

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS NEST | 5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Present:- Moutoshi Saha, Bradley balaton, Emily Murphy, Taran Dhillon, Darren Touch, John D., Sébastien Rettie, Erik Frieling, Lily Takeuchi, Gurjot Singh, Mohammad Chaudhry, Elham Abouei, Francisco Gallegos, Yangfan Zhang, Jennifer Campbell (proxy for Theresa Pauly) , Balshe Sidhu, Kiera Brant-Birioukov (proxy for Amber Shilling), Rachel Goossen, Nathaniel Lim, Christina Weismann (proxy for Madison Bolger-Munro), Amanda Tobias, Katerina Othonos, Alyssa Kirlin, Aishwarya Ramachandran, Peter M., Atefeh S., John Ede (proxy for Nicole So), Rahaf Al Assil, Ashenafi Alemu, Ariana Saatchi, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Hanna Murray, Arezoo A.,

Regrets:- Emily Leischner, Jun Sian Lee, Lisa Zhu, Megan Russell

Speaker of Council.: Dr. Conny Lin

Minutes taker: Sasha Sa

Grad Council Members: A. Aboye, B. Balaton, M. Bolger-Munro, A. Costa de Oliveira, R. Goossen, C. Gregoire, A. Kirlin, N. Lim, A. M., A. M.S, H. MacKay, E. Murphy, P. Musser, K. Othonos, E. Ottenbacher, K. Owusu Poku, T. Pauly, S. Rettie, A. Saatchi, G. Singh

Staff and Invited Guests: Ilana Marder-Eppstein (representing Seedlings)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mover: N. Lim **Second:** K. Owusu Poku

Approved by consensus	} That the Agenda be approved as circulated
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Motion Carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES : January 2018 Council meeting minutes

Mover: N. Lim **Second:** E. Murphy

Approved by consensus	} That the minutes from the January 11, 2018 meeting be approved as circulated
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Motion Carried.

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS NEST | 5:30 pm

3. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society: Presentations & Motions

1. Matters to Note

- C. Lin briefed council members on Matters to Note and opened the floor to questions.
- An update on the status of replacing the Communications Manager and Administrative Assistant was requested by A. Kirlin.
- T. Dhillon provided the update that two individuals have been interviewed for Communications Manager and the exit interview is in place for the administrative assistant. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

2. Matters for Decision:

a. Seatings

• New Councillors

- Ramachandran and N. Romualdi were seated as new councillors as Departmental Representative of Kinesiology and Departmental Representative of Materials Engineering, respectively.

Mover: T. Dhillon **Seconder:** N. Lim **Result:** Carried

Seating Approvals

- An amendment to the agenda was made to add the position of Ordinary Member for the Harassment and Discrimination Committee (1 needed).
- The following seatings were approved by consensus:
 - N. Romauldi to Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor
 - John Ede to Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member
 - Aisha R. to Harassment and Discrimination Committee as a Councillor
 - Gurjot S. to the House Finance Committee as a Councillor

Mover: T. Dhillon **Seconder:** N. Lim **Result:** Carried

- The following positions still require nominations:
 - Academic and External Affairs Committee as the Chair (1 needed)
 - Code and Policy Committee as an Ordinary Member (2 needed)
 - Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor (1 needed)

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS NEST | 5:30 pm

- Elections Committee as an Ordinary Member (1 needed)
- Elections Committee as a Councillor (1 needed)
- Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member (1 needed)
- Executive Oversight Committee as a Councillor (3 needed)
- Harassment and Discrimination Committee as an Ordinary member (1 needed)
- Human Resources Committee as a Councillor (1 needed)
- Services Committee as an Ordinary Member (0 needed)
- Services Committee as a Councillor (2 needed).
- AMS Council as the AMS Council Representative (1 needed)
- It was also noted that the 1 Councillor and 2 ordinary members needed on the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee only need to commit to a term until mid-March when the internal governance review will be completed and submitted.

b. Matter #1 Changing the date for the March Annual General Meeting and March Council meeting.

- The motion to move the date of GSS Annual General Meeting and GSS March Council meeting from March 15, 2018 to March 14, 2018 was passed.

Mover: T. Dhillon **Secunder:** N. Lim **Result:** Carried

- An issue concerning the council meeting was brought to attention that the council meeting may need to be first suspended then moved as per the Bylaws.

Commented [SS1]: This is the gist of what I understood, but as I'm not familiar with the bylaws or some of the items people were referring to, I could be quite wrong about what was being discussed here.

c. Matter #2 Presentation on the GSS Executive Elections 2018

- R. Goossen presented on behalf of the Elections Committee calling for GSS members to please advertise the election to their respective departments. Posters are available for this purpose.
- Nominations are accepted until February 23, 2018 at 4 PM.
- Information and updates on current nominees are not available.
- It was clarified that the Elections Committee will decide independently on deadlines and extensions for empty positions.

d. Matter #3 Presentation on CPhyGS Career Night

- GSS Councillor, A. Samani, presented on the CPhyGS Career Night taking place on March 8, 2018 at 4 PM. The event is targeted towards students in science and medical sciences. One-hour workshops will take place between 4-5 PM. Photographers will be onsite to take LinkedIn

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS NEST | 5:30 pm

headshots. This is not a dry event. Tickets go on sale February 26, 2018 and more information can be found online at www.cphygs.weebly.com

4. Strategic Theme 2: Community: Presentations & Motions

- **Matters to Note**
 - No questions were brought up regarding written updates
- **Matters of Decision: Affiliate Organization Recognition**
 - An amendment to the agenda was made changing the end date of recognition as an Affiliate Organization from January 2019 to February 2019.
 - The Equity and Inclusion Group in the Department of Physics and Astronomy was introduced to the GSS Council by A. Mehrizi. Its mission is to address issues and challenges surrounding equity and inclusion and offer support and a sense of community for women and minority groups within PHAS. The PHAS Equity and Inclusion Group is also applying to for funding from the GSS Equity Fund. The PHAS Equity and Inclusion Group may consider expanding beyond PHAS in the future and work with other AOs within the GSS.
 - The GSS recognized its role in facilitating contact between AOs and the challenges, such as not being able to distribute or share emails amongst the AOs.
 - The motion to recognize the PHAS Equity and Inclusion Group as an Affiliate Organization was passed.

Mover: A. Mehrizi **Seconder:** A. Kirlin **Result:** Carried

- **Matters for Discussion**

- a. **Matter #1 Presentation by Seedlings**

- I. Marder-Eppstein presented on Seedlings and their contract renewal proposal. It was brought to the Council's attention that Seedlings' contract for the penthouse space in Koerner House is coming to an end.
 - Seedlings seeks to renew their contract for 2 more years.
 - Movement was passed for House Finance Committee to consider the new contract with Seedlings for 2 academic years and report back to the Council accordingly.

Mover: N. Lim **Seconder:** K. Othonos **Result:** Carried

- A discussion ensued on whether this matter should have been brought to HF for a decision first before presenting at the GSS Council Meeting. It was determined that this would have been the proper course of action however, there was merit in bringing this presentation to the GSS Council so that everyone could recognize it as a worthwhile matter to pursue.

- b. **Matter #2 GSA Dinner 2018**

Commented [SS2]: Couldn't see the name from where I was sitting, but this was the Mover on the agenda.

Commented [SS3]: This is what I heard, but maybe I'm wrong? Was struggling a bit to keep up with all the speakers at this point.

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS NEST | 5:30 pm

- Arezoo R., VP Students, presented on the Graduate Student Association Dinner taking place February 19, 2018. It will be an opportunity for student leaders to network with each other as well as UBC administrators.

5. Strategic Theme 1: Academics: Presentations & Motions

- **Matters to Note:**
 - No questions
- **Matters for Discussion**
 - **Senate Report**
 - F. Gallegos, Graduate Student Senator, presented updates on what the Senate and committees are working on.
 - A graduate student was nominated to the Ad hoc Committee on Diversity.
 - The Budget Committee has determined the university has a healthy budget with the discretionary budget in the positive.
 - Tuition consultations are continuing with the goal of knowing exactly what students think about tuition hikes and international student fees.
 - The Academic Committee will soon release a Syllabus Policy which will state that every student has the right to receive a syllabus with goals and expectations for each course.
 - The Chair of the Academic Committee would like input from the GSS on the possibility of implementing a Fall Break.
 - GSS Councillors discussed how and if a Fall Break would benefit graduate students and questioned if there were any statistics on what percentage of students would be positively affected by this break or take advantage of it. A general consensus was reached that the break would likely be more beneficial for graduate students in the Arts than those in research-based science programs.

6. Matter of Discussion: Bylaw Amendment Recommendation to be voted in the AGM

- N. Lim proposed an amendment to the language in Bylaw 8.5.2.E.1 and the creation of a new Bylaw 8.5.2.E.II to legally allow for the Speaker of Council to act as Chair of Meetings of Council. These changes are to be voted on at the GSS AGM. N. Lim and B. Balaton pointed out that the changes are already in practice but are not written into the Bylaws.
- Council was called to question by C. Lin, seconded by N. Lim, and passed by 2/3 vote indicating the matter will be included on the AGM agenda.

Commented [SS4]: Not sure if I wrote this out correctly...

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS NEST | 5:30 pm

7. Matter #4 - AGM Agenda Item Recommendation – Governance and Accountability Standing Committee

- N. Lim proposed a motion to be considered and approved at the AGM for the creation of a standing committee “Governance and Accountability Committee” (currently an Ad hoc Committee).
- Several issues concerning the roles and responsibilities of the Governance and Accountability Committee were discussed with the primary concern centering on Point 7 in the terms which stated that the G&A Committee “Act as a backup for the executive review process.”
 - Concern was expressed by council members that this clause would enable the G&A Committee to interfere with the Executive Oversight Committee whose role is to carry out the executive review process.
 - The current G&A Ad hoc Committee clarified that the G&A Standing Committee would not touch the executive review process if the EOC is functional and carrying out their duties; it would only be in the scenario where the EOC is non-functional or non-existent that the G&A Committee would take over the executive review process.
- Ultimately, after a call to question (Mover: N. Romauldi; Seconder: A. Kirilin; 2/3 vote passed), Point 7 was removed from the terms of the proposed motion and Council voted for this motion to be included and considered for approval at the AGM.

8. Matter #5 - Bylaw Amendment Recommendation – Committees of Society

- N. Lim explained to Council the nature of these Bylaw amendments as an omnibus amendment which would replace Bylaw 9 in its entirety.
- Several small corrections were made to the terms of Bylaw 9 in the agenda.
- A motion was passed for the adoption the language of the amendment as presented
Mover: N. Lim Seconder: N. Romauldi Result: Carried
- Council passed a vote to include this motion on the AGM agenda.

9. Next meeting will be on March 14, 2018 at 5:30 PM in the Multi Purpose room at the Liu Institute

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM

Mover: K. Othonos Seconder: B. Balaton Result: Carried