

## A. Attendance (1:59:03)

1. Present: Taran Dhillon, Teilhard Paradela, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Heather Mckay, Adam Polinko (proxy for Emily Murphy), Zeynab Nosrati, Yahya Mohammadzadeh, Atefeh Samani, David Gill (proxy for Lisa Zhu), Amber S.(proxy for Anna Vozna), John Dupuis, Shona Robinson, Krish Maharaj, Amanda Pisis, Natalie Marshall, Peter Musser, Maddison Bolger Munro (proxy for Sebastien Rettie), Christina Wiesmann, Bradley Balaton, Alyssa Kirlin, Rachele Benjamin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Jennifer Campbell, Nathaniel Lim, Nicholas Romualdi, Theresa Pauly (Proxy for Katerina Othonos), Claire Grégoire, Balsher Singh Sidhu, Keskine Owusu Poku.
2. Regrets: Elham Abouei, Pablo Silva, Nandinee Haq.
3. Absent: Abhishek Kar, Addyson Frattura-Kampschrer, Arjun Baghela, Emma Watson, Jasleen Grewal, Jeanie Malone, Kevin Doering, Mackenzie Lockhart, Namrata Jain, Pablo Silva, Paul Bucci, Sara Vazirian, Souvik Ray, Zoe Lam.
4. Quorum: 17 Councillors

## B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:36 pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.  
MOVER: Nathaniel Lim SECONDER: Peter Musser

For (22): Bradley Balaton, Francisco Gallegos, David Gill, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Natalie Marshall, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Amanda Pisis, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Anna Vozna, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

Motion to add sub-section x. Senate to section E.1.a.

Francisco : I want to add section E.1.a.x. that says Senate.

Mover: Francisco      Seconder: Nathaniel L.

Discussion: none

For (26): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, Francisco Gallegos, David Gill, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Natalie Marshall, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Amanda Pisis, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Anna Vozna,

Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Motion passes.

## Senator's Report:

Francisco G: Senate started a 3 year cycle, and all senators have been working together to develop objectives for the committees that we are part of. Once the documents are ready, I will send that to GSS to be distributed for the Council's review. Also, we are looking for a replacement for Miranda Huron, and we talked to Taran for the best way to elect a senator as soon as possible. Hope that we can find a replacement before the next council meeting.

Motion to amend AO Recognition from F.2.a. to come before E.2.

Nathaniel L: I want to bring forward item on pg. 5 of agenda – Matters for Decision: AO recognition (F.2.a.) and move it to come before (E.2.)

Motivation: The item that succeeds it touches upon certain agreements that have been made during Council Meeting couple of months ago. So, it is better to recognize the AOs before we actually start discussing.

Jennifer C: This particular organization tried to be affiliated several times, but because we did not have quorum, so we really want to recognize them today.

Mover: Nathaniel L.      Seconder: David G.

For (22): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, Taran Dhillon, Francisco Gallegos, David Gill, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Keskin Owusu Poku, Amanda Pizio, Shona Robinson, Anna Vozna, Lisa Zhu

Motion passes.

## a. Affiliate Organization Recognition

### i. Motion:

WHEREAS the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization, therefore  
**BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in September 2018:

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

- Graduate Student Wellbeing Network

The Graduate Student Wellbeing Network is comprised of graduate students from departments across campus who meet on a volunteer basis to promote grad wellbeing. There are about 40 representatives who sign up per year and our goal is to maintain a democratic system to promote mental health and well being of grad students.

MOVER: Nathaniel Lim      SECONDER: Krish Maharaj

For (26): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, David Gill, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskiné Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisis, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Motion passes.

Motion to amend Motion 'E.b.i. Subletting of the GSS Loft Space' to come before approval of minutes

Mover: Natalie M.      Seconder: Amanda P.

Nathaniel L: I need motivation.

Natalie M: One of the stakeholders involved in this conversation can only attend for the next 20 minutes. So, I propose we talk about this now and proceed with seatings and approval of minutes immediately after.

Alyssa K: questions to Natalie if the Stakeholder is the Graduate Student Wellbeing Network.

Natalie M: Yes, the stakeholders are Grad Wellbeing Network.

Alyssa K: Nathaniel's original amendment is to move the AO recognition to come before the motion: Subletting of the GSS Loft Space, then, we may need to make a follow up amendment to move Nathaniel's amendment even further up so it comes before the motion that Natalie is trying to make.

Speaker: Clarifies that Section F.2.a. AO Recognition motion to come after Section B. Adoption of

Agenda and then the motion on Subletting GSS Loft Space follows.

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion:

Francisco G: Requests for a quick update from the senate before leaving at 6:30.

Speaker: Need a seconder to put it on the floor. Approved.

So, senate report now, AO, then the loft motion.

Discussion:

Bradley B: A quick notification that we'll be sending GSS councillors the Needs Assessment survey for GSS/AMS Referendum Committee.

Mover: Bradley Balaton

Seconder: Lisa Zhu

Approved.

Brief Summary of discussions regarding the sublease of the loft space.

From the HF:

- The Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention office is interested in renting out the front room of the GSS Loft.
- Pros: To be in support of this office and in prevention and intervention against sexual violence.
- Attain money over the 18-month period.
- Cons: Risk losing space, especially without a contract to sublease the space, it puts us in an awkward situation with the AMS.
- A time constraint; this group would like an answer by October and it's not enough time for us to come up with a contract.
- The goal of GSS is not to make money, but to serve graduate students and their wellbeing.
- Also, this loss of particular contract is only a small part of our financial budget of the year - the deficit can be made up easily.

From GSS:

- We need to consider the students who are not on campus; many of

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

them have reached out to us to get their voices heard.

- We need more capital to carry out projects which will benefit the graduate students as a whole, regardless of them being on campus or not.
- These constituencies have less access to resources, and more vulnerable than the rest of the graduate student population.
- Increased funding will not only allow the GSS to provide better services directly to students but also, it will allow us to advocate more effectively on their behalf
- Financial constraints hinder many of our efforts to support the graduate students at UBC. The mitigation and removal of these constraints will allow us to serve graduate students like never before.
- The spaces for off-campus students is very limited and we don't have enough funds to support them; they reach out to us with great initiatives that will benefit graduate students as a whole.
- With more funds, we can provide better mobility and ability to reach out to many student constituencies that we were not able to before.

From other council members:

- There is no clear provision whereby once this agreement is annulled, we'll be getting another space of our own.
- If we needed a lump sum for projects, we've got money reserved for those purposes
- it gives us ongoing value to Grad Students and it gives us a way to bargain with the AMS
- We've also offered the SAPI other spaces but they refused. They would still serve graduate students just as well even if they took a different space.
- The contract says we cannot, then we have to follow the contract.
- The pottery club will buy us enough time to come up with a new contract with AMS.
- No guarantee that all the revenue earned by subleasing will come to us.

The votes reflect that almost all of the councillors are in favour of not subleasing the loft space (with a few abstains). Consequently, no subleasing of GSS loft is allowed.

## C. Subletting of the GSS Loft Space

## D. Presentation (Jennifer Campbell) – House Finance Committee

**WHEREAS** the benefits of the GSS Loft Space were deemed greater than the potential revenue generated by that space,

**WHEREAS BIRT** the House Finance Committee does not recommend subletting the GSS Loft Space.

**BIRT GSS will not sublet the GSS Loft Space.**

Mover: Nathaniel Lim    Seconder: Taran Dhillon    Motion: Pass-6/ No-0/ Abstain-1

For (20): Rachele Benjamin, John Dupuis, David Gill, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Amanda Pisis, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Against (4): Teilhard Paradela, Bradley Balaton, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mdhrizi, Hanna Murray

Abstained: Taran Dhillon, Arezo M., Keskin Owusu Poku, Sebastien Rettie

## E. Introductions

## F. Approval of Minutes

**BIRT** the following minutes are approved as presented.

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:

a. *August 2017*

2. Committee minutes for approval:

a. *Services Committee: August 10, 2017.*

b. *Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee: August 2, September 18, 2017.*

c. *Academic & External Affairs Committee: September 29, October 13, October 31, November 29, 2016.*

Mover: Jennifer C.

Seconder: Amenda P.

For (20): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Amanda Pisis, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

**Minutes passed.**

*... Next page: Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society*

## G. Strategic [Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society](#): Presentations & Motions

### Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

*Vision: The GSS continually strives to improve its efficiency, transparency, accountability, and communication in order to better fulfill its Mission.*

#### 3. Matters to Note

##### a. See final section for written updates from:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| i. <i>President</i>   | vi. <i>Code &amp; Policy Committee</i> |
| ii. <i>Financial &amp; Executive Oversight Officer</i>      | vii. <i>Human Resources Committee</i>  |
| iii. <i>Executive Oversight Committee</i>                   | viii. <i>AMS Council</i>               |
| iv. <i>Governance &amp; Accountability ad hoc Committee</i> | ix. <i>Elections Committee</i>         |
| v. <i>House Finance Committee</i>                           | x. <b>Senate</b>                       |

##### b. Questions?

None: move forward

#### 4. Matters for Decision

##### a. **Seatings**

##### i. New Councillors

**BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:**

**Emily Leischner** to be seated as Departmental Representative for Anthropology.

**Katerina Othonos** to be seated as Departmental Representative for Neuroscience.

MOVER: Bradley B.

SECONDER: Christina W.

For (21): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Natalie Marshall, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Amanda Pisio, Shona Robinson, Anna Vozna, Lisa Zhu

Abstained: Sebastien Rettie

Motion passed.

## ii. Committee Seatings

*All GSS Councillors are expected to sit on at least one committee.*

Committees	Meeting Times
<p><b>ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE</b> The Academic and External Committee endeavours to promote the interests of graduate students within the University community and the society at large. The committee addresses academic matters, financial concerns and the political needs of graduate students.</p>	
<p><b>CODE AND POLICY COMMITTEE</b> The Code and Policy Committee is responsible for reviewing the GSS Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Manual. It collaborates with all other GSS committees, departments, and council to keep the bylaws and policies current. Up-to-date bylaws and policies reflect the will of the society and help the GSS run effectively. The Committee has just finished conducting a major revision of the Society bylaws, and are now in the process of updating the policy manual.</p>	Currently meets once a month. Regular schedule TBD
<p><b>ELECTIONS COMMITTEE</b> The Elections Committee is accountable for conducting annual Society elections.</p>	
<p><b>EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE</b> The Executive Oversight Committee is responsible for providing constructive performance review of elected GSS executive members, and for facilitating resolution of concerns about the functioning of the elected executive.</p>	Currently no meetings scheduled
<p><b>GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The Governance &amp; Accountability ad hoc Committee ensures that the GSS as an organization is as effective as possible by reviewing the GSS governance structure, and helps the Society support UBC grad students by creating accountability to the vision and goals within the GSS Strategic Plan. This year, our main goals are (1) to provide recommendations to restructure the GSS as an organization, and (2) to help all GSS committees create and accomplish goals aligned with the Strategic Plan.</p>	Every 2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:00-7:30pm
<p><b>GSS/AMS REFERENDUM AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee conducts a needs assessment on the AMS services that graduate students currently use, drafts proposals for how to proceed as a Society, and prepares for a related 2018 referendum.</p>	Every 2nd Wednesday evening from 6-10 pm during the school year
<p><b>HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The Harassment and Discrimination ad hoc committee has been struck to address the issue of harassment and discrimination which covers all aspects of graduate student life at UBC, including work as a Teaching Assistants, student-supervisor</p>	First Wednesday of each month, 3-8pm (we have long

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

relationships, and peer-to-peer interactions, etc. The committee conducts research about student experiences not only across Canada, but also worldwide. The findings will be used to develop a code of conduct.	working meetings at the moment)
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE The House Finance Committee works to ensure the financial stability and accountability of all Society operations. It is accountable for organizing the annual audit, preparing and monitoring the budget, and the creation of the annual business plan. In addition to all matters financial, the House Finance Committee is also responsible for overseeing the use of the physical facilities and equipment of the Graduate Student Centre, dealing with complaints and suggestions, and making recommendations to Council regarding the House and Rules, and the Venue Rental Policy.	TBD
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE The Human Resources Committee evaluates and reviews all coordinators and student staff, and provides regular reviews for the employee handbook of the Society. It is their responsibility to ensure all staffing needs are met.	Every Second Monday 5:30 PM
SERVICES COMMITTEE The Services Committee aims to provide diverse services to the UBC graduate student community through direct, face-to-face communication and interaction. Its main function is to plan programming and events that enhance the campus and community experience of UBC graduate students and their families.	Biweekly schedule alternating between Fridays at 4:30-6pm and Wednesdays at 5-6:30pm

**BIRT the following Seatings be approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as the AMS Council Representative (1 needed).

Speaker: Motivations or nominations?

Bradley B: We hold meetings every second Wednesday, we are similar to the GSS, but we deal with all the stuff that's related to all students on campus.

Natalie M: Part of the new format of the agenda was including the description of each committee so that we can save time by not presenting a description every time. So, if it's acceptable to the speaker, than I would like to propose that we do that.

Speaker: Accepted.

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

Alyssa K: I don't think we have a description yet for AMS council.

Speaker: Noted.

~~\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as Graduate Council Representatives. (5 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as Graduate Council Head Representative. (1 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).~~

David G: I nominate Amber Shieling.

Speaker: Amber does not accept that

~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Code and Policy Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).~~

**David Gill** to the Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

David G: I nominate myself.

Natalie: point of order, are you still a councillor?

David G: I am an AMS rep, therefore, a councillor.

~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Elections Committee as a Chair.~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Elections Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Elections Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).~~  
Any nominations for any of the following?

~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Executive Oversight Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an AMS Council Representative. (2 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as a Health & Dental Plan Committee Representative. (1 needed).~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as an~~

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).

**Jasleen Grewal** to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the House Finance Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the House Finance Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Human Resources Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Human Resources Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Services Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Services Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

MOVER: Nathaniel L.

SECONDER: Alyssa K.

For (21): Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Natalie Marshall, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskiné Owusu Poku, Amanda Pisis, Shona Robinson, Anna Vozna, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

## ~~b. Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:~~

### ~~Subletting of the GSS Loft Space~~

#### ~~i. Motion:~~

~~WHEREAS the benefits of the GSS Loft Space were deemed greater than the potential revenue generated by that space,~~

~~**BIRT** the House Finance Committee does not recommend subletting the GSS Loft Space.~~

~~Mover: Nathaniel Lim    Secunder: Taran Dhillon    Motion: Pass=6/ No=0/ Abstain=1~~

~~MOVER: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDER: \_\_\_\_\_ RESULT:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

... Next page: Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

## H. Strategic [Theme 2: Community](#): Presentations & Motions

### Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

*Vision: The GSS supports UBC graduate students by fostering a positive, inclusive, and connected community on and off-campus, and by actively supporting initiatives to improve health and well-being.*

#### 5. Matters to Note

##### a. See final section for written updates from:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| i. <i>VP Students</i>                              | <i>Committee</i>                     |
| ii. <i>Services Committee</i>                      | iv. <i>GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc</i> |
| iii. <i>Harassment &amp; Discrimination ad hoc</i> | <i>Committee</i>                     |

##### b. Questions:

Alyssa K: I really like your summary of all the events you had for orientation. Are you going to send out a survey for feedback to any of the students?

Arezoo M: we're going to send out a survey for any feedbacks through google doc. We welcome any feedbacks.

Amanda P: One question to services committee. What's the reasoning behind removing ability to use GSS funds to purchase alcohol?

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

John D: The University has a sort of unmet policy of not spending academic money on alcohol and we are trying to extend that.

Amanda P: How do you determine which AO are off campus?

Arezoo M: We are already aware of which ones are off campus or not. We have tonnes of AOs that have their students partly on campus and off-campus such as GrasPods. As a member of the Services Committee, I would like to mention that for event funds, we received applications to hold an orientation at a pub off campus to accommodate all students on and off campus. How the money will be distributed to them is also what we need to figure out from the committee. When the decisions/changes are made, we send them to CPC and they make the amendment in council. Also, I evaluate the AO events and approve them and how much money is delivered depends on the number of participants.

Bradley B: one of the reasons for alcohol was the liability; we can get sued if people get hurt.

Alyssa K: Are the changes to event fund is of consideration?

Arezoo M: Yes, we haven't started yet

Nathaniel L: When the Services Committee bring the framework, they get sent to CPC where we right up the rules behind which gets amended based on the policy manual and then requires a vote in council.

## 6. Matters for Decision

### ~~a. Affiliate Organization Recognition~~

#### ~~i. Motion:~~

~~WHEREAS the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization, therefore~~

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

- ~~• Graduate Student Wellbeing network~~

~~MOVER: \_\_\_\_\_nath\_\_\_\_\_SECONDER: \_\_\_\_\_krish\_\_\_\_\_RESULT:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

### b. Matter #2 Presentation/Topic Title:

None at this time.

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

- i. *Group responsible:* \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. presenter/committee)
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. *Proposed objective:* \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. adopt/ratify)
- v. *Relevant materials:* (i.e. links or filenames)
- vi. *Motion (standalone):*  
WHEREAS ...  
**BIRT** ...  
MOVER: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDER: \_\_\_\_\_ RESULT:  
\_\_\_\_\_

... Next page: Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

## I. Strategic **Theme 1: Academics**: Presentations & Motions

### Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

*Vision: The GSS empowers UBC graduate students to succeed in their academic endeavours by conducting data-driven advocacy.*

#### 7. Matters to Note

a. See final section for written updates from:

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| i. VP University & Academic Affairs        | iv. Graduate Council   |
| ii. VP External Relations                  | v. Senate              |
| iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee | vi. Board of Governors |

b. Questions?

Natalie M: I would like to thank everyone who submitted updates under the theme two category. Everyone in that category submitted their updates.

The updates on the agenda is to save time during council. If I don't see any updates for the upcoming councils, I will start asking questions to each individual committee for updates because I would like to see that progress is being made. This how we keep you guys accountable and also to see what the GSS is doing.

There's something here that talks to the September 4th meeting and how the lease on the Thea Koerner House is being discussed. Can anyone maybe talk about what's been discussed and what position this puts the GSS in?

Taran D: I recently met with BOGS and this issue was not brought up. If the council gives me a deadline, I can provide updates.

Speaker: Noted.

Alyssa K: Maybe provide in the Oct. Council?

Speaker: can propose a motion or trust that he will do it.

## 8. Matters for Decision

### a. *Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:*

- i. *Group responsible:* \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. presenter/committee)
- ii. *Presentation time: 10 minutes*
- iii. *Presentation description:* \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. *Proposed objective:* \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. inform/prepare for vote next month)
- v. *Relevant materials: (i.e. links or filenames)*
- vi. *Motion:*

... Next page: *Matters for Discussion*

## J. Matters for Discussion

### 9. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:

#### a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title: Logo Meeting Discussion**

- i. *Group responsible:* Hanna Murray / VP External Relations
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* holding a meeting for discussing GSS's new logo
- iv. *Proposed objective:* To discuss Council's interest in attending a meeting to discuss GSS's new logo.
- v. *Relevant materials:* None at this time.

Hanna M: I would like to offer councillors an opportunity to meet and talk about our logo. We'd like to see a more publically articulated logo. We'll circulate a sign up sheet and doodle pool.

Questions:

Krish M: can we submit designs to you?

Hanna M: Yes, only because I would like to see what they are like.

Taran D: As part of the reconciliation process, I am in conversation with the elders of Musquem and we cannot get the people to assign a logo for GSS.

Amber (p for Anna V): In the reconciliation of the past logo, had the apology and discussion gone forward or did that get lost in transition?

Speaker: you need to address the presenter.

Taran D: The previous GSS president, Gen, has been working on it and wanted to make sure she prepare well for reconciliation. We have prepared a letter and gift, and cheque. So, all the procedures have been completed. We are just waiting for approval from the president.

### 10. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

#### a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

- i. *Group responsible:* \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. presenter/committee)
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes

- iii. *Presentation description:* \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. *Proposed objective:* \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. inform/prepare for vote next month)
- v. *Relevant materials:* (i.e. links or filenames)

## 11. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

### a. **GSS x SUS Mentorship Program**

- i. *Group responsible:* GSS Faculty of Science Council representatives + UBC Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)
- ii. *Presentation time:* 5 minutes, by Natalie Marshall
- iii. *Presentation description:* The GSS is partnering with the SUS for a second year of a graduate + undergraduate mentorship program. Calling all grad students in sciences, this is a great opportunity to get involved, get mentorship experience (including formal training), and help the local undergrads by sharing your experience. Our kick-off event is Wed. Sept 27th @ 5:30pm (with dinner).
- iv. *Proposed objective:* Inform Departmental Representatives in the sciences, to spread the word to their departments.
- v. *Relevant materials:* More info: <http://sus.ubc.ca/mentorship/>

Christina, Yangfan and I are the Faculty of Science Reps. We are also a part of what we initiated two years ago; a collaboration with the science undergrads to come up with a mentorship program. This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of mentorship between undergraduate science students and grad students.

We're hoping to extend it to a tri-mentoring program to include science alumni, and people working in the field, but we are now focusing in a two way mentorship to share experiences about grad program and there are many perks of being a mentor: career karma, and there's going to be an alumni night networking event.

GSS reps insisted on professionally lead professional information workshops; if you want to develop your professional skills, you'll be trained as a mentor by someone in the UBC Centre for Student Careers. Also, you'll get chances to enhance CV, and connect with UBC alumni. We're looking for mentors to sign up as soon as possible as the kick off is Sept, 27th, which is next Wed at 5pm with dinner provided in the Ladha building. Many of your are departmental reps for sciences, so I am hoping you can tell your constituents to promote this opportunity. So, sign up before the 27th. We have 43 undergrads signed up, but only 13 mentors. Last year we had 100 grad students who signed up. You can mentor one or two students depending on your choice to supervise, and you won't be pressured to doing something that you don't want.

Atefeh S: I wanted to be more involved with it. There was a disconnection between mentee and mentor. Many mentors were not set up with a mentee. What are you doing to fix that?

Natalie M: I also had the same experience last year, we had 100 undergraduate students signed up. Mentors, Yangfan was pushing on what mentors want. And we're working on improving that, so give it a chance.

Nathaniel L: we can have the redirect set up for the mailing list or do we need to direct the email to the AA?

Natalie M: We can either forward that to Taran or the AA to have them distributed using the mailing list.

Alyssa: Are you also wanting for the mentors to sign up from the medicine in graduate programs?

Nat: Yes, we are marketing it as graduate students in sciences and you'd be of value guiding the undergrad students.

Nicholas R: Is it just sciences or applied sciences?

Christina W: If it's in the interest of undergrads to have mentors from applied sciences, then yes. Also, they seemed open to have art students to be mentors.

Speaker: We now have adjournment.

The link for the GSS-AMS Referendum Needs Assessment survey:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x85qer231YBvQRheAf9Stdubsxe-P2w5EXy-8ieGkmg/edit?usp=sharing>

## C. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:11 pm.  
MOVER: Shona R. SECONDER: Bradley B.

For (23): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Natalie Marshall, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskin

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

Owusu Poku, Amanda Pisis, Sebastien Rettie, Balsher Sidhu, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Motion passes.

## D. Notices

### 1. Notice of Next Meeting

- a. *Date:* October 19, 2017
- b. *Time:* 5:30 pm
- c. *Location:* Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Student Nest

### 2. Notice of Unseatings

**Meng Li and Sara Vazirian** to be unseated as Ordinary Members from the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

**Katerina Othonos** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Neuroscience.

**Anna Ringsred** to be unseated as Chair and Councillor of the Elections Committee.

**Anna Ringsred** to be unseated as Graduate Council Representative.

**Abhishek Kar** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability.

**Keskine Owusu Poku** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Public Policy and Global Affairs.

**Mackenzie Lockhart** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Political Science.

**Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Mining Engineering.

**Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Graduate Council Head Representative.

**Sara Vazirian** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Medicine.

**Paul Bucci** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Computer Science.

**Paul Bucci** to be unseated as Councillor of the Executive Oversight Committee.

**Souvik Ray** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Educational Studies.

**Dan Kehila** to be unseated as Representative of AMS/GSS Health and Dental Committee.

**Amanda Pisis, Anna Ringsred, Balsher Singh Sidhu, Natalie Marshall, Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Graduate Council Representatives.

**Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Graduate Council Head Representative.

**David Gill, Tamara Dudley** to be unseated as Ordinary Members of the Harassment & Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

**Jasleen Grewal** to be unseated as AMS Council Representative of the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee.

**Jasleen Grewal** to be unseated as AMS Council Representative.

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

**Jasleen Grewal** to be unseated as Councillor on the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

~~**Shona Robinson** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Applied Science.~~

**Shona Robinson** to be unseated as Councillor of the House Finance Committee.

**Sneha Balani** to be unseated as Ordinary Member of the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee.

~~**Pablo Silva** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences.~~

~~**Namrata Jain** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Chemistry.~~

### 3. GSS Updates (~100 words, sent in advance and included in the final agenda)

#### a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

i. President – Taran Dhillon

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ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer – Keskin Owusu Poku

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iii. Executive Oversight Committee – Keskin Owusu Poku

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iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee – Natalie Marshall

- Agenda Feedback: Tonight, the G&A Committee will be collecting feedback from Councillors on the new agenda template (before and during the meeting) and we will review feedback at our next meeting in order to make the new agenda as readable and effective as possible. Please provide your input! :)
- Councillor Training: We are reviewing the training process for new Councillors and committee chairs. So far, we have developed recommendations, including immediate, short-, and long-term changes. Good timing since we'll be seating GSS committees at October Council.
- GSS Governance: We are developing a Vision for GSS governance, which will come to Council to feedback in the next few months. From there, between then and the March AGM, we will develop an action plan to accomplish that vision, with internal consultation and external research. Our topics of focus are: student representation, oversight & accountability, efficiency + effectiveness, and membership engagement + communication.
- Next Steps: We will be preparing all GSS committees to make their annual goals around the strategic plan, and continuing to develop a Vision to guide recommendations to restructure the GSS for more effective governance. Also continuing all work mentioned above.

v. House Finance Committee – Jennifer Campbell

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

- Since last council meeting, HF has been discussing renting out GSS space to other departments and organizations. We have also been exploring additional sources of revenue from the AMS that we may be eligible for.
  - Meeting schedule: to be determined.
  - vi. Code & Policy Committee – Nathaniel Lim
    -
  - vii. Human Resources Committee – Arif Arif
    -
  - viii. AMS Council –
    -
  - ix. Elections Committee –
    -
- b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community
- i. VP Students – Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi
    - Orientation was successful; all of our events were sold out. This year, we put every event, even free ones, on Eventbrite to have a track of number of people attending. This helped tremendously with a successful organizing. Events were included:
      - ♦ **September 1st:** Campus tour (about 300 participants); MOA tour (100 people); BBQ (130 participants); Resource fair (about 200 participants); Boat cruise (195 students bought t it, and around 180 showed up) collectively GSS served around 900 students!
      - ♦ **September 8th:** 90 people participated speed friending. Overall, people liked it, and gave us feedback to make it shorter and hold it in an open area to reduce the noise
      - ♦ **September 10th:** Welcome to Grad Families @ Acadia. We caped for 20 at first, but 25 Kids showed up. Activities included: face painting, crafting balloon animals, and an entertainer, who entertained kids with lots of games. Some sweets were served
      - ♦ **September 11th:** Pancake breakfast, everybody loved it and thanked us!
      - ♦ **September 16th:** Dog Mountain Hike was held successfully with 86 people!
    - In next coming weekends, we have whale watching (Sep 23rd) and city tour (Sep 30th)
    - We are registering for Yoga, Zumba, and French class!
    - Next month events include: grad night out at the science world, Fraser valley wine tour
    - Off campus:
      - ♦ Last month, two volley ball set nets have been handed to GrasPods to rent it

## GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

to the GSS members, priority given to off campus students. Memorandum of understanding was used as a document for this process, which basically says those nets are GSS properties borrowed to GrasPods to make them available for off campus students. GrasPods needs to provide a renting calendar each semester to GSS to make it available on GSS website. GrasPods needs to develop measurements to protect the nets from damaging, stealing etc. However, tearing after 4-5 years are considered normal.

- ◆ \*\*\*For the first time, GSS yoga class is going to be held at off campus as well! That's happening with support of Louise Cowin, UBC VP students, and collaboration with UBC recreation office\*\*\*
  - ◆ When space challenge solved in early September, we realized that our French teacher doesn't have time this semester, otherwise we would be able to hold French class off campus. We will have French class for off campus, next semester!
  - **EventFund has been approved for:** iGSN, Land and Food Systems Graduate Student Association, Economics graduate student association, Pathology student association, Vancouver prostate center graduate student association, Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association
  - We run survey among our sport leagues' participants. We got a lot of positive feedback, besides, students asked for hiring professional referees, bringing down our prices, and some offers regarding changing the timing.
  - **Questions on the survey include:** 1. How was your experience? Did you get any value out of it? 2. Do you find these kind of programs, such as team sports, help improve mental health and the sense of community and belonging? If not, please suggest how the GSS can support student wellness and well-being better 3. Have you participated in any other sports league? If so, what do you think that league has that the GSS doesn't and vice versa? 4. Any feedback or suggestions for improvement on the sports league? 5. If we were to organize fall and winter sport leagues, what types of sports would you suggest? 6. Additional comments?
- ii. Services Committee – Matthew Gynn
- The services committee has reviewed orientation and overall the Fall orientation has been a success. We have made recommendations to improve “Speed Friending” for next year.
  - We are planning a “graduate student night out” for Halloween at Science World
  - We are discussing policy manual changes regarding the event fund. We want to prevent the event fund from being used to purchase alcohol. We also want to allocate 20% of the event fund for off-campus student groups.

- iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee – Katerina Othonos
  - Discussed our qualitative data analysis plan/key and ironed out some of our difficulties with the analysis.
  - Reviewed all survey edits and re-evaluated questions for the second version of the H&D survey.
  - Communicated with SEER and StudentCare regarding the survey and survey gifts.
    - A. We might have to send the survey out ourselves this year, so we will have to consider adding a demographics section.
    - B. StudentCare is very happy to help us out and provide prizes for our survey!
  - Had a meeting with the H&D task force and worked out a plan for the policy review for the H&D final report.
  - On-going till our next working meeting in September:
    - ◆ Finalize qualitative analysis and complete a first draft of qualitative analysis document
    - ◆ Continue working on the policy and literature review for the final report with the Task Force
    - ◆ Meet with SEER head to discuss the survey
    - ◆ Finalize the new survey and decide on specifics of how to send out the survey to students
    - ◆ Secure the prizes from StudentCare
- iv. GSS/AMS Referendum ad hoc Committee – Bradley Balaton
  - We are developing a survey to send out to determine how GSS members use and value AMS resources.
- c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics
  - i. VP University & Academic Affairs – Teilhard Paradela
    - On the GSS website. I have revised the pages on GSS Advocacy, GSS Representation, and GSS Sexual Assault Prevention and Education series, to reflect the current priorities of the Society.
    - On the GSS Advocacy Office. We have rehired Marjan Abdolahi as advocacy coordinator. And we are hiring a second advocacy coordinator in October, 2017.
    - On the graduate student residents of the Acadia Park. Upon the invitation of the president of the APRA, I set up a booth at their Welcome BBQ Party. In my various interactions of the residents, I learned more about the issues they have been confronting and explored possibilities of collaboration between the GSS and APRA.
  - ii. VP External Relations – Hanna Murray

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

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- iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee – Yahya Mohammadzadeh
- 
- iv. Graduate Council –
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- v. Senate – Francisco Gallegos
- 
- vi. Board of Governors – Jeanie Malone, Kevin Doering
  - The September Board meeting is currently being held, so we are in Kelowna – our regrets! Of relevance to the GSS: the Thea Koerner house lease will be discussed at this meeting.
  - If you are ever interested in discussing items on the BoG agenda, or interested in how to bring materials to BoG, please don't hesitate to contact Kevin or Jeanie.