

A. Attendance

1. Present: Alyssa Kirlin, Amber Shilling, Ariana Saatchi, Bradley Balaton, Elham Abouei, Emily Murphy, Kelsey Yamasaki, Lily Takeuchi, Lisa Zhu, Madison Bolger-Munro, Nathaniel Lim, Nicolas Romualdi, Nicole So, Peter Musser, Rachel Gossen, Taran Dhillon_____
2. Regrets: _____
3. Absent: _____
4. Quorum: # Councillors

B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 8:50 pm.

2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: _____ SECONDER: _____ RESULT: _____

Discussion (Bradley seconded) – not sure what this was for?

- In 8.5.2. e.1... considering that, would it be appropriate to ask president to yield?
 - o The speaker has always chaired GSS council meetings, this person specifically hired as a neutral voice. In my (president) opinion, we do need a speaker
- Would like an interpretation of bylaws section 7.5 Duties and Powers of Council – does that provide council the ability to make standing committees?
- In my (president) interpretation, standing committees have always been formed in AGM. The bylaw defines the business of AGM is formation of standing committee

Motion to appoint Conny as speaker for this meeting right now and add to agenda

MOVER: Tobias SECOND: Rachel

VOTE (Taran): 22 RESULT: pass

Motion to add to agenda:

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

The Ad-hoc Committee on Governance and Accountability shall:

1. Obtain and create resources on best governance practices.
2. Perform a review of the state of GSS governance to determine where gaps exist in the governance structure, reporting structures, and other aspects of the organization that are relevant to its operation and to achieving its mission. This includes conducting research by consulting with GSS Executives, Councillors, and committee Chairs.
3. Provide recommendations on governance improvements to GSS Council.
4. Oversee the implementation of Council-approved governance recommendations and, when necessary, provide specific recommendations to the Code and Policy Committee on amendments to the GSS Bylaws and Policy Manual.
5. Inform Council on the progress on implementing the GSS strategic plan by the next GSS Annual General Meeting.

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6. Assist standing committees, external caucus representatives, and the FEOO in setting annual goals; inform Council on their progress towards accomplishing those goals at the middle and end of the academic year, or as otherwise laid out in the GSS strategic plan.
7. When necessary, bring Council's attention to any outstanding governance issues related to committee performance (e.g. not holding meetings, holding non-quorate meetings, not submitting meeting minutes to Council) in order to prompt Council to request committee minutes or re-seat dysfunctional committees, as appropriate, when this function is not being performed. In particular, be prepared to perform Executive oversight duties if requested by Special Resolution in Council, on a *pro tempore* basis.
8. Explore the possibility of forming a GSS Standing Committee on Governance and Accountability according to consultation with Council.
9. Recommend multiple external bodies so that Council can select an oversight and accountability mechanism to review the annual goals of a future GSS standing committee on governance & accountability and subsequently evaluate the committee's performance on their goals at least once a year, to the satisfaction of Council.
10. Consult with the GSS membership on possible mechanisms for GSS accountability to the Strategic Plan and how progress is reported to the general membership.
11. Have the following composition: 5 seats for Councillors and 5 seats for Ordinary Members to be appointed by the GSS Council and 1 seat for the GSS President as an ex-officio member.

The GSS Policy Manual stipulates the following for a new ad-hoc committee:

7.4. Ad-Hoc Committees

7.4.1. Ad-Hoc Committees shall be created by ordinary resolution at Council

7.4.2. The recommendation to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee must include a mandate of the proposed Ad-Hoc Committee, duration with an approximate end date, the member composition, and proposed recruitment.

7.4.3. Ad-Hoc Committees are required to follow the same procedures outlined in section 6 of this Policy Manual.

7.4.4. The mandate of Ad-Hoc Committees shall expire at the Annual General Meeting.

MOVER: Nicholas

SECONDER: Bradley

VOTE: none opposed

RESULT: passed

Discussion / Questions:

- Is this something council can do or does this have to be a referendum?
 - o This motion can happen because any rate increase up to 5% doesn't need a referendum
- What's the presentation going to be about, how long will it be?
 - o Just to describe to council why a 5% increase it being recommended, won't be more than 10 min

Motion to amend to limit presentation to 10 min and discussion to no more than 10

MOVER: Nathaniel

SECOND: Bradley

VOTE: none opposed

RESULT: passed

To add presentation to agenda

MOVER: Nathaniel

SECOND: Tobias

VOTE: none opposed

RESULT: passed

Presentation by student care (10mins) Discussion (5min)

Bahareh (presentation from Student Care, please see presentation):

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- Crucial to vote this evening, presentation will talk about the 5% increase
- In 2015, a referendum gave the ability to collectively increase plan rate up by 5%
 - o Last year both councils didn't increase
 - o This year we do need a 5% increase
- Data from Sept to Dec shows per capita increase, overall increase of 11%, usage up and cost increasing
- What's triggering increase?
 - o Medical equipment (like sleep apnea machine)
 - o Psychological services (not including Empower Me)
 - o Dental usage

Discussion / Questions

- Did AMS pass this?
 - o Yes, they're supposed to be doing that tonight
- Where is the dental increase coming from?
 - o General increase in usage across the board, not a significant increase
- Who makes up the Health and Dental Plan committee?
 - o Members at large from the AMS and GSS, VP Finance, Student Care and president
- What's the current state of reserves?
 - o Can't tell you that right now, don't have number off top of head
 - o Can make numbers available for you

Motion to...

BIRT the Council approves on the recommendation of Health and Dental Committee to increase the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan rates by 5% of single, couple and family rates for September 2018.

MOVER: Tobias
VOTE: 1 no, 3 abs

SECOND: Bradley
RESULT: passed

Motion for: BIRT the GSS strikes an ad-hoc committee with the following terms of reference...

MOVER: Peter SECOND: Amber

Discussion / Questions:

- What has changed in the ToR?
 - o Took out anything that would reference perpetual existence
 - o Changed composition, recommending 5 seats for councillors, 5 for varied members and 1 seat for ex-officio

Natalie – submission of correction
Nicolas accepts changes

Discussion / Questions:

- I like the increase in ordinary members on the committee but I wonder if it's good to reduce the members since 11 means a quorum of 6 which can be challenging, recommendation to think about council seats

Call to question

MOVER: Alyssa SECOND: Nicholas

VOTE: none opposed RESULT: passed

Vote on main motion

YES: none opposed, no abs RESULT: passed

Motion to amend agenda to seat (not sure what?)

MOVED: Nicholas SECOND: Nathaniel

VOTE: none opposed RESULT: passed

Motion to strike intros from agenda

MOVED: Tobias SECOND: Nicholas

VOTE: one opposed RESULT: passed

C. Introductions

D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:

- a. December 2017, Council meeting minutes
- b. February 2018 Council meeting minutes

2. Committee minutes for approval:

- a. G&A ad-Hoc committee minutes January 29, 2018, Feb. 26th, 2018
- b. HR Committee minutes January 31, February 21, 2018
- c. Services Committee February 5, March 11, 2018

Motion to amend agenda "Approval of Minutes" section to include AGM minutes for 2016/17

MOVED: Nathaniel SECOND: Tobias

Discussion / Questions:

- I (president) don't agree to this, need to look into legislation to make a decision if we can just add
- Will look into it and if it's legal, then we'll do it in April
- If council doesn't feel it's legal, then double check. Strongly recommend council pass these minutes at earliest convenience, it's good practice to do so, not have a back up for years

Vote to add those meeting minutes to agenda

VOTE: all opposed RESULT: failed

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

b. Questions?

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Seating**

i. New Councillors

BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:

Kelsey Yamasaki to be seated as Departmental Representative of SCARP PSA.

MOVER: Taran Dhillon SECONDER: Amber RESULT: _____

Discussion / Questions:

- Has she come for council orientation?
 - o No

VOTE: none opposed RESULT: passed

Correction: Nathaniel stepping down so there are 2 openings now

BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

Peter (c), Nicolas (c), Natalie (o), Carlos Salinas (o), Ashenafi (c)

to the Governance and Accountability ad hoc committee (5 councillors, 5 ordinary member)

_____ to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as the Chair. (1 needed).

_____ to the Code and Policy Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

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_____ to the Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).
_____ to the Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member.
(1 needed).
_____ to the Executive Oversight Committee as a Councillor. (3
needed).
_____ to the House Finance Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).
Rachel G (c) to the Human Resources Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).
_____ to the Services Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).
Sebastian (c) to the Services Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).
_____ to the AMS Council as the AMS Council Representative. (1
needed).

MOVER: Taran Dhillon SECONDER: Natalie RESULT: _____

Motion to vote these people in

MOVER: Nicholas SECOND: Tobias
VOTE: none opposed RESULT: passed

Motion for Nicholas to be chair

VOTE: none opposed RESULT: passed
Nicholas as the Chair of governance and Accountability Ad-hoc committee

b. Matter #1 Motion for conferring the GSS Honorary Membership:-

WHEREAS The GSS Bylaw 3.2. and 3.2.1. states that the Council may confer honorary membership upon any person Council may wish to honour for outstanding service to the Society, provided that person has served on Council for at least two years.

WHEREAS Bylaw 3.2.2. states that the Honorary membership shall be granted for the lifetime of the recipient commencing when the recipient is no longer an ordinary member.

BIRT the following GSS members be conferred honorary membership of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver

1. John Dupuis, Land and Food Systems Land and Food Systems, Councillor
2. Bradley Balaton, Councillor Voting AMS Council
3. Katerina Othonos, Neuroscience Medicine, Councillor
4. Zoe Lam , Linguistics Arts, Councillor

Mover: Taran D. Seconder: Nathaniel Motion:

Discussion / Questions:

- Do we have other honorary members?
 - o Yes, we do, Tobias and Conny
- I recommend that we consider this as a special resolution
 - o To confer doesn't need to be a special resolution

Call to question

MOVER: Nicholas SECOND: Amber

VOTE: 20 in favor, two opposed, no abs

Motion to amend to include: BIRT policy manual be amended to include John Dupuis, Bradley Balaton, Katerina Othonos, Zoe Lam to the list of the honorary member of the society

MOVER: Tobias SECOND: Amber

VOTE: 1 opposed, 2 abs RESULT: passed

Need to vote on motion:

MOVED: Tobias SECOND: Nicholas

VOTE: 1 opposed RESULT: passed

Motion to withdraw "Policy Manual Amendment..."

MOVED: Nathaniel SECOND: Tobias

c. **Matter #2 Policy Manual Amendment: Amending the Article 8 (Standing Committees):**

WHEREAS the standing committees of the Society are defined in the Bylaws, and duplication of this information is unnecessary,
WHEREAS Policy Manual 8.1.1.J established a standing committee without any terms of reference ("Safety & Sustainability"), violating Bylaw 7.5.2.F,
WHEREAS Policy Manual 8.1.2 misquotes the appropriate Policy,
BIRT Policy Manual 8.1.1 shall be amended to read: "Standing Committees of the Society are as stated in Bylaw 9.1.1.
BIFRT Policy Manual 8.1.2 shall be amended to read: "All Standing Committees shall operate according to Policy 7 and the terms of reference for the Committee, as set out below in this article
MOVER: Nathaniel L. SECONDER: RESULT: (Requires 2/3rds)

Nicholas: "Policy Manual Amendment...Terms of Reference" out of order so strike out

d. **Matter #3 Policy Manual Amendment: Terms of Reference for a standing committee on governance & accountability**

Proposed objective: Adopt Terms of Reference for the Governance & Accountability Committee created at the 2018 AGM so that the committee can be seated and

begin its work.

Group responsible: GSS Governance & Accountability ad-hoc Committee 2017/18

Relevant materials: Council materials document "Governance Policy Manual Revision" (which contains the following Terms of Reference and Frequently Asked Questions). Also a PDF is included called "FAQs about a standing governance committee"

Motion:

WHEREAS the ad-hoc Committee on Governance & Accountability disbanded at 2018 GSS AGM, and

WHEREAS the value of a standing committee on governance and strategic plan accountability is outlined in the 'Rationale behind Proposed Changes' section of the attached Governance Policy Revision Form, and

WHEREAS the proposed terms of reference for a standing Governance and Accountability Committee were circulated to Council and officially endorsed by the GSS Executive Oversight Committee and the Code & Policy Committee, therefore BIRT the GSS Policy Manual be amended to include a new section (section 8.10) that reads according to the 'Proposed Revised Policy' section of the attached Governance Policy Revision Form.

MOVER: Nicolas R. **SECONDER:** **RESULT:** (Requires 2/3rds)

e. Matter #4 Motion-

Whereas the GSS-AMS Referendum Committee was dissolved at the 2018 referendum
Whereas the role of the GSS-AMS Referendum Committee's role will not be completed until a referendum is held in Fall

BIRT that the GSS-AMS Referendum Committee be reformed with the following terms of reference:

1. Liaise with AMS executives and staff to gather information on existing agreements (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding) for access by the GSS membership to services provided by the AMS, service usage statistics, and other qualitative data that may assist the committee in the needs assessment process. Explore the possibility of forming a joint committee with the AMS to facilitate data collection for these assessments.
2. Determine how the different referendum results would affect:
 - A. Graduate students, including but not limited to fees paid, services provided by the AMS, the UPass, and the health and dental plan.
 - B. The GSS, including but not limited to finances and the GSS budget, costs associated with the health and dental plan, and legal consequences of any altered relationship with the AMS.

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3. Identify the scope for negotiation and consultation with the AMS based on the outcomes of the assessments undertaken by this committee, in order to assist the GSS President with negotiations with the AMS.
4. Develop concrete scenarios for either outcome of the referendum. This includes working with the AMS to develop agreements on the organization's future working relationships as well as working to ensure the continued stability of the GSS.
5. In July 2018, present plans for the execution of the referendum to Council. These plans should include a complete communication strategy for an information campaign that shall run until the referendum outlining the exact consequences of either potential outcome.
6. Present the referendum question wording for discussion and approval in Council one month prior to the planned referendum date.
7. Report to Council every month.

8. Form in July 2017 and seek to be formed again at the March 2018 Council meeting in order to hold a referendum in autumn 2018. Ultimately dissolve after a report to Council on the results of this referendum and the plan forward.

9. Have the following composition:
 - 2 seats for members of the AMS-GSS caucus,
 - 2 seats for Councillors,
 - 1 seat for a representative from the AMS-GSS Health and Dental Committee,
 - 3 seats for ordinary members to be appointed by Council, and
 - 1 seat for the GSS President as an ex-officio member.

MOVER: Bradley **SECONDER:** Tobias **RESULT:** (Requires 2/3rds)

Discussion / Questions:

- Regarding the ToR, these are the same as what we had last July, except took out last two points
- We're currently in discussion with AMS counterparts but it's on hold because of elections
- Can you modify it since it still says 2017?
 - o Yes, it should be for 2018

Motion to amend to strike no. 8.

MOVED: Natalie **SECOND:** Tobias

VOTE: none opposed **RESULT:** passed

Discussion / Questions (on main motion, continued)"

- Want to understand the framework we're working in.
 - o There is a committee with both AMS and GSS people on it.
- Last year there was an issue around composition (if no on sat on one of these, then would remain empty). Was that addressed?

- o When we seated committee, we did have one person. Don't think we resolved what will happen in future
- Can we address that problem by changing to one seat "as ex officio"?
 - o Not sure on the definition of "ex-officio"

Motion to put 3 councillors for number 9

MOVED: Nicholas

SECOND: Nathaniel

VOTE: 1 opposed, 1 abs

RESULT: passed

Vote on main motion

VOTE: none opposed

RESULT: passed

f. Matter #5 AMS Just Dessert Awards- 2018:

WHEREAS Each year AMS invites nominations to honour students, faculty and staff who have shown exceptional service to the students in all the constituencies.

WHEREAS 'Just Desserts' is an awards ceremony by the AMS and the Alumni Association which is an the opportunity to choose the recipients of these recognition awards.

WHEREAS this year, 'Just Desserts' will be held at the beautiful Cecil Green Park House on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

WHEREAS Award recipients and their guest(s), as well as students from the nominating constituencies shall be approved by the council

BIRT Alyssa Kirlin, Graduate Wellbeing Network (GWN)- Lily Ivanova and Adela Gherga, Katerina Maria Othonos and Nicole Haylock be nominated as the Award recipients for this year's AMS 'Just Desserts' awards

MOVER: Taran Dhillon

SECONDER: Nathaniel

RESULT:

Discussion / Questions:

- Has the number of awards that GSS gets been reduced?
 - o Don't know but list given was for 4 nominations
- How many GSS councillors do we have in AMS council?
 - o Four

VOTE: none-opposed, 1 abs

RESULT: passed

g. Matter #6 Motion from the Executive Oversight Committee

WHEREAS executive transition reports are important for the orientation of newly elected Executives to their positions and portfolios, and

WHEREAS the Executive Oversight Committee is tasked by GSS Strategic Plan Goal 3.2.C to ensure the timely completion of executive transition reports, and

WHEREAS a template for transition reports is a useful tool for ensuring the capture of all necessary information and the consistency of reports across executives, and

WHEREAS the Executive Oversight Committee has a working draft template adapted from a template prepared by the Code and Policy Committee,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current GSS Executives be required to use this draft template (can be accessed here – https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_658zmleG91kYBmQtwe9nj03QcZRXUrF) to prepare their transition reports, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the GSS Executives submit their completed reports to the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer no later than Thursday, April 12, 2018 to ensure that they are available to the incoming executives at the start of the two week shadowing period at the end of the current Executives' term, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the GSS Executives provide feedback to the Executive Oversight Committee at the end of this process for the development and refinement of this draft template.

Mover: Keskine Owusu Poku

Seconded: Tobias

Discussion / Questions:

- CPC has put together a template for making suggestions. Would like to request that this template be used by executives as they transition out and give feedback so it can be made better.
- It would be great if EOC would share insight so that CPC can get this into proper use
- EOC already plans to do that but we're also working with G&A

VOTE: all in favor

RESULT: passed

h. Matter #7 Motion from the House Finance Committee:-

WHEREAS The GSS has acquired a ten-year contract for the GSS Loft in the AMS NEST

WHEREAS the HF committee would like to be able to purchase equipment to improve the long-term functionality of the GSS Loft

BIRT the HF committee would like to propose an amendment to policy manual, line 16.3.1. A project shall be a Capital Improvement if:

(a) it improves the Centre building, grounds or fixtures that have a useful life beyond a minimum of 3 years.

to state

(a) it improves the Centre building, or the GSS Loft at the AMS Nest, ground or fixtures that have a useful life beyond a minimum of 3 years.

Mover: Keskiné (original person left)

Seconded: Nathaniel

Motion:

Discussion / Questions:

- Fee is currently specific for the current GSS meeting. If this were to pass, GSS would need to hold referendum to adjust fee or else it would be a violation of an agreement of how those fees are being used
 - o Disagreed because the fee was for the central building for GSS. We buy for the central building and then take it to the loft, loft is still a grad student space
- The proper course is to run a referendum to adjust the fee rather than adjust the practice in violation of an agreement of how those fees are being used
- What referendum and what year was it?
 - o It was established in late 60's and early 70s, when GSS was a separate society that was tasked with making sure that the building gifted was being used for the purpose of improving grad student lives and making sure it was maintained properly.
 - o All for broadening the purpose of the fee, but we need to do it through proper channels. When fees were collected, there was no loft, would caution diverting it to the loft.
- This matter doesn't need to be resolved right now and we don't know the exact wording of the referendum.

Motion to refer back to committee:

MOVED: Nicholas SECOND: Amber

VOTE: all in favor RESULT: passed

3. Matters for Discussion

a. **Matter #8 Matter for Discussion - Internal Governance Report**

i. Proposed objective: Collect feedback from Council on the draft internal governance report

ii. Group responsible: Chair of GSS Governance & Accountability ad-hoc Committee
2017/18

iii. Presentation time: 5 minutes

iv. Presentation description: Council has been given a copy of the draft GSS Internal Governance Review. We're asking Councillors to review this document and now provide us with comments and feedback verbally to direct our efforts in finalizing this document at the April GSS Council meeting as a long-term resource on GSS governance. Alternative routes for feedback are comments directly within the document or by email to <ncmarshall@msl.ubc.ca>. Thank you!

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v. Relevant materials: The draft Internal Governance Review was attached to Council meeting materials as a PDF and can also be read and commented on here: <https://tinyurl.com/y8e7vow3>

please include the following supporting materials for the Council meeting:
Updated FAQ about the governance committee (attached)
Policy revision form with the proposed new terms of reference for G&A
Draft governance report

Discussion /Questions:

- Want feedback before we give report in next meeting. We're sending you URL so that you can comment. Don't hold back
- Just for councillors?
- Now, yes, but if you want to make a comment about the consultation process, we welcome it.

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

ii. Services Committee

iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc

Committee

iv. GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc
Committee

b. Questions

2. Matters for Decision–

Affiliate Organization Recognition– *Endnotes conference committee*

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 March 2019:

- **Endnotes conference committee**

MOVER: Arezoo A. SECONDER: Nathaniel RESULT _____

Discussion /Questions:

- The person in charge of this isn't here, can someone describe this?
 - Each year the English Department affiliates with GSS and applies for funds for a conference. This year, instead of the English department, they sent this name.
 - They haven't submitted a budget yet. I've reached out and they haven't responded yet
- It's definitely the English department and not a sub unit?
 - Asking but no response yet
- Could this group apply for AO funding and then the English AO also apply?
 - Yes but we don't have that request. If they're both AOs then they can both apply

Motion that since we don't have enough information and no one is here to speak on this, we table until next meeting

MOVED: Nicholas SECOND: Amber

VOTE: none opposed RESULT: passed

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 Committee | vi. Board of Governors |

b. Questions?

H. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting

- Date:* April 19 , 2018
- Time:* 5:30 pm
- Location:* Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest, UBC Vancouver

2. Notice of Unseatings

Elham to be unseated as GSS Representative to the AMS Council.

Note that Nathaniel is unseated from Code and Policy

SECOND: Amber

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

a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

i. President :-

The GSS has signed the **Ballroom final lease document with the Sauder School of Business**- Please find the final lease document in the supporting documents.

Setting the new price for the AMS GSS Health and Dental Plan for the 2018-2019 year:

The committee has been requested by the AMS VP Finance to approve the new fees

In September 2017 at the start of this past academic year our plan costs were:

- Single: \$233.04
- Couple: \$466.32
- Family: \$699.36

The new proposed rates for September 2018 are:

1. Single: \$244.69
2. Couple: \$489.64
3. Family: \$734.33

These new rates represent a 5% increase in the cost of the plan, mainly to ensure that the services continue to be provided and to maintain a healthy reserve in the future. The proposed renewal rates report provided by TRG has been attached in the supporting documents for the March council meeting (please note these increases in the report are marginally adjusted to reflect the Health & Dental Committee's 5% cap on plan increases without a referendum). Additionally, the Pacific Blue Cross Financial Report for greater insight and details regarding the plan costs have also been attached.

Message from Julian Dierkes, Associate Dean, Funding, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

we're considering **changes to the overall funding structure for graduate students**. Before we consider specifics, we'd welcome a discussion about principles that underlie grad funding structures and turn to you for input on this question.

We would be grateful if you could discuss these questions with colleagues in your faculties/programs. We'd be happy to receive feedback by email, in conversations with you and your colleagues for which I would be glad to make time (julian.dierkes@ubc.ca), or in discussions in our next Grad Council meeting on March 27.

Just as a reminder, here's what the structure of grad funding currently looks like and note that we're obviously restricting this discussion to internal funding only.

GSI:

\$6.5 M. This is a flexible program with funds allocated to Faculties based on student enrolment weighted by degree (4:2:1:0 for PhD/DMA, research master's, course-based master's, and professional master's students respectively). Graduate programs select recipients and determine the amount and duration of funding.

Doctoral Fellowships (the following fellowships are restricted to PhD students):

4YF: \$14.5M. These are merit-based awards of \$18,200 plus tuition for each of four years, with allocations made to Faculties through a formula based on relative domestic Tri-Agency doctoral scholarship success (80%) and enrolment (20%). Graduate programs select the recipients.

IDF: \$5M. This new (2017) award supports top international students, providing \$30,000 plus tuition for four years and a guaranteed \$18,000 funding package for the fifth year. Recipients have been

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selected through a university-wide competition to date, but we are currently rethinking the process, as it did not allow all programs to use it optimally as a recruitment tool.

DRF: \$3M. Also new in 2017, award slots in this program are allocated to Faculties to be included in select faculty recruitment packages as \$30,000 doctoral fellowships. They thus serve both as faculty and student recruitment tools. Like the IDF, we are currently moving toward greater flexibility in this award to enable its optimal use by Faculties.

AGF: \$400K. Aboriginal Graduate Fellowships stipend of \$18,200 per year for four years for doctoral students or a stipend of \$16,175 per year for two years for Master's students (!) & consideration of tuition. University-wide competition.

GGLF: \$200K. Two Graduate Global Leadership Fellowships provide \$18,200 plus tuition for each of four years to international students showing outstanding leadership in humanitarian and development work. University-wide competition.

Some current underlying principles:

- Awards are merit-based
- Overriding commitment to fairness, transparency, integrity, and excellence
- Priority of funding to research students (excluding professional programs)
- Restriction of PhD funding to 4/5 years of PhD
- Certainty and predictability of funding for incoming graduate students
- Recognition of competition for top students, role of award funding in recruitment
- Desire to support international students who are ineligible for tri-council funding
- Commitment to support aboriginal students
- Interest in aligning graduate funding with other university priorities, where possible
- Striking a balance between central support and program flexibility
- Desire to strike balance between flexibility for graduate programs and complexity (of administrative systems, communication, decision-making)
- Certainty and predictability of funding for graduate program planning, especially in light of Minimum PhD Funding policy

The Wellness Centre is expanding to better support all students' health and wellness. On March 6th, UBC Life Building (6138 Student Union Blvd) is opening, where students will find more space, activities, and connection to a vibrant wellness community.

The Wellness Centre has existed at UBC since September 2001, when it opened up on the lower level of the Student Union Building. The Centre moved to IKBLC in 2012 when construction began on the Nest. It's exciting to move back to the same (renovated and renewed) building – but this time, in a

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more prominent location on the main floor, and as part of a broader network of student services including International Student Development, Go Global, UBC Rec and more!

At this new central location in UBC Life, Please see the [updated website](#) for our hours, an overview of what students will find at the Centre, and a monthly programming calendar.

By August 2018, the Wellness Centre will expand further to include an interdisciplinary team of professionals to support student health. Stay tuned for updates on what these changes will bring for our campus. ****Please note that the Wellness Advisors will continue to work out of Counselling Services in Brock Hall for the time being.****

ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer

- The EOC had a joint meeting with the G&A to agree on some cross governance issues that affects the mandate of both committees. We discussed and agreed on a transition template and the goal setting template. The transition template will be used by outgoing executive officers and committee chairs to record their handing over notes. This, we believe, will help to effectively transition incoming officers. The goal template was revised to make it easy to interpret. We incorporated some of the concerns that committee chairs and executive officers raised during the goal setting and the first evaluation exercise in November 2017. Another issue that was discussed was the terms of reference of the G&A and how to re-word goal 7 to make it less contentious.
- On the financial side, Sauder Business School through the Treasury of UBC has submitted a final sub-lease to the GSS for consideration and necessary action. Upon receiving it, same was forwarded to the GSS Lawyer for advice and the HF for consideration. It will be signed, hopefully in the week, after the HF confirms their satisfaction with all the terms and clauses through a vote.

iii. Executive Oversight Committee

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evaluation exercise in November 2017. Another issue that was discussed was the terms of reference of the G&A and how to re-word goal 7 to make it less contentious.

iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee

- Internal Governance Review: To complete our ~1.5 year internal governance review of the GSS, the committee has compiled an extensive report, which we hope will serve to summarize all of our work and research so far, and therefore be a long-term resource for the GSS in all matters related to governance. We hope to have your feedback on this report at the March Council meeting so that we can present the final version at the April Council meeting for ratification, and so that we can focus on implementing these recommendations to improve our governance.
- Standing Governance Committee: Based on discussion at the February Council meeting, we prepared a list of FAQ's and answers about a potential GSS standing committee on governance, solicited further feedback, and met with both the Executive Oversight and Code & Policy Committees to discuss and refine the proposed Terms of Reference. These Terms of Reference are coming to Council tonight if the standing committee motion at the AGM is successful.

v. House Finance Committee

-

vi. Code & Policy Committee

-

vii. Human Resources Committee

-

viii. AMS Council

- AMS council has been focused on their referendums and elections. The following referendums passed: the U-Pass price freeze, at \$41 and the 35c sustainable foods fee that will help subsidize sustainable foods on campus including seedlings cafe in the GSS building.

ix. Elections Committee

- The election committee has been working hard to obtain executive nominations and organize the GSS election debates. The debates are scheduled for March 13 (on-campus) and March 15 (off-campus) from 5-6:30. We encourage all councilors to come out, ask questions, and meet the next GSS Executives! Light refreshments will be served. We currently have 2 nominations for President, 1 for VP students, 1 for VP academic, 2 for VP external, and 2 for Senate. Voting for all positions will take place March 19-23, so please encourage all your constituents to vote!

x. GSS AMS Referendum Adhoc Committee

- The Committee has completed the goals set out for them prior to the 2018 AGM and will hopefully be getting reelected tonight to fulfill the rest of their goals.

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

VP Students – Event Fund has been approved for:

Pathology student association; Master of public policy and global affairs student association; The Association of Population and Public Health Students (TAPPHS)

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Events: GSS Affiliated organization’s dinner: (36 people registered + 4 guests): UBC VPS (Dr. Louise Cowin) couldn’t come, but the rest of the guests gave speech and connect with AO’s leaders. There was a contest aiming encouraging AOs to Collaborate. 1st place winners were granted 1500\$ to implant their collaborative ideas. The rest of the teams were granted extra 300\$ on top of their Event fund quota to implant their collaborative ideas.

Laser tag and social after (27 people)

Upcoming (Mar and April): Graduate Student Workshops and Professional Headshots; Meditation session in March (in partnership with AMS); Eat well to live well; Family event at Acadia park (mobile animal zoo), Meditation session in April (in partnership with AMS); curling; eat well to live well (April, off campus)

Surveys: Analyzing surveys from January events with Services committee. The data will be used as a guide for the next VP student.

Results:

Here are the brief reports for the January events (Whistler trip, and bowling night). For the both events, 90% of people mentioned that they will participate the events again. 75% and 90% appreciated the role of the abovementioned events on peer connection, respectively.

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Off Campus

*Move UBC Campaign (free zumba class) for the 1st time happened at VGH (16 people)

*Planning “Eat well to live well” event for off campus at April

Progress on advocacy:

*** VP Students is going to meet with faculty of medicine’s operational partnership team to discover partnership opportunities to eventually extend wellbeing facilities over hospital sites

Meetings:

Physical activity group: discuss about the move UBC campaign; UBC wellbeing plans

Healthy beverage initiative consultation meeting: This initiative aims to replace sugar drinks to healthy drink across the campus

2 consultation meeting regarding UBC budget 2018/2019: I was the GSS rep at those meetings. I asked them to clarify that how much of student services, and mental health budget will be allocated for developing facilities for graduate students’ specific needs. Therefore, there will be meeting with relevant bodies for the clarification of those matters.

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Meeting with Natasha Moore: She is UBC wellbeing planning and evaluation advisor, who currently works on GSS annual satisfaction survey.

We discussed GSS annual satisfaction surveys analysis (2017), discussed about developing platform for collaborative work of GSS and SEERs on analyzing the GSS annual survey. She expressed her interest to meet incoming GSS executive to talk about the matters regarding surveys and wellbeing.

i. Services Committee

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ii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee

iii. VP External Relations

iv. Academic & External Affairs Committee

v. Graduate Council

vi. Senate

vii. Board of Governors

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I. **Adjournment**

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 10:25 pm.
MOVER: Tobias SECONDER: Nathaniel RESULT: none opposed, passed