

# GSS Council Meeting Notes

April 19, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum | Time: 5:30 Pm

## A. Attendance

**Present:** Alexa Tanner, Alyssa Kirlin, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Arash Shadkam, Ashenafi Alemu, Arezoo Mehrizi, Atefeh Mohammad Vali, Chen Chen, Bradley Balaton, Christina Wiesmann, Emily Murphy, Emily Ottenbacher, Erik Frieling, Gurjot Singh, Hanna Murray, Jakob Gattinger, Jeanie Malone, John Dupuis, Jun Sian Lee, Keskine Owusu Poku, Lisa Zhu, Madison Bolger-Munro, Megan Russell, Moutoshi Saha, Nathaniel Lim, Nicolas Romualdi, Peter Musser, Phil Angel, Pouya Rezaeinia, Rachel Goossen, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Sara Izadinajafabadi, Sarah-Nelle Jackson, Sumreen Javed, Taran Dhillon, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Yangfan Zhang, Zoe Lam,

**Regrets:** Aishwarya Ramachandra, Amber Shilling, Ariana Saatchi, Emily Leischner, Katherina Othonos, Sebastien Rettie,

**Absent:** Amanda Costa de Oliveira, Balsher Sidhu, Darren Touch, Elham Abouei, Kelsey Yamasaki, Lily Takuchi, Mohammad Chaudry, Nicole So,

**Quorum:** 17 Councillors

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 5.31pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Nathaniel Lim, SECONDER: Taran Dhillon

RESULT: Approved

## C. Introductions

## D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:

a. **Speaker:** There are no minutes for the March-meeting. I was responsible and will submit them later.

2. Committee minutes for approval:

a. Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee (March 12, 2018)

b. Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee (Nov 1, 2017, Dec 6th 2017, January 10th 2018)

c. Services Committee (Feb 19, 2018, March 5, 2018)

d. House Finance Committee (11 Dec, 2017, 15 Jan 2018, 21 Feb 2018)

MOVER: Alyssa Kirlin, SECONDER: Bradley Balaton

For (18): Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Rachel Goossen, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Eric Ottenbacher, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi,

Gurjot Singh, Lisa Zhu;  
Abstained (1): Nathaniel Lim

## E. 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.*

#### 1. Matters to Note

a. See final section for written updates from:

i. *President*

ii. *Financial & Executive Oversight  
Officer*

iii. *Executive Oversight Committee*

iv. *Governance & Accountability ad  
hoc Committee*

b. Questions? No questions.

v. *House Finance Committee*

vi. *Code & Policy Committee*

vii. *Human Resources Committee*

viii. *AMS Council*

ix. *Elections Committee*

x. *Senate*

#### c. **Presentation Title: GSS Executive End of Term Review**

i. *Proposed objective*: This is to fulfill the mandate of the Executive Oversight Committee to conduct scheduled progress reviews on the GSS Executives and report to Council at the next meeting following the conclusion of the review process.

ii. *Group Responsible*: GSS Executive Oversight Committee (Keskine Owusu Poku, Alyssa Kirlin, Jennifer Campbell, Lily Takeuchi)

iii. *Presentation time*: 20 minutes

iv. *Presentation description*: To give a summary of the Executives' progress and accomplishments related to their goals for the past year, and other findings from our review process.

v. *Relevant materials*: See .pdf (file to follow) for a report containing more thorough details than we can address during the presentation.

#### **Discussion:**

**Rachel**: How is best to send feedback?

**Presenter**: Direct it to the FEOO

**Nicolas**: How are we to address the dysfunction of EOC with Keskine stepping down? How will you keep the good results of VP students – currently, results are person-dependent?

**Presenter**: Maybe one member of the Committee can step up as an interim chair, while

we find a new FEOO. I can't really say how we can address the continued success of VP students.

**Arezoo:** I can share concrete steps and train my successor well. Pouya will shadow me.

**Nathaniel:** Question for Taran – what is our progress on getting a new Communications Manager?

**Taran:** There is a new Communications Manager since two months and we have a new Admin Assistant. We are waiting to hire a new General Manager.

**Arezoo:** I want to make a comment: the deadlines for progress reports were not met by the Execs because the requests for reports were sent with two–three days notice during the busiest time for students. My suggestion is to make a timeline, a calendar, so the new Execs know when to send their reports.

**Presenter:** Our deadlines were a bit short, but not too much. Please, if the Execs are unable to meet deadlines, they should respond and say why and when they expect to meet them.

**Keskine:** The email was sent out on 21<sup>st</sup> and Taran responded first – on the 28<sup>th</sup> ... I think that the short notice is not the problem, there is a bigger problem behind it.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Seating**

i. New Councillors

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

Sarah Nelle Jackson to be seated as Departmental Representative of the English Language and Literature Department.

Rochelle Sumampong- Heavens to be seated as Departmental Representative of the School of Nursing.

Cristina Rubino to be seated as Departmental Representative of Rehabilitation Sciences.

MOVER: Taran Dhillon, SECONDER: Alyssa Kirlin

RESULT:

For (25): Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger–Munro, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling , Rachel Goossen, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Moutoshi Saha, Gurjot Singh, Anna–Catharina Wilhelm, Lisa Zhu  
Against (1): Yangfan Zhang

**BIRT the following Seatings be approved:**

Teilhard Paradela to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as the Chair effective as of May 1, 2018.

Teilhard Paradela to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as an Ordinary Member effective as of May 1, 2018.

Sarah-Nelle Jackson to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as the Councillor.

Madison Bolger-Munro to the Governance & Accountability ad-hoc Committee as Councillor.

Anna-Catharina Wilhelm to the Governance & Accountability ad-hoc Committee as Councillor.

Jun Sian Lee to the GSS AMS referendum ad-hoc Committee as Councillor.

Arash Shadkam to the AMS Council as the AMS Council Representative.

MOVER: Sarah-Nelle Jackson, SECONDER: Nathaniel Lim

RESULT: For 23, against 0, abstain 0

For (23): Phil Angel, Madison Bolger-Munro, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Moutoshi Saha, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

b. Matter of Decision #1

**WHEREAS** the GSS elections were conducted from March 19-23 with 3.7% graduate student turnout (376 of 10099 electors).

**WHEREAS** the election results were the following:

President: John Ede 150 Votes (47.3%); Rahaf Al Assil 142 votes (44.8%); Vice-President, University and Academic Affairs: Sara Izadi-Najafabadi 272 (93.5%); VP External Relations: Gurjot Singh 157 votes (54.0%), Carlos Salinas 120 (41.2%); VP Students: Pouya Rezaeinia 254 (91.0%);

Senate (2 seats): Alexa Tanner 186 (40.7%), Amber Shilling 171 (37.4%), Hossein Piri 91 (19.9%);

**BIRT** that the GSS ratify these results and accept the following members as GSS Executives: John Ede as President, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi as VP University and Academic Affairs, Gurjot Singh as VP External Relations, Pouya Rezaeinia as VP Students; and Alexa Tanner and Amber Shilling as GSS Senators; for term of May 2018- April 2019.

MOVER: Taran Dhillon SECONDER: Emily Murphy

RESULT: For - all

## Discussion:

**Nathaniel:** I would like to thank all of the outgoing Execs for their good job this year. Another note on AGM turnout for voting – according to the Bylaws, there is no quorum for voting; elections are valid even if there is only one vote, but still this is the lowest turnout ever ... it is a little worrying.

**Alyssa:** We have to look at the timing of GSS elections relative to the AMS elections – I will be interested to know if the other bodies had a decrease in turnout for elections.

**Bradley:** I would like to re-direct this question to Jacob

**Jacob:** The AMS had a record voter turnout

**Nicolas:** Question to you and Nathaniel – should we do something about the turnout?

**Nathaniel:** To keep it simple you could add a bylaw, but for me it will be redundant and it may contravene BC Societies' Act. It's a decision for the Council.

**Taran:** I have a general comment. Let's wait for the Report by the Elections Committee and then decide about the AGM. Also, we lost our Communications Manager in January, which was 3-4 weeks before the elections.

**Nicolas:** I move to amend the text as follows. The rationale is that under BC's Societies' Act, we are the Board of Directors, so if we vote the decision is valid

**BIRT** that the GSS **Council in their role of Board of Directors of the GSS** ratify these results and accept the following members as GSS Executives: John Ede as President, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi as VP University and Academic Affairs, Gurjot Singh as VP External Relations, Pouya Rezaeinia as VP Students; and Alexa Tanner and Amber Shilling as GSS Senators; for term of May 2018- April 2019.

MOVER: Nicolas Romualdi, SECONDER: Teailhard Paradela

RESULT: 26 for, against 1, abstain 1

For (26): Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, John Dupuis, Eric Fieling, Rachel Goossen, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Moutoshi Saha, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Against (1): Taran Dhillon

Abstained: Atefeh M.S

**Alyssa K.** Let's applaud the outgoing execs

c. Matter of Decision #2 MBAN Society fee implementation

**WHEREAS**, the Master of Business Analytics is a new program at UBC, which began in Sept 2017),

**WHEREAS**, the Master of Business Analytics (MBAN) Society is the recognized Departmental Organization for graduate students in the Master of Business Analytics program at UBC since November 2017,

**WHEREAS**, the Masters of Business Analytics society undertook a vote referendum at Robert H. Lee Graduate School to increase the **MBAN's** yearly student fees by \$250.00 beginning no earlier than September 2018 in support of the MBAN's activities and events for Master of Business Analytics Students on March 8th, 2018.

([copy of the referendum question](#) attached)

**WHEREAS**, out of the total eligible voters who cast ballots, 22 voted YES and 10 voted NO; total 32 votes (91% of eligible voters)

BIRT the Council, pursuant to the University Act and the GSS Bylaws, give notice to the University Board of Governors to implement a \$250.00 fee increase for graduate students in the Master of Business Analytics program starting no earlier than September 2018, and that the President send this notice to the Board of Governors; and

BIFRT the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver shall collect the aforementioned fee on behalf of the MBAN and transfer the amount received to the aforementioned group.

### **Discussion:**

**Chen Chen:** This is a newly established master program and we have no society fee to support our work ... so if this is passed I will be very appreciative for the efforts.

**Alyssa:** I would like to clarify this is a fee that the students want and the GSS will simply collect on their behalf

**Speaker:** This is correct

**Nathaniel:** Motion to amend – the third clause ... “insert MBAN in between early and student”

**Peter:** Is there a reason why the GSS is serving as an intermediary for fees?

**Speaker:** It is the rule

**Atefeh:** Can the students, who voted ‘no’ on the motion, get an exemption from paying the fees?

**Chen Chen:** The objective is to collect fees from every student because activities are based on the whole cohort ... it is profitable to collect fees from all students

**Taran:** This fee is collected within the tuition, it is a way to collect money from the students and give back to the students

**Theresa:** Is it an increase for this year or for all years?

**Chen Chen:** There is a permanent increase starting with next cohort.

**Atefeh:** There is an increase of \$250 per year

**Chen Chen:** The program is just one year

**Nicolas:** What's the fee for students?

**Chen Chen:** \$50 000 for international students, \$38 000 for domestic

**Peter:** Archives Studies has a budget of \$4000 and you will have about \$6000. What are you planning to do with this money?

**Chen Chen:** We have two year-end events and we have events with MR and MBA

**Atefeh:** Ask Keskiné's opinion on the increase.

**Keskiné:** I pay \$69 000 ... so if someone is paying \$50 000. But I believe they voted and if they voted, who am I to say?

**Speaker:** If the Board of Governors passed it, we can't really say no.

MOVER: Taran Dhillon, SECONDER: Nicolas Roumualdi

RESULT: For (27): Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskiné Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Moutoshi Saha, Gurjot Singh, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Against (1): Ashenafi Aboye

Abstained: Atefeh M.S

d. Matter of Decision #3 Resignation of the FEOO

**Whereas**, Article 8.1.1(e) of the GSS bylaws provides that the GSS must have a Finance and Executive Oversight Officer,

Where as Article 8.5.6 of the bylaws envision that the position of the Finance and Executive Oversight Office shouldn't be vacant at any point in time,

**Whereas**, the current FEOO will graduate on May 24 and will be relocating to Ghana on June 25, 2018,

**Whereas**, 8.4.1 of the GSS bylaws provides for resignation of an executive officer and the processes of replacing same,

I'm sorry to bring to the attention of Council that I will be resigning on June 22, 2018.

**BIRT** that Council accepts the FEOO's notice of resignation.

**BIRT** Council will elect an interim FEOO in May.

MOVER: Keskiné Owusu Poku, SECONDER: Arezoo M.

### **Discussion:**

**Keskiné:** This has been a difficult decision, but I had to find a balance between academics, family and politics – and this has been the best decision. I hope that Council will elect an interim by May so I can train the person.

**Bradley:** When does Keskiné's term normally end?

**Keskiné:** August 31<sup>st</sup>

**Peter:** Is it feasible to elect a permanent FMOO with a 14 month term as opposed to an interim with 2 month term?

**Keskiné:** It is like the president's term – can't change it.

**Nathaniel:** Bylaws 8.4.2. – in case of prolonged absence we need a temporary officer. If we choose otherwise, we need the opinion of the Elections Committee.

**Speaker:** So the vote is to accept Keskiné's resignation and elect another officer in May.

## **Result:**

**For (24):** Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskiné Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

**Against (1):** Taran Dhillon

**Nathaniel:** A point of information – do we have to define when the term of the new officer begins or is it already implied in the motion?

**Taran:** In the Bylaws – the term automatically ends in August and the new term begins on the final day

**Speaker:** Add the term on "effective day"

## 3. Matters for Discussion

### a. **Matter #1 for Discussion**

The second phase of the Koerner Library Project will not go ahead. This space was meant to be developed into a Graduate Student specific space and the library planning team called it Koerner Library Project 4/5. The first phase which includes 3 of the 4 wings will go ahead.

The Provost of UBC delivered the message to the Library executive team that the space for the second phase will be assigned to the Vice President Research and Innovation.

This is disappointing news for grad students who have been planning this jointly with the team of UBC Library for almost a year now.

**Arash:** This is a unilateral decision by the Provost that they need the space for VP Research and Innovation. The good news is that they will be looking for other spaces, maybe even better spaces, to build us a quiet study room.

**Alyssa:** Is there something to discuss or is this just a matter to note?



**Taran:** Discussion is how graduate students feel about it, so that we can convey our feelings to others and to the Provost ... we want your feedback, so we can convey it.

**Nicolas:** Are graduate students aware of this project? Did UBC throw this into our lap? Or is this something that we want because it came out of a graduate student survey?

**Taran:** This is the result of years of lobbying from the previous executives ... this space is promised by UBC and this is why it is important. It is also linked to a very controversial issue.

**Atefeh:** Is this contingent on us not renting out our space to the Sauder School of Business?

**Taran:** It is not linked to it.

**Teil:** What would happen with the feedback to the consultations with students? They knew that the project was not happening, but they still carried out a series of consultations. Did they inform students that they are not proceeding with this project?

**Arash:** There were lots of focus groups – the purpose was to see what graduate students need and want, but I am not sure whether they will inform people that the project will not proceed. They need the feedback for their future promised project.

**Nathaniel:** Question to Taran – should Council issue an official position?

**Taran:** Yes.

**Peter:** Libraries are becoming more community places than places for books ... I think this is stupid – how dare they take us from us? It is very unfortunate. I recommend to the incoming VP UAA to lobby for compensation. It will be nice to have more spaces on campus that are centrally located for events.

**Arash:** I want to bring it to your attention because if they don't hear from us their promises will never materialize. The community space is needed and we don't know how to bring it to their attention – it is GSS' responsibility to do it.

**Megan:** This is very advanced – do you know much money were spent on planning and implementation?

**Arash:** No information

**Keskine:** They backed out of their promise. We should write to them officially demanding an explanation – otherwise we can forget other promises

**Lisa:** Question for Arash – do you know what they want to do? What do they want to focus on?

**Arash:** Phase 1 – for corridor or corners – exclusive grad space and phase 2 – vp research and information, so they are moving phase 2 to phase 1. Research commons for all students, and there will not be an exclusive grad space

**Lisa:** Research commons are for everybody

**Sarah:** The current VP of research and innovations has said that she wants to improve the environment for research, so a clear statement from her why this, and not a dedicated research space, will facilitate an improved environment may be nice

**Bradley:** Why do grad students need a dedicated research space and should exclude

undergrads is unclear.

**Alyssa:** My proposal is to task VP Academic and AcEx to make a recommendation to Council and explore the drafting of a position statement by May's meeting, and be the lobbying force to the university on this topic. A response is warranted.

**Arezoo:** UBC creates spaces for master students each year because they do not have offices, they do not have an appropriate location to go and study in

**Teil:** The incoming VP Academic is to write directly to the Provost and ask for recommendations

**Alyssa:** The President and VP academic is to draft a letter to the UBC Provost asking for an explanation and providing graduate students' perspectives before May Council. BIRT the VP Academic and AcEx Committee be tasked with a longer term assessment of the use of graduate students' study space on campus, and prepare a position statement on the matter.

MOVER: Alyssa Kirlin, SECONDER: Nathaniel Lim

**Nicolas:** Please, remove the word "incoming" and get this done before the terms of the current Execs are over.

MOVER: Nicolas Romualdi, SECONDER: Taran Dhillon

**Alyssa:** don't see the difference between incoming and current ...

**Taran:** There is no difference between incoming and outgoing ... we are in the process of writing and we will keep on working on it.

**Nicolas:** I call to question

**Speaker:** Need to pass with 2/3 of votes – motion passed, go into question

Call to Question:

For (20): Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Sarah-Nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Teilhard Paradela, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion Amendment

For (22): Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskiné Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Gurjot Singh, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

## Call to Question:

For (18): Ashenafi Aboye, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger–Munro, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Rachel Goossen, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Teilhard Paradela, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Gurjot Singh, Rochelle Sumampong–Heavens, Anna–Catharina Wilhelm

Against (2): Peter Musser, Keskine Owusu Poku

Abstained: Lisa Zhu

## Acex Space

For (21): Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger–Munro, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Rachel Goossen, Sarah–nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Rochelle Sumampong–Heavens, Anna–Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Against (1): Bradley Balaton

**Peter:** The dedicated space for grad students is necessary by virtue of the different needs of grads and undergrads and the absence of a space speaks to the needs of grad students, so this is a need

**Nathaniel:** I suggest a straw poll to capture whether members are disappointed by what we are seeing right now or maybe people are ambivalent or against it

Straw poll: As a rep of your department are you a) disappointed by this event; b) neutral or c) perfectly fine with it; d) abstention

**Nicolas:** We just tasked the committee to work on this – what is the point of a straw poll

**Nathaniel:** Information for the committee

Poll – How do you feel about the taking away of our graduate study space as a departmental representative?

A. disappointed

B. neutral

C. fine

D. Asbtain

– “Disappointed” wins.

## b. Matter #2 for Discussion

Since GSS needs to transition to The New Societies Act by Nov. 28th 2018, changes to the Constitution and, more importantly, the Bylaws need to be implemented. Would you please review [the link](#) and suggest how to go forward with the transition? Thank

you!

**Discussion:**

**Hanna:** Capilano's Student Association did it themselves – maybe their ED will help us out for a nominal fee.

**Lisa:** Does the law school have a student legal clinic?

**Taran:** I contacted them and am expecting news.

**Keskine:** This is what I was going to propose and we have the lawyer

**Bradley:** Why is it taking us so long? AMS did it.

**Nathaniel:** This is more information – we need a special general meeting or a referendum so that this can pass.

**Bradley:** Compare it with the referendum of AMS.

**Nathaniel:** Madame Speaker has experience on this topic.

**Speaker:** This process is not trivial, AMS did it. We need a team and legal council. November is coming and we have to pass through a referendum.

**F. 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.*

1. Matters to Note
  - a. See final section for written updates from:
    - i. *VP Students* *hoc Committee*
    - ii. *Services Committee* *iv. GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc*
    - iii. *Harassment & Discrimination ad* *Committee*
  - b. Questions

**Arezoo:** I want to apologize that I have not provided any updates on the work of our committee. We had two events with the Wellness Center and another for families. All went well. The End of the Year party is coming up in the first week of May. We are expecting about 100 students. Off-campus – we had meetings with the faculty of medicine.

**2. Matters for Decision-**

**Think Grad Presentation: Whereas** the membership year for ThinkGRAD begins on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at the Annual General Meeting hosted by the UBC Graduate Student Society,

**Whereas** as a part of the growth of the organization, ThinkGRAD will begin to institute fees (totalling \$1,600 for the UBC Graduate Student Society),

**Whereas** the Academic and External Affairs Committee sees value in continuing membership in ThinkGRAD in endeavours such as:

- Establishing connections with other graduate student associations (GSAs);
- Providing networking and idea generation through the sharing of best practices;
- Production of collaborative research;
- Strengthening current advocacy efforts by federal/provincial groups through providing policy suggestions on graduate-specific issues;
- Providing access to a database with information specific to GSAs, aiding in our own efforts to make our organization more efficient.

**BIRT** the GSS Council formally endorse membership in ThinkGRAD for the 2018-2019 membership year.

### **Discussion:**

**Nathaniel:** Does Thinkgrad have a web-site and a budget?

**Hanna:** The web-site will be done by next week, there is a budget, but I don't know if I should share it

**Nicolas:** A comment – if you are concerned about \$1600 consider that think grad can actually represent our interests and we are already paying a lot more to Casa, \$30k+

**Alyssa:** Where will the money be coming from?

**Keskine:** It has to go through HF ... we have \$9000 in charges and if Casa is not bringing us what we need why not step out

**Taran:** Hanna, you invited the chair of Casa a few months ago ... so what are you advocating for now?

**Hanna:** I see value in Casa, but it is a big cost. Currently Casa has only 2 members – UBC and ABCS ... I struggle

**Nathaniel:** Only 2 in Casa and only us in ABCS, so why are graduate student associations not members of such associations?

**Rachel:** How are the fees determined? Where are the fees going to?

**Hanna:** The staff and partnerships and advertising

**Teil:** ABCS has done a lot for us and it is worth being in the ABCS

**Arezoo:** How will ThinkGrad advocate on provincial level if its members are not from BC?

**Hanna:** It is useful as a benchmark

**Arezoo:** Is Thinkgrad enough?

**Hanna:** We stay with ABCS

**Alyssa:** Hanna recommends that we review Casa membership and we will recommend

it to new VP

**Hanna:** It is in my report, in the 'Things to Consider' section

**Taran:** The previous financial officer recommended that we review our membership in Casa. Why now?

**Hanna:** It has taken me a few conferences to understand what Casa is ... this is about Thinkgrad and not Casa.

**Nicolas:** I want to add to the motion that we add a cost-benefit analysis of our membership with each of the associations.

**Hanna:** This could be a separate motion

**Nathaniel:** Let's move into the motion itself

MOVER: Atefeh M.S., SECONDER: Bradley Balaton

RESULT: For (17): Ashenafi Aboye, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Rachel Goossen, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskin Owusu Poku, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Gurjot Singh, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens

Abstained: Taran Dhillon, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

**Nicolas:** The governance committee of another student organization will be reviewing ThinkGrad's progress

**Keskin:** How will another student body, SFU's student organization for instance, assess our student body? I believe ThinkGrad has something to offer.

**Speaker:** The next budget will be approved in July, so it can be passed then.

As the motion currently stands we are endorsing the membership and not saying whether we will pay the fee or not.

## Affiliate Organization Recognition

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 April 2019:

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

## G. 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.*

1. 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    | vi. Board of Governors |

*Committee*

b. Questions?

## H. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting

a. *Date:* May 17, 2018

b. *Time:* 5:30 pm

c. *Location:* Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest, UBC Vancouver

2. Notice of Unseatings

Claire Gregoire to be unseated as Councillor for Mechanical Engineering.

Nandinee Haq to be unseated as Councillor for Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Heather MacKay to be unseated as Councillor for Forestry.

Anna Vozna to be unseated as Councillor for Language and Literacy Education.

Natalie Marshall to be unseated as ordinary member from the Executive Oversight Committee.

Darren Touch to be unseated as the councillor from the code and policy committee.

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

a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

i. **President:**

AMS GSS Health Plan – As requested during the AGM held in March this year. Please find the details about the AM/ GSS Health and Dental reserves. The details were provided by the AMS Managing Director Keith. The current balance on the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Reserve is \$3,015,309.23, that's as at March 31, 2018.

The payment for Empower Me had not yet gone through.

## AMS-GSS Caucus

GSS and AMS have both passed their Health and Dental Plan price increases. AMS council will meet at the end of April for turnover. We need new GSS members to join for next year.

**Naomi Schatz**, Community Animation Advisor, Centre for Community Engaged Learning submitted the final report to the BC government as part of the call for submissions to inform a provincial poverty reduction strategy. The team that synthesized all the discussion notes and flip charts in this report, was made up of 4 UBC graduate students. As for next steps, there are opportunities for students to get involved with the community partners that supported the event, and as a Centre, they are looking at how to integrate these findings into their work here as a Centre.

**Message from Ariana Barer**, New Educator, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office, “I’m writing to introduce myself as the new Educator with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office. I spent the last 7 years at WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre coordinating and facilitating trainings for volunteers on the 24 hour crisis line, workshops for high school students and teachers around the Lower Mainland, and trainings for service providers across BC. Before that I was at UBC for my MA in Education with a thesis focused on representations of responsibility for sexual assault prevention. In this new role at UBC, I’m looking forward to working alongside those already taking leadership to address sexual violence (you!) and utilizing creative means to engage people in social and systemic change on campus.

Since SVPRO’s mandate includes prevention (in addition to support), my understanding is that we will be assuming responsibility for SAPT, SAAM, and the Responding to Disclosures Community of Practice moving forward. I’ve been familiarizing myself with the work that was being done prior to SVPRO and am grateful to have had the chance to learn some history from Janet and speak with Amanda, Shilo, Tiffany, Ivan, Rachael, Nour, Tin Tin, CJ and Ashley. I’m looking forward to meeting all of you (or representatives from your programs) and hearing your thoughts on SAPT, the SAAM Committee, and the RTD COP. I will send out a meeting invitation for a reflection circle to discuss your experiences, what has worked, what can be done differently, and how we can structure our work going forward. We’re thinking June 11 at noon. We will provide lunch!

For immediate support, call the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office at 604-822-1588, Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm.

## ii. **Financial & Executive Oversight Officer**

- The HF committee and the FEOO have started the renegotiation of the pub contract with HK, the pub operator. We have received a interim proposal from HK, and same was referred to the GSS Lawyer for his preliminary legal advice on the provisions in HK's proposal. We are in the process of making a counter proposal. In a related



matter, the renewal of the seedlings contract is at the final stage. Council will be briefed accordingly as and when it is completed.

- The GSS accounts is still favorable. With barely a month to the end of the financial year, the financial discipline exhibited by the Executive Officers and the diligent supervision from the HF committee, We are confident of having a reasonable surplus. I also wish to bring the status of some of the special purpose funds of the GSS to the attention of council . The Contingency Fund (rainy day fund) currently holds an amount of \$97,895 whilst CPIF has about \$213,000.

### **iii. Executive Oversight Committee**

- The EOC is in the last phase of evaluating the outgoing Executive Officers. A meeting was scheduled with all the officers on April 09, 2018 to have a discussion on the progress they've made in achieving their goals and to understand some of the difficulties they faced. Hopefully, some of the experiences they shared will guide the EOC as we plan to commence the transition process of the elected GSS Executive Officers. The Outgoing Officers have taken delivery of a transition report template which will be delivered not later than April 20, 2018. Earlier submission is however encouraged.

### **iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee**

#### **v. House Finance Committee**

1. The Sauder Sublease agreement has been signed, and Sauder will begin renovations this summer.
2. The seedlings contract is currently being negotiated; HF is currently discussing the pros and cons of providing a two-year lease.
3. The Koerner's Pub contract is currently being negotiated.
4. HF is working to finish the 2018/2019 budget so that it can be recommended to council before the end of the fiscal year.

#### **vi. Code & Policy Committee**

#### **vii. Human Resources Committee**

#### **viii. AMS Council**

#### **ix. Elections Committee**

#### **x. GSS AMS Referendum Adhoc Committee**

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

**VP Students**

**i. Services Committee**

- Edited and finalized a memorandum of understanding with GrasPods in regard to beach volleyball nets they are going to rent out to UBC students
- Planned a “GSS Appreciation Night” at Koerner’s with food and drink tickets for graduate students
- Reviewed the rules for the GSS summer sports league to try and improve participant satisfaction.

**ii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee**

**iii. VP External Relations**

- 

**iv. Academic & External Affairs Committee**

- Dear GSS Councillors,

The esteemed members of the Executive and Oversight Committee would be reporting on the progress of my goals. Please feel free to ask me detailed questions on my accomplishments in my tenure as VP UAA. I would like to thank all of you for engaging me not only in my position but also as a fellow graduate student. I have learned a lot from our interactions and I have grown as person from them. It has been a pleasure working with you and serving our society. From the bottom of my heart, maraming salamat po.

Sincerely yours,

Teilhaid "Ty" Paradela

PS. Please tell at least ten of your colleagues to complete the 2018 GSS Student Satisfaction Survey. My hope is to get 20% response rate this year. Let's do it, GSS!

<http://gss.ubc.ca/student-survey-2018/>

- The 2018 GSS Student Satisfaction Survey is out! It has been out since 12 April 2018. And so far we have 200 respondents. So let's keep up this rate. Please tell everyone in your department to complete the survey. If you have questions about the preparation and administration of 2018 GSS – SSS, please feel free to ask us. We are almost ready share the preliminary findings of the 2017 GSS – SSS. Stay tuned for that!!!

<http://gss.ubc.ca/student-survey-2018/>

**v. Graduate Council**

**vi. Senate**

**vii. Board of Governors**

The [April set of Board of Governor's meetings](#) is underway, with committees meeting April 13th and full Board meeting on April 19th. The topics on the agenda include the finalized housing action plan, with provisions for more housing for students, an update on Policy 131 implementation (Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct), and the budget for next year. Two new graduate programs were reviewed (Master of Urban Forestry Leadership, and MSc and PhD in Oceans and Fisheries).

If you have any questions or comments about the Board of Governors, please don't hesitate to ask Jakob ([jakob.gattinger@ubc.ca](mailto:jakob.gattinger@ubc.ca)) or Jeanie ([jeanie.malone@ubc.ca](mailto:jeanie.malone@ubc.ca)).

**I. Adjournment**

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 pm.

MOVER: Nicolas, SECONDER: Nathaniel

RESULT: All for.