

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

A. Attendance

1. Present: 32
2. Regrets: Balsher Singh Sidhu, Emily Murphy, Erik Frieling, Jacob Gattinger, Megan Russell, Mohammad Chaudhry, Nicolas Romualdi, Nicole So, Rachel Goossen, Zoe Lam
3. Absent: 11
4. Quorum: 20 Councillors

B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at **5:27pm**.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.
MOVER: John Ede SECONDER: Amber S.
RESULT: For (12): Bradley Balaton, John Dupuis, John Ede, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

C. Introductions

D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
 - a. GSS Council minutes - May 17th, 2018
2. Committee minutes for approval:
 - a. Elections Committee: June 21st, 2018
 - b. Executive Committee: June 28th, 2018 and July 5th, 2018
 - c. House Finance Committee: May 1st, 2018; May 14th, 2018; May 30th, 2018; and June 12th, 2018
 - d. Services Committee: April 30th, 2018; May 14th, 2018; and May 31st, 2018
MOVER: Amber S. SECONDER: Anna-Catharina W.
No discussion of minutes.
RESULT: For (19): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, John Dupuis, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Hamed Pouriayevali, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

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

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

b. **Questions?**

Alyssa: Is there anyone in the room that can speak on behalf of HR? What is happening with the GM hiring?

Atefeh: We have been in meetings for the past month – based on our meetings, the job description is changed. We have not had enough members to reach quorum, but we have a meeting tomorrow, so we will update you in August.

Alyssa: A year ago a motion was passed for a GM hiring and this still has not happened. Can you prepare a presentation for next council meeting?

Atefeh: We planned a presentation. We don't want to botch and hurry this process and we were hiring an AA and a Digi Manager. So this is why this has taken a long time.

c. **Matter #1**

Group responsible: Executive Oversight Committee

Presentation time: 20 minutes, followed by Q&A

Presentation description: A summary of the SMART goals set by the 2018–2019 GSS Executives

Proposed objective: To inform Council of the goals

Relevant materials: EOC's powerpoint file

Alyssa K. presented on behalf of EOC. She provided a timeline for achieving the smart goals and whether according to the EOC they were aligned with GSS' Strategic Plan. The EOC will also provide mid-term updates and end of year updates.

President' Goals

Increase graduate student engagement and GSS visibility – develop two volunteer group initiatives (an engagement team and a debate team)

Finalize obtaining a new GSS logo

Review and improve GSS staff benefits, with HF and HR committees

Set up an archival system for the GSS

VP Students' Goals

Increase visibility of GSS through social media accounts

Increase number of programs offered through the GSS

VP External's Goals

Put data collected from students into action

Review efficacy of student graduate organizations GSS is part of

Work with CASA and ABCS to develop a white paper for advocacy

VP University and Academic Affairs' Goals

Quantitative assessment of GSS satisfaction survey results

Improve efficiency of advocacy office

Support the health and well-being of graduate students, particularly students with disabilities

Overall observations

The goals cover a good breath of the Strategic Plan priorities

The Executives met deadlines in submitting their goals

The Executive team is working well with each other

Questions:

Arezoo: Goal to archive under the president ... how is this aligned with Ty's system that he set up last year?

Alyssa: The system that Ty set up with Peter is for advocates, this is a more general project, for the entire GSS office.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Seatings**

i. New Councillors

BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:

Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi to be seated as Departmental Representative for

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Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Jun Sian Lee to be reelected as Departmental Representative for Chemical and Biological Engineering.

Kamaldeep Gill to be seated as Departmental Representative for Rehabilitation Sciences.

Peter Musser to be reelected as Departmental Representative for the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies

MOVER: Arash SECONDER: Alyssa

RESULT: For (22): Ashenafi Aboye, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi

ii. Committee Seatings

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

[Committee descriptions and meeting times here.](#)

BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

MOVER: Bradley B. SECONDER: Katherina O.

Emily Murphy to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee.**

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (2 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Elections Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Elections Committee** (1 needed.)

Shie Rinat to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Executive Oversight Committee** (1 needed.)

Kamaldeep Gill, _____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Executive Oversight Committee** (2 needed.)

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_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (4 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee** (3 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Health and Dental Plan Rep to the **GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Chair to the **GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee**.

Lisa Zhu to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **House Finance Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **House Finance Committee** (5 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Human Resource Committee** (2 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Services Committee** (2 needed.)

John Dupuis to be seated as Chair to the **Services Committee**, effective August 1st, 2018 (1 needed.)

Jun Sian Lee: I would like to propose an agenda amendment. I would like to announce 4 vacant seats for Councillors for Code and Policy Committee.

Speaker: Any objections? Amendment passed. Any nominations? None.

Katherina: I would like to revisit nominations for HR Committee.

MOVER: Katherina O.

SECONDER: Peter

RESULT: For (22): Ashenafi Aboye, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi

Katherina: I would like to be seated as Councillor to the Human Resources Committee. I would like to nominate Hamed P. to be seated as Councillor to Human Resources Committee as well.

MOVER: Katerina O. SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: For (24): Ashenafi Aboye, Victoria Gomez, John Dupuis, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Keskine Owusu Poku, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Aisha Ramachandran, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

b. Matter #1

Group responsible: FEOO

Presentation time: 15 minutes

Presentation description: GSS Budget 2018-2019

Proposed objective: Adopt budget

Relevant materials: See attached presentation

Motion:

WHEREAS the proposed budget fits the needs of the Graduate Student Society for the 2018-2019 fiscal year

BIRT the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver approves the adoption of the 2018-2019 GSS Budget as amended at the 2018/07/19 Council Meeting

Philip to present budget – main activities and main trends in the 2018-19 budget.

Questions:

Ashenafi: Point of information re: emergency fund – is this provided for graduate students in need of emergency funding?

Sara: There was no budget for Emergency Funding (EF); in 2016 there was a budget of \$10 000 and \$7 000 was given out ... in 2018, we received 6 students inquiries for EF; in 2017, 7 students reached out; in 2016 – 20 asked for EF.

Arash: Thank you for your presentation – how do these numbers compare to previous years, and last year and what is the main reason for the change?

Philip: The Committee got the actuals for the last three years, got an average, and added a 2% onto that and this is how we came up with the figures we are presenting today.

Peter: Question on behalf of Nicolas R. – the delay in getting the budget out – why 2-month delay?

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Philip: The main reason is that the person who was supposed to have done it is not here – there was a change of officer; can I ask HF Chair to add?

Christina: First of all I think it is only a month late ... we did not have it ready for last month ... there has been indecision around the hiring of GM because it is a huge chunk of our budget ... finally we budgeted for a GM, but I did not know what was going on ... and the Exec turnover delayed things

Philip: We also had the issue of the pub contract – we are still negotiating the exact number

Arezoo: I was a bit worried about VP student budget – we engaged a lot more students and the current budget is not increased by a lot ... if you want more engagement you need more initiatives and you do not see much money put there

Philip: We have discussed this and worked within budget limitations. Maybe VP Student can address this.

Pouya: Two reasons – budget limitations and event fund – we are hoping to increase student engagement in this way

Darren T: Can you tell us what departments have been decreased?

Philip: You can access presentation in powerpoint. Coporate has increased; VP Students has increased; President has decreased a bit; Academic is increased. Most departments have gone up.

Jun: Two questions – event fund is reduced by how much in comparison to last year

Pouya: from \$18 000 to \$12 000

Jun: net contribution is \$150 000 including CPIF, while revenue is \$50 000 ... what is the \$150 000 net contribution

Philip: \$150 000 is the net contribution without CPIF ... CPIF should always go hand in hand with capital depreciation and this has not been captured before ... This is why I tried to separate the two.

Jun: Net contribution minus CPIF, so does that mean net revenue minus expenditure

Philip: Give me a minute

Tebi: student emergency fund – very important support for graduate students ... It is unfortunate that you put it on and take it off. Why was your budget decreased? How quick is it for a student to get assistant?

Sara: I did not reduce the budget, I was hoping for more money. Because of budget constraints. Re: your second question – modify the application process because it was long 3–5 weeks and we needed a lot of documents. I am consulting with Enrollment services to make the process better.

Ty: As the chair of AxEc the issue of the emergency fund has been discussed for two years. Part of our promise is that if they restore the fund, we will do our best to

improve the process. This is the best advocacy tool for GSS to ask the university for more emergency funding.

Rahaf: Was there any justification for reorganizing the budget, for example reducing the president's budget?

Philip: We did follow departmental submissions and we discussed them with those in charge so they can approve the changes.

Christina: Some of the money was shuffled around because it made more sense to go to different departments – staff development money, Emergency fund, ... there was a lot of stuff in flux, but we did consult with departments.

Rahaf: Given that we are reducing our contribution to events, how will we increase engagement

Christina: This budget has a deficit of \$8000 ... I do not want to present a deficit budget to Council ...

Philip: To Jun, there is a typing error, the difference is \$1500 ...

Bradley: To Atefeh, hiring of GM in Sept – if we push it back, we can we have more budget from that?

Atefeh: Budget will not be used fully ... realistically we can hire a GM in November ... that may be pushed back to January, but our plan is to get a GM by November.

Peter: Does HF or FEEO have line by line items for staff salaries that Nicolas can see?

Philip: Yes

Rahaf: I see some hesitancy in regards to hiring a GM. In my opinion ... a small institution to budget \$70 000 for a GM – almost comparable to a physician's salary. What services can a GM provide for students, when they pay out of their pocket and the fact that they may need emergency funding ... I would rather reduce the budget towards hiring the GM. This may not be the proper institution for hiring a GM and staff can actually cover his duties.

Christina: We have a GM in the budget because Council decided; what we budgeted for the GM is what is standard or less than market value ... it was really hard to budget not knowing what we do ... if we don't hire, we will have the extra money. I am not opposed to increasing the emergency fund ... The budget is not set in stone.

Alyssa: Questions should be on the budget, and not on the hiring of the GM. The latter has already been decided.

Conny: Our bylaws say that we can actually change the budget once it is approved, if we decide.

Arezoo: Physical year started from June ... so the money allocated to the GM – if we hire him in November, why don't we redistribute the money. We will have extra money.

Conny: How much exactly have you budgeted for GM?

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Philip: Salary will be \$60 000 and \$10 000 in benefits ... we have redistributed his salary for June–August already.

Christina: We have two more months of salary that we can redistribute, if we hired him in November.

Arezo: How much is staff development? What is it based on?

Philip: \$500 per person for the whole year. We calculated for 5 people.

Arash: Professional development – workshops, conferences?

Philip: Some of that ... and their other benefits that people in an organization should enjoy ...

Atefeh: A comment: for professional development – what HR has allocated is different ... \$500 dollars is very little

MOVER: Alyssa SECONDER: Atefeh

Speaker: Passed unanimously – motion carried

For (27): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, John Dupuis, Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Sarah–nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Aisha Ramachandran, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi, Anna–Catharina Wilhelm

c. Matter #2

Group responsible: Executive Oversight Committee

Presentation time: 10 minutes, followed by Q&A

Presentation description: EOC Statement on the cancellation of the June 2018 Council Meeting

Proposed objective: To review EOC's process and findings, and motivate the following motion

Relevant materials: None

Motion:

WHEREAS the cancellation of the June 2017 Council Meeting by the President violated GSS Bylaw 7.6.1,

WHEREAS, per GSS Policy Manual section 8.7.2.e, the Executive Oversight Committee has reviewed and discussed the circumstances and decisions that led to this cancellation with the President,

WHEREAS the Executive Oversight Committee is satisfied that there was no malicious intent behind the cancellation and that it arose from a misinterpretation by the President of GSS Bylaw 8.5.2.e.i, and

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WHEREAS the Executive Oversight Committee wishes to ensure that this misinterpretation does not reoccur by future GSS executives,

BIRT the Code and Policy Committee be tasked to review GSS Bylaw 7.6 and 8.5.2.e and the GSS Policy Manual section 3.1 and to report to Council with any proposed changes to these documents in order to clarify the extent of the President's power in setting the agenda, and the grounds under which Council meetings can or cannot be cancelled or rescheduled, and

BIFRT the President of the GSS be tasked with ensuring the Code and Policy Committee completes this review and reports to Council by the end of 2018 so that any Bylaw changes can be drafted and proposed in time for the 2019 GSS Annual General Meeting.

RESULT: _____

Darren: Was it within the Presidents power to cancel or not to cancel?

EOC: Not to cancel

Amber S: Should it be added to executive training?

Alyssa: Yes, these are discussions the EOC should be having and will decide

Ashenafi: There are some statements that can be misleading, it was not explicitly stated ... we will work to amend the clauses as said by EOC

Alyssa: EOC will be happy to work with you ... there are no provisions for cancelling council – this is why we are following it up

Conny: Fun fact – Council has not been cancelled in 7 years

John: I am glad to know that I am a bit of trailblazer; in my discussion with the EOC – this highlights the fact that the Bylaws leave room for misinterpretation or ambiguity; Bylaws say that when there is a conflict in meaning the president has the final authority to decide

MOVER: Alyssa **SECONDER:** Anna-Catharina **RESULT:** All for

Speaker: Motion passed unanimously.

d. Matter #3

Group responsible: House Finance Committee

Proposed objective: Sign and approve joint venture with Koerner's Pub

Motion:

WHEREAS the GSS Council has given the GSS House Finance Committee approval to oversee joint venture agreement negotiations with HK COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS LTD. (i.e. Koerner's pub)

WHEREAS the GSS House Finance Committee is satisfied with the terms and conditions laid out in the 2018 Joint Venture Agreement with HK COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS LTD.

BIRT the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver recommends that the GSS President, John Ede, and the GSS FEOO, Phillip Kimani Karangu, sign and approve the 2018 Joint Venture Agreement between the GSS and HK COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS LTD.

John: We will share with Council the contract ... the tax terms

Philip: We are renewing it ... we will allow Koerner's to use the place for another 5 years and then rent will go up ... at the moment we are looking at \$70K plus ... we are negotiating the inclusion of GST we have to decide whether joint venture, or them leasing or renting out ... we have to decide who pays the GST

Arash: Point of privilege ... can we get a fan?

John: The plan is to get us hot so we can leave ...

MOVER: Amber S. **SECONDER:** Alyssa

RESULT: For (27): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, John Dupuis, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Keskin Owusu Poku, Claire Preston, Aisha Ramachandran, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So

e. Matter #4

Group responsible: House Finance Committee

Proposed objective: Purchase of new equipment

Motion:

WHEREAS the laptops used by the GSS Council Speaker, and the administrative assistant, as well as the office printer, are more than five years old and in disrepair.

WHEREAS the GSS staff would benefit from standing desks and floor mats.

BIRT the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver approve up to \$4 400 for the purchase of two new laptop computers, a new printer, and four folding desks and four floor mats from CPIF (the capital projects improvement fund), as these new items are expected to have a lifespan of greater than 5 years.

Arash: This is not in the budget already that we just approved

Philip: Not in the budget as it is covered in CPIF

Victoria: what is the difference between standing and folding

Alyssa: Standing and folding are convertible

Peter: Have these items been priced yet?

Philip: Yes, we have been done with a lot of window shopping so we have been looking for something within the budget ...

Peter: I would like to propose that we raise the budget to \$5000 budget

MOVER: Peter SECONDER: Katharina

Peter: To motivate – we want to get better than the cheapest and we can probably afford tech support ... spend more now, save more later.

Speaker: Any opposed – none.

Ty: why are we getting only 4 folding desks? There are executives.

Philip: 4 for permanent staff ... we have not yet captured the GM ...

Darren: Would it be wise to capture the GM and are there are plans to furnish the execs too?

Philip: As we said council can adjust budget later

Sara: No need for folding desks for us – as we are there for 1 day, and staff is there all the time

Arash: What percentage of CPIF is \$5000 bucks?

Philip: CPIF is about \$54 000 – \$5000, can be 5%

Bradley: How much is added to CPIF every year?

Christina: I believe CPIF has 150 000 or something?

Conny: 5 dollars per student for 10 000 students, equals \$50 000

Christina: I thought there is \$50000..

Philip: \$54 000 is sitting there as of now

Alyssa: Is the \$54 000 total amount but that's on top of what's already sitting ...

MOVER: Gurjot SECONDER: Bradley

RESULT: For (27): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskiné Owusu Poku, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Aisha Ramachandran, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

f. **Group responsible:** FEEO

Proposed objective: To dispose of old inventory

Motion:

WHEREAS there are ten lounge chairs that came with the house that are in various states of disrepair that are currently stored in Leon's lounge and occupy much space, so that Leon's Lounge can not be used for its purpose – as a space for events for graduate students

WHEREAS there are 18 ten-person tables and about 400 chairs that came from GSS

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Ballroom and which are currently stored in Leon's lounge because they cannot be used in Thea's lounge due to space limitations

BIRT that the Office Manager arranges for UBC pick-up of the lounge chairs in late fall of 2018 and the Events Manager attempts the selling out of the 18 ten-person tables and 200 of the 400 chairs.

Philip To motivate – not enough storage space ... if we can get the chairs and tables from there it could be a nice avenue to collect money ... we can't fundraise so I think this would be a good way to use the space ...

Jasleen: Does Sauder want to buy them?

Philip: Sauder has money so I don't think they will buy our cheap stuff.

MOVER: Arash SECONDER: Alyssa

RESULT: For (27): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, John Ede, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sarah-nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Aisha Ramachandran, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

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

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

b. Questions

None

c. **Matter #1**

Group responsible: VP Students

Presentation description: Update on Graduate Student Orientation

Preparations for graduate student orientation in the fall are way underway with several activities happening throughout August and September. One of the main events is a Social in Koerner's Pub on Friday August 31st at 6pm. I want to encourage as many of you as possible to come, meet and mingle with new graduate students and more importantly tell them about how great GSS is.

A list with events was shown and all Councillors were invited to attend events or serve as volunteers.

Phil: How does this schedule compare to last year?

Pouya: You were present in the services meeting. We removed whale watching.

Arezoo: Whalewatching was successful – but very expensive ... 30 people and each with a ticket of \$100. Use this budget to create another event that brings more people

Darren: When do the tickets go out? When will the affiliated organizations go on sale so we can coordinate the effort?

Pouya: We will try to get them at least a month in advance ... I will talk to staff

Ty: Is there a formal plan for what Councillors will do during Orientation or a role that will involve them in a better capacity?

Pouya: Perhaps that it is something I can share with councillors in august.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Affiliate Organization Recognition**

i. *Motion:*

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

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

- **Professional MBA Class of 2020 Student Society**
- **The Association of Population and Public Health (TAPPHS)**
- **Vancouver Prostate Cancer Centre Graduate Student Association**
- **Pathology Student Association**
- **Center for Hip Health and Mobility**
- **MEL/MHLP Student Executive Committee**
- **Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Society (MIGSS)**

Amber: Are we funding specific classes of specific students, so that we fund the same thing? Also I don't feel comfortable funding something I don't know what it stands for

Pouya: MEL/MHLP have been affiliated with us already

Peter: Master of Health Leadership and Policy

Arezoo: It is an yearly program and they want to get some funding ...

Amber: MEL - is it one program or are they two that have they joined together?

Pouya: The members is what is important, and someone from their program organizes the event fund

Arezoo: From my experience last year ... they are a year long master program ... if they want to be separated this will be clear to us and we will say no to their application for event fund

Alyssa: I don't think Amber's first question was addressed re: mba student society

Pouya: They didn't have time to come ... I send them a few questions and they answered but I cant predict what questions you will ask

Alyssa: This is the same question we asked two months ago, so it would've been nice if someone had found an answer

Lily: I propose we defer their AO status hoping to have a representative to explain next time ...

MOVER: Lily SECONDER: Amber

Speaker: Motion is adopted. Back to main motion.

Arash: These organizations they pay us or we pay them ...

Conny: We pay them

Arash: Is this seen in the budget we approved

Pouya: This is in the budget, 12000 for the whole year

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Conny: Each organization has a max of \$300 per year.

MOVER: Arash SECONDER: Bradley

RESULT: For (22): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Victoria Gomez, John Dupuis, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

b. Matter #2 Presentation/Topic Title:

i. _____

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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?

Ty: Comment – in Sept we will be presenting the report of 2018 GSS Satisfaction Survey and we will open a discussion on recommendations to connect data. Also, watch out for our monthly infographic ...

Arezoo: How was the meeting with SVPRO and progress on sexual assault policy?

Sara: We had a meeting in May. They shared a few documents about how they are implementing policy, so it is in my office; there was a workshop attended by advocates –

Jasleen: Update from the services committee – AO's are to take pictures during events and submit them to GSS ... I am a bit concerned because it will be a lot of work for everyone to sign a waiver form ... I will suggest that services committee reconsiders its decision.

2. Matters for Decision

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

- i. _____

... Next page: Matters for Discussion

H. Matters for Discussion

1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:
 - a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:
 - a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:
 - a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

I. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:36 pm.
MOVER: Arash SECONDER: Anna-Catharina RESULT: All in favor

J. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting
 - a. *Date:* August 16, 2018
 - b. *Time:* 5:30 pm
 - c. *Location:* Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest, UBC Vancouver

2. Notice of Unseatings

Aishwarya Ramachandran to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Kinesiology.
Emily Murphy to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Forestry.
Matthew Gynn to be unseated as Chair to the Services Committee, effective July 31st, 2018.
Nathaniel Lim to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Genome Science and Technology.
Aishwarya Ramachandran to be unseated as councillor from the Human Resource Committee.
Emily Murphy to be unseated as a councillor from the Academic and External Affairs Committee
David Sasse to be unseated as Ordinary Member from the House Finance Committee.
Lisa Zhu to be unseated as councillor from the House Finance Committee.
Nicole So to be unseated as councillor to the House Finance 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 and Dental Committee Update**

100% reimbursement, \$15 dispensing fee cap, 17% markup, \$25 plan year max: - 0.5%

a. With an increase in reimbursement to 100%, we expect an increase in claims as a result. Example: prior to 2016 change, there were over 5,000 claims. With the 2016 change, claims were just under 4,000. With a 100% reimbursement, we expect the volume to increase but not to the extent of the 2015 numbers.

b. The plan has also seen a steady growth of 4-5% in enrollment

c. We hope promotion efforts in the summer/fall can drive members to seek flu clinics available on campus, thereby reducing claims. PBC will track behavior change this fall/winter.

- **Staff Update** – see Staff Update document in Supporting Materials folder

- **Bylaws and Constitution Transition**

The Executive Team is working on transitioning GSS Bylaws and Constitution, so they are aligned with The New Societies Act. We are in the process of contracting Soybean Digital, Conny Lin – CEO, to do the transition pro bono and then we will send the documents to GSS lawyer, so he can review and file them. Everything should be submitted to Council for approval in September. Deadline for transition is November 28th, 2018.

- **AMS Use of the Loft**

AMS has requested use of the Loft between July 26th and August 14th as they are currently replacing their Point of Sale equipment in the food & beverage outlets, and the company installing the equipment, needs a room to set up and train staff. They need a room that has at least 10 power outlets, and the only one in the building that meets the criteria is the GSS loft. During that time there would be no access to the space.

Executive Committee has granted their request while trying by all means possible to reduce the inconvenience to grad students by seeking another space from AMS in the nest for temporary use.

ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer

-

iii. Executive Oversight Committee

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-
- iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee
 - Pursuant to the workshop lead by the G&A committee during the ThinkGrad conference, held at UBC earlier this year, a survey has been distributed among the Graduate Student Societies members of ThinkGrad.

The aim is to consolidate the information and present an overview of Canadian Graduate Student Societies Governance structures. All results will be made available to Graduate Student Societies members of ThinkGrad through a designated point of contact, but will not be made available to the public.

The Governance & Accountability ad-hoc committee will prepare a presentation summarizing the finding for Council.

- v. House Finance Committee

-
- vi. Code & Policy Committee

-
- vii. Human Resources Committee

-
- viii. AMS Council

-
- ix. Elections Committee
 - Please see committee meeting minutes for an outline of the Elections Committee priorities in the upcoming year. If you are interested in being involved or have input, specifically regarding graduate student engagement as it relates to annual elections, please reach out directly to Rachel Goossen (Chair) at rachel.goossen@gmail.com.
We wish to gain understanding of current student engagement and leverage the strengths of the GSS to encourage and build participation in elections (both voting turnout and candidate participation).

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

- i. VP Students

-
- ii. Services Committee
 - June Updates

The Services Committee reviewed the VP Student's budget 2018-2019 budget, made the necessary recommendations, and gave its recommendation for approval.

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The Services Committee brainstormed and made recommendations for summer events as well as ideas for improvements on the scheduling of orientation events (ie. social at Koerner's, hiking, sunset cruise, whale watching).dkjfd

- July Updates

The Services Committee reviewed the VP Students budget and gave the necessary recommendations to meet the House Finance Committee's recommendations/guidelines for the 2018-2019 budget

The Services Committee has engaged in talks with an independent contractor about the possibility of the GSS hosting "dissertation writing bootcamps" at affordable costs

The Services Committee is in the midst of drafting a new addition to the policy manual that requires student groups utilizing the event fund to acquire pictures from their event to be posted on GSS social media pages

c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

i. VP University & Academic Affairs

- VP University & Academic Affairs

Student volunteers needed for President's UBC Non-Academic Misconduct Committees for the term of September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. The Committee assists the President by investigating allegations of non-academic misconduct made against UBC students under the Student Code of Conduct, and reports its findings to the President.

If you wish to be considered, you should provide the following information via email by July 31, 2018 to student.conduct@ubc.ca at the Office of the University Counsel:

1. first and last name;
2. student number;
3. the name of your Faculty;
4. your telephone number;
5. your e-mail address;
6. your mailing address; and
7. an explanation of 100 words or less explaining your interest in joining the Committee.

If you wish, you may also provide a reference letter from a UBC faculty member, but a reference letter is not required.

Approximately 10 students will be selected to serve on each Committee. Quorum for each Committee meeting is the Chair and at least 2 Committee members, and meetings are set between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Meetings will be

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scheduled to fit the needs of the Committee members involved in each case.

ii. VP External Relations

-

iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee

-

iv. Graduate Council

-

v. Senate

-

vi. Board of Governors

The Board has held our [June set of meetings](#). A summary of items of interest can be found [here](#).

Of note - there was a for information update on [Policy 73](#) (academic accommodations for students with disabilities), the annual report on student financial assistance, an update on [Policy 131](#) implementation (sexual assault and other sexual misconduct), Board 1 approval of the [Arts Student Centre](#) and a [new student housing building](#) in the Walter Gage complex, and the [inaugural meeting](#) of the Indigenous Engagement Committee which discussed strategic directions.