Robinson, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

**Against (1):** Zeynab Nosrati

**Motion passed.**

## 6. Forming an ad hoc committee to prepare for the 2018 GSS/AMS Referendum:

WHEREAS the GSS must organize a referendum in 2018 to decide whether to remain as an AMS constituency, therefore

BIRT the GSS strikes an ad hoc committee with the following terms of reference:

The Ad Hoc Committee on the GSS/AMS Referendum shall:

1. Conduct a legal assessment of the 2015 GSS AGM motion directing the GSS to hold a referendum and the legal requirements to resign membership in the Alma Mater Society of UBC-Vancouver. Return to Council if the referendum is not required or not feasible.
2. Conduct a usage and needs assessment of AMS services, clubs, and resource groups by graduate students. This assessment will be done with a prospective look at potential referendum outcomes, and must hence also identify the effects of any possible referendum outcome on the access of the GSS membership to AMS services.

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3. Liaise with AMS executives and staff to gather information on existing agreements (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding) for access by the GSS membership to services provided by the AMS, service usage statistics, and other qualitative data that may assist the committee in the needs assessment process. Explore the possibility of forming a joint committee with the AMS to facilitate data collection for these assessments.
4. Determine how the different referendum results would affect:
  - a. Graduate students, including but not limited to fees paid, services provided by the AMS, the UPass, and the health and dental plan.
  - b. The GSS, including but not limited to finances and the GSS budget, costs associated with the health and dental plan, and legal consequences of any altered relationship with the AMS.
5. Identify the scope for negotiation and consultation with the AMS based on the outcomes of the assessments undertaken by this committee, in order to assist the GSS President with negotiations with the AMS.
6. Develop concrete scenarios for either outcome of the referendum. This includes working with the AMS to develop agreements on the organization's future working relationships as well as working to ensure the continued stability of the GSS.
7. In July 2018, present plans for the execution of the referendum to Council. These plans should include a complete communication strategy for an information campaign that shall run until the referendum outlining the exact consequences of either potential outcome.
8. Present the referendum question wording for discussion and approval in Council one month prior to the planned referendum date.
9. Report to Council every month.
10. Form in July 2017 and seek to be formed again at the March 2018 Council meeting in order to hold a referendum in autumn 2018. Ultimately dissolve after a report to Council on the results of this referendum and the plan forward.
11. Have the following composition:
  - a. 2 seats for members of the AMS-GSS caucus,
  - b. 2 seats for Councillors,
  - c. 1 seat for a representative from the AMS-GSS Health and Dental Committee,
  - d. 3 seats for ordinary members to be appointed by Council, and
  - e. 1 seat for the GSS President as an ex-officio member.

**MOVER:** Keskine P.

**SECONDER:** Atefeh S.

**Motivator:** Amanda P.

**For (25):** Arjun Baghela, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirilin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Arezoo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisiso, Souvik Ray, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Pablo Silva

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**Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Placeholder for motion to seat members to the new ad hoc committee (if formed).

BIRT the following seatings are approved:

**Bradley (AMS), Arjun (Councillor), Keskine (AMS), Alyssa (Councillor), Soheila (Ordinary Member)** be appointed to the GSS Ad Hoc Committee for the 2018 GSS/AMS Referendum (2 AMS-GSS Caucus members, 1 AMS-GSS Health & Dental Committee member, 2 Councillors, 3 Ordinary Members).

**Motivator:** Taran D.

**Bradley** be appointed as chair of the GSS Ad Hoc Committee for the 2018 GSS/AMS Referendum

**MOVER:** Amanda P.

**SECONDER:** Alyssa K.

**For (28): Bradley Balaton, Arjun Baghela, Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Addyson Frattura-K, Francisco Gallegos, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Zoe Lam, James Lawson, Nathaniel Lim, Arezoo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisis, Souvik Ray, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Presentation on the Proposal for GSS “Off-Campus Initiative AO Fund” (5 minutes)

Description: Proposal for a \$4000.00 fund to be designated to an “Off-Campus Initiative AO Fund”. This will involve 4 GSS Off-campus AO’s including GrasPods, iGSN, Hip Health and the Vancouver Prostate Center Student Association.

Presenter: James Lawson

**James:** Reasons for the fund initiative:

1. Funding to off-campus events mainly comes from the event fund which, due to cuts, has become minimal.
2. Currently off-campus AOs have done without funding since 2016. As of July 2017, no GSS events have been hosting.

GrasPods: 600- 900 people reached—budget from sponsorships.

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Proposal: a fund of \$4k set up for off-campus AOs to use to host events which are accessible to all graduate students.

A fund of \$4k will be set up for the AOs to have access to a \$750 guarantee of funding reserved for each AO.

Responsibilities will be: all events will be in GSS newsletters, off-campus AO funding committee, and ensuring events are properly advertised.

Off-campus AO funding committee will be able to better communicate with the GSS to relay problems and create more collaboration opportunities.

Questions:

**Nathaniel:** 1. Are we looking at this committee as being a formal or informal ad hoc committee i.e. not an official institution?

2. Would there be official reports on representatives of the committee?

**James:** Informal. But there is possibility in making it more formal.

**Alyssa:** GrasPods, Hip Health, and the Vancouver Prostate Center Student have already earmarked for \$3k, and all 3 are at VGH. The Prostate Center has a rep on GrasPods—what attempt is being made to off-campus students who are not at VGH?

**James:** Most students off campus are at VGH, but we would like to get them involved. But I am not familiar with the other sites.

**Amanda:** \$4k is a lot considering the event fund is \$10k. It would be important to know where that money is coming from because it is taking a lot from the AO. How are the 4 groups chosen? Can you provide a breakdown?

**James:** Groups are based off of the meeting we had with execs. iGSN— a lot of them are on campus, but also off campus. That is why we decided to do that. Fund is hosting off campus for welcome week. I can't speak on their behalf.

**Katerina:** I didn't even know about this until now.

**Amanda:** If you're looking for other people to run events, you might want to ask other programs who have students off campus

**James:** I don't know the proportions of the bulk of students.

**Motion to extend by 5 minutes passed.**

**Katerina:** How was the iGSN selected, and how do you ensure that they are only using the funds for off-campus events? I think we should have a separate committee to manage that fund.

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**James:** They do a lot of work off-campus. They have a decent presence which is why we included them.

**Atefeh:** Is your intention to have a financial oversight just for your budget? How would you allocate the funds to the different groups or AOs that are off campus?

**James:** 1. I am not sure.

2. Certain organizations would have a set amount of money that would go to specific events. Each organization would put forward their exact events that need to be funded for that and then that can be approved. Then that would be their working budget for those events going forward.

**Arezoo:** We would love to support that fund. The decision will be made with the House of Finance committee. For last week, I invited iGSN but they didn't reply so I don't know how they feel responsible for off campus. Where do those iGSN off-campus activities happen? At VGH? We also have a downtown location. For the welcoming week, we proposed to spend \$800. Some locations are farther—everyone loves convenience. It is far from downtown and far from Children's Hospital.

Another concern in Services Committee: I think out of 2000 students off campus we have 400 or less at these three AOs so that proportion of \$4k for max 400 students sounds a lot. Other students might think it's not fair.

**James:** Not all students are required to sign up for this. We reach a lot of students i.e. 500 students. Same argument—half an hour transit either way. Off-campus itself will be a real benefit, especially for welcome week. Welcome week is generally held at park outside—A little more in the center for everyone to come to. As for the locations off site i.e. downtown, I think it would be great for them to come out to have more welcome weeks.

**Taran:** Extension for 5 minutes?

**MOVER:** Taran D.

**SECONDER:** Arezoo M.

**Motion failed.**

9. Presentation on renting out the spaces in the Graduate Student Centre for raising additional funds for the GSS. (5 Minutes)

Presenter: Dante Mendoza

Alternative revenue streams:

**Dante:** The GSS financial situation is tight and has caused uncertainty. We have 3 main source of revenue:

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1. Student fees
2. Koerner's Pub
3. GSS

We have low utilization of our spaces. There is a demand in the campus for additional spaces for office and classrooms. We offer that to Facilities Planning who are willing to help. We want to approve the motion to enter into rent-type, but it is very broad so we have to have the final say through the House Finance committee, and they will determine the space.

## 10. Renting out spaces in the Graduate Student Centre.

WHEREAS the GSS is underutilizing our space in the Thea Koerner House

WHEREAS the GSS currently has the support of UBC's President and momentum to remove potential obstacles

WHEREAS UBC's Facilities Planning has identified a demand and interest from UBC to pay GSS for the use of spaces at Thea Koerner House

WHEREAS the GSS would maintain full control of Thea's Lounge to attend the needs of graduate students

WHEREAS UBC has expressed interest to rent Thea Koerner House's upper level all together (Penthouse, Foundation room and Study room)

BIRT the GSS Council approve GSS to enter into rent or rent-type temporary agreements with UBC for any rooms at the Thea Koerner House (GSS building), except for Thea's Lounge.

BIRT the House and Finance committee review and agree on specific terms and conditions prior to formal engagement in any binding agreement.

**MOVER:** Atefeh S.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

Friendly Amendment:

**Taran:** I want to move to amend the motion—instead of TKH, it should be Thea Koerner House.

**Alyssa:** Earlier, Dante presented a BIRT clause that I don't see here.

**Dante:** Move to amend the motion.

**MOVER:** Amanda P.

**SECONDER:** Alyssa K.

**Conny:** Before we vote for the amendment are there any questions?

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**Lisa:** Get rid of the word “have”. (Friendly)

**Nathaniel:** I want to add “the”. (Friendly)

**Taran:** I want to add “and”. (Friendly)

**Against (20):** Paul Bucci, Taran Dhillon, Addyson Frattura-K, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann

**Abstained:** Bradley Balaton, Amanda Pizio

**Motion passed.**

Back to main motion:

**Shona:** Before I move that, I want to know why it is there.

**Dante:** Having the support of the President is important for convincing other units about this amendment. UBC is giving us that space that we are renting out so we use it for free, and we are charging them. If we don't have the support we will not be able to do that sort of arrangement.

**Shona:** Amend to add “counts” and “any”. (Friendly)

**Natalie:** The motion talks about what the agreement right now is, but it doesn't say why we want to do it: Amend to add a preliminary WHEREAS clause. (Friendly)

**Nathaniel:** Friendly amendment to put WHEREAS on top. (Friendly)

**Bradley:** Are we at the amendment or the main motion?

**Conny:** We are at the main motion.

**Bradley:** For the BIRT at the bottom—should it just go through House and Finance or should it come back to council in the end?

**Dante:** The idea was to make it a little more flexible and get House and Finance to review the details of council's proposals. That's what I thought would be more practical.

**Bradley:** Amendment for at the end of that sentence “*and the agreement should be brought to council before being signed*”.

**Conny:** I see that this has changed the meaning of the amendment, so this can no longer be friendly. I need a seconder.

**SECONDER:** Lisa Z.

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**Conny:** Do we vote to keep the text in red?

**For (8):** Namrata Jain, Nathaniel Lim, Arezoo M., Dante Mendoza, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Amanda Pisis, Sebastien Rettie

**Against (11):** Paul Bucci, Addyson Frattura-K, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirlin, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Keskin Owusu Poku, Shona Robinson, Pablo Silva, Christina Wiesmann

**Abstained:** Bradley Balaton, Hanna Murray, Teilhard Paradela

**Motion failed.**

**Dante:** For me, it is the same to keep that for not passing the motion at all because in any case it will have to come back to council.

**Taran:** I agree with Dante; this will slow down the process so bringing it to council may delay the decision. Bringing it to House of Finance is a democratic process; they are elected members of the council and must be trusted upon making a decision like that. So I would say we could remove this clause.

**Bradley:** I would also avoid it because it seems for this kind of thing when dealing with contracts timely, and also that would be something that fall to the General Manager or whoever is in charge, rather than us.

**Pablo:** Call to Question.

**Conny:** Call to question trumps most of the inquiries. So, now we vote on if we want to add the red part of the text.

**Motion failed.**

**Call to question**

**For (15):** Addyson Frattura-K, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Dante Mendoza, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisis, Sebastien Rettie

**Against (3):** Bradley Balaton, Paul Bucci, Keskin Owusu Poku

**Main motion passed.**

## 11. Adopting a new Council meeting agenda template.

WHEREAS the GSS Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee is tasked by the GSS Strategic Plan with improving the efficiency of Council meetings (Goal 3.1A), and

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WHEREAS the GSS Policy Manual (3.1.3) states that “The Agenda form contained in Appendix VI shall be used for all regular Council meetings,” and

WHEREAS this committee has developed a new and more effective agenda template for GSS Council meetings that reflects the GSS Strategic Plan, therefore

BIRT GSS Council replace the contents of Policy Manual Appendix VI with the proposed new Agenda form.

**MOVER:** Katerina O.

**SECONDER:** Amanda P.

**Amanda:** Some information why: We have 3 main goals:

1. To remind everyone why we're here. To do that we want to do the plan into the agenda itself.
2. Want to deal with the quorum.
3. We want to make a well-organized and well-run meeting so we've made it much clearer.

**Alyssa:** Sometimes when the AOs are recognized, we encourage their reps to come. But I see that AO has been moved down—I want it to move back up.

**Natalie:** Currently, the council agenda template in our policy manual has the AO recognition down—it is up to the president to move the recognition up to the top. Its new placement is more cohesive in the template. It is up to president to rearrange things. This is designed for the efficiency of our meetings.

**Motion unanimously passed.**

Note: Requires 2/3rds.

## 12. Presentation by HR committee on the HR Committee recommendations for hiring of the GSS General Manager

Presented By: Human Resources Committee (Arif Arif)

**Arif:** This is to address recent string of resignations and terms coming to an end. The HR Committee wants to provide the staff support and empower the GSS staff environment. We had surveys where we asked councillors; we had 3 main pieces:

- Recent existing interviews
- Interview with office manager
- Internal survey that had qualitative data

Existing interviews: The general sentiment is that there is job dissatisfaction, which is causing resignation of the GM because of insufficient training. The GSS survey suggest to hire a GM,

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but many raised concerns. What have we learned? GSS is in a state of transition: risk for serious liability—another reason why we think GM is very important. Problems: disagreement as to what a GM does and not very clear lines of communication between the previous GM and councillors/ execs. Also, there is a high turnover of executives and lack of training and poor orientation. Our vetting process is based on democratic election rather than how much the person may know—student may not be qualified to be staff; their decision is to hire a GM and to have full-time staff.

Summary: We need a GM because we don't have the expertise right now to be able to function properly because even though we have been hiring, we don't have the proper training to do that i.e. drafting contracts.

Pros: experienced and full time.

Cons: expensive and there may be some difficulties.

Questions:

**Shona:** How are the AAs tasks going to be covered?

**Arif:** There is room in the budget for a part time AA—there has been discussion on how the AA might not be a full-time position.

**Amanda:** (To Dante) Does the budget we covered today cover paying for a GM?

**Dante:** Yes. The combination of a GM and AA allows a budget for a GM.

**Bradley:** If we hire a GM this year and next year, we need to have him for whole year. Would that work? We need a sustainable way of budgeting for this before we hire someone.

**Taran:** First question about AA: We are considering to have a part-time AA for a bit to see how it works out. If we can afford a GM in the next financial year or not, that remains a question in the contract, and will be reviewed if we know if we can afford a GM or not.

**Arif:** A GM would have the expertise to effectively manage GSS management streams i.e. managing our assets better. It is not a big deficit to have a GM, and could be a good investment for the association.

**Nathaniel:** (To HR committees) RE “may meet difficulties”.

**Arif:** Now that the budget is approved, we can move ahead with getting the job posting out there, and getting applications—might take 1 or 2 months.

**Katerina:** Motion to extend for 5 minutes.

**MOVER:** Katerina O.

**SECONDER:** Taran D.

**Motion failed.**

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## 13. Hiring the new General Manager for GSS

WHEREAS the GSS needs a full time staff member with the expertise and experience working with student organizations, managing staff, building operations, risk and liability, insurance management, risk and liability management, HR management, building operations, and insurance management and able to handle day-to-day operations and provides continuity for staff and building operations

WHEREAS the GSS needs full time staff member who will ensure with transition of GSS executives

WHEREAS the HR committee, has the mandate to work towards the vision of staff support within the GSS, as stated in Policy 8.8.1 and to work towards Priority 3.3 in the GSS Strategic Plan, that calls on the society to foster a supportive and empowered GSS staff environment

BIRT the HR Committee hires a new General Manager as soon as possible

**MOVER:** Atefeh

**SECONDER:** Katerina

**Shona:** Why is this motion here? We don't need a motion we just had a discussion.

**Conny:** HR committee wants to know why we want to hire a GM.

**Shona:** The budget we voted in has a budget for hiring a GM.

**Conny:** They can still seek the council's approval; it is not out of order.

**Nathaniel:** Will the scope of the GM responsibility be clearly defined regardless of which document it will be in? Because in the governance we have a hard time knowing where the GM stands. We are not sure as to who he should be referring to.

Question: Will the HR committee consider clearly defining the scope of a GM putting it in black and white in a formal document which will retain in institutional memory? And what is the timeline?

**Taran:** 1. We are working on specific duties of the GM. We talking to the HR committee, and we are specifying the job description.

2. RE timeline: we haven't decided a timeline. There have been apprehensions of having a GM. Priority 1 was to decide if we wanted a GM, step 2 will be to work on the job description.

**Amanda:** I don't think it is a good idea we hire a GM for 6 months and then seeing how the budget goes. I think the concern about relying on our budget has caused a cascade of dominoes of staff leaving. I suggest we figure out our budget so this isn't a 6 month hire, but a *hire*. This will increase how many candidates you will be able to hire.

**Arif:** We have the budget for a year contract for a GM. That's what we're moving forward with—we can't do any longer.

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**Natalie:** (To HR committee) I would ask them to consult in some way before you hire and compose a contract. We're doing a review right now of our organizational structure, and we've highlighted some areas that need more clarity.

**Alyssa:** Call to Question.

**Motion passed.**

## VII. GSS Updates

### 1. Executive Remarks –

#### **President – Taran Dhillon**

#### **Vice-President University & Academic Affairs – Teilhard Paradela**

- On the hiring of the new GSS advocate.  
We have received strong applications. The HR Committee is setting up the interview schedule. The interviews could start as early as Friday this week. The aim is to hire a new GSS before the month ends.
- On the definition of “retaliation”.  
The GSS and the Ombuds’ Office organized a discussion on how to define “retaliation” to provide feedback to the VP Equity and Inclusion
- On the conflict engagement workshop.  
I am representing the GSS in a one-day workshop on how to address conflicts. This workshop is organized by Equity and Inclusion Office.

#### **Vice-President External Relations – Hanna Murray**

#### **Vice-President Students – Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi**

- Total three meetups were held: Greek festival (15 students registered, 2 showed up), Canada day(20 students registered, 2 showed up), and Latin festival(10 registered; no one showed up)
- St. Mark summit hike sold out (45 Attended) and was a successful event.

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- I attended a meeting with Kavie Toor, senior director of UBC recreation and sport partnership. The topic was about bringing sport facilities to off campus locations.
- There was a meeting of GSS executives with off campus leaders. Both parties learned more about each other, and that helped off campus groups get more positive feeling toward GSS. GSS promised to advocate on their behalf to bring the attention of UBC administration to off campus locations. They were also willing to help GSS in any matter.

## Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Dante Mendoza

**Alyssa:** (To Arezoo) RE poor attendance: What have you gleaned from this to make better attendance?

**Arezoo:** There is no commitment to it. People register. It is the commitment of the student to show up. We will focus more on the events that a student commits to attend.

## 2. Committee Reports –

Academic & External Affairs Committee – Dan Kehila ( as provided by Teilhard Paradela)

Dan Kehila has stepped down as the chair of the AcEx Committee. I will reconvene the committee before the month ends to elect a new chair and discuss our goals for the upcoming year. Dan has left the outstanding minutes with me and Vivian. I will sort out this minutes this coming week and will circulate them for approval in the August council meeting.

An update on the Summer Professional Development Workshop for Executives and Councillors.

Our workshop resumes next Tuesday, from 3 – 5 PM. We will be discussing the Graduate Student Wellbeing Plan vis-à-vis the GSS Strat Plan. Please RSVP, if you have not done already.

Executive Oversight Committee – Dante Mendoza

House Finance Committee – Jennifer Campbell

- Over the last month, HF has been finalizing the budget. This year will see a number of changes in revenue sources (e.g., graduation, rentals), subsidization of GSS events, staff structure changes, and added

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expenditures for elections, meetings and loft renovations. Importantly, the budget is balanced.

- HF has continued to discuss our contract with Koerner's pub. We are in the very early stages of creating the new contract. In creating the new contract, we are being very conscious of having clarity in who will be responsible for certain aspects of the maintenance and repair of Koerner's.

Human Resources Committee – Arif Arif

Services Committee – Matt Gynn

- We have purchased volleyball nets to be rented out by GrasPods. These nets will be available for all students to rent. We are currently negotiating a contract.
- We have continued to discuss ideas to encourage engagement in orientation and beyond in the fall. We see this as a critical time in gaining social support for the GSS.
- Lastly, we have begun talks with off campus student groups to bring about more off campus events. These groups have felt neglected by the GSS in the past, and we are working towards repairing this relationship.

Elections Committee – Anna Ringsred

Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee – Katerina Othonos

- The Ad hoc committee on H&D has met unofficially in July to bring our new committee members up to speed. During our official July meeting, we have decided on an ambitious timeline (attached) to complete our work by the 2018 AGM. We will try to send the updated timeline for our committee every month to council so that councillors can easily track our progress. Alternative options planned, include: 1) completing the revised survey, but not sending it out to students in 2017 or 2) completing the survey, sending it out to students, but not completing the analysis by the AGM. We additionally decided to meet on the first Wednesday of every month until March, from 3pm-8pm at the Nest GSS Loft.

Governance and Accountability Committee – Natalie Marshall

- To increase Council meeting efficiency:
  - Created a new, more effective Council meeting agenda template (on the agenda tonight for approval).

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- Developed long-term recommendations to improve Council efficiency & obtain quorum, to be incorporated into our upcoming GSS Governance Review.
- To improve GSS Governance:
  - Completed a GSS organizational flowchart (next steps: identify where the gaps are!)
  - Established what transparency should look like on the GSS' progress on our Strategic Plan.

### 3. Representative Reports –

AMS Council – Bradley Balaton

Graduate Council – Resha Sabti

Senate – Miranda Huron and Francisco Gallegos

BOG – Jeanie Malone and Kevin Doering

- As the student representative on the Board of Governors I have no updates to provide as the Board has not convened since the last GSS Council meeting and no business has been conducted in that time. As always, if there are any questions from GSS Councillors, you are welcome to reach out to Kevin Doering or otherwise.

### VIII. Discussion Period:

**Keskine:** Do we still have quorum?

**Conny:** We lost quorum.

### IX. Next Meeting

Thursday, August 17, 2017

### X. Adjournment

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 10:14 pm.

**MOVER:**

**SECONDER:**