

A. Attendance

1. Present: Alyssa Kirlin, Amber Shilling, Arash Shadkam, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Ariana Saatchi, Ashenafi Alemu, Atefeh Samani Claire Preston, Elham Abouei, Farah Deeba, Gurjot Singh, John Ede, Jun Sian lee, Kamaldeep Gill, Katerina Othonos, Madison Bolger-Munro, Megan Russel, Nicolas Romualdi, Philip Karangu, Pouya Rezaeinia, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Peter Musser, Rachel Goossen represented by Christina Wiesmann, Victoria Gomez,
2. Regrets: Balsher Sidhu, Jacob Gattinger, Rochelle Sumampong, Theresa Pauly, Zoe Lam
3. Absent: 29 Councillors
4. Quorum: 21 Councillors

B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:30 pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Katerina O. SECONDER: Arash S.

RESULT: 22 in favor

Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Mohammad Chaudhry, Eric Frieling, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

John: I want to draw attention to the negative feedback regarding Council from an outgoing councillor under my Updates.

Katerina: I want to add to affiliate organizations – the Indian Graduate Student Association

MOVER: Katherina O. SECONDER: Sara I.-N.

Speaker: No objections. Motion passed.

Alyssa: I want to add to Notice of unseatings – Jeniffer Campbell to be unseated as OM from EOC and HF. Amber S. to be unseated as councillor from EOC.

C. Introductions

Introductions were made.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
 - a. GSS Council minutes – July 19, 2018
2. Committee minutes for approval:
 - a. GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee – July 19, 2018
 - b. Executive Committee – August 3, 2018

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c. House Finance Committee – June 25, 2018 and July 10, 2018

MOVER: Amber S. **SECONDER:** Arash S.

RESULT: 18 for

Elham Abouei, Mohammad Chaudhry, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Speaker: Any discussion?

Victoria: Could you please replace “Victoria clicker” with “Victoria Gomez” in May and July Council Minutes?

Speaker: Friendly. Passed.

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

b. Questions?

Arezoo: Update on Think Grad under President – do they want to add a fee for ThinkGrad membership?

President: ThinkGrad is not free – the fee is \$1600 per annum.

Arezoo: Could you brief the main points of that meeting?

President: University of Alberta can have their society under jeopardy, if student fees become optional ... if this mandate is replicated it will signify the death of all societies.

Arezoo: How often is the executive committee held?

President: Two meetings per month ... already there have been 4-5 meetings.

Arezoo: UBC wants an implementation plan. Have you been invited?

President: I have been contacted to take part of this meeting, but no plan has been sent for when the meeting will be held.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Seatings**

i. New Councillors

BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:

Rahaf Al Assil to be seated as Departmental Representative for the Department of Population and Public Health.

MOVER: Gurjot

SECONDER: Victoria

RESULT: 22 for

Nicolas: Point of information – were you not seated 3 months ago?

Rahaf: No.

Alyssa: Is this a school or a department?

Amber: School of Population and Public Health?

Conny: This is a friendly amendment? – School of Population and Public Health. So motion is ...

Rahaf Al Assil to be seated as Departmental Representative for the Department of Population and Public Health.

Sara: Point of information – did you have an election in your department? We have a few students who want to join as Councillors. Was there an email circulated?

Rahaf: I did have an election. I am not aware of any other student, who wanted to represent the department.

Speaker: What is the proper name of the department?

MOVER: Gurjot

SECONDER: Victoria

RESULT: 21 for

Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Arezo M., Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling

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:

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (1 needed.)

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

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

Jun Sian Lin to be seated as Elections Committee Chair to the **Elections Committee**, effective Sept. 1st (1 needed.)

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Alyssa: Is Chief Electoral Office not the proper title and not Elections Committee Chair?

Rachel: It is chair of elections committee up until elections and then it is chief electoral officer ... my understanding is that these are two separate things.

Katharine Sedivy-Haley to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Code and Policy Committee** (3 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Code and Policy Committee** (3 needed.)

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

Katerina Othonos to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Governance and Accountability Committee, effective Aug 17th** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (3 needed.)

Tebby Lee 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 Chair to the **GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee**.

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

Katerina O., Christina W. to be seated as Ordinary Member to the **Human Resource Committee** (3 needed.)

Arezoo M. to be seated as Councillors to the **Human Resource Committee** (2

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needed.)

Joyce Lam to be seated as Ordinary Members to the **Services Committee** (1 needed.)
_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Services Committee** (1 needed.)

MOVER: Peter

SECONDER: Rachel

RESULT: 22 for

Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Megan Russell, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

b. Matter #1

Group responsible: HR Committee

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: GM Findings and Considerations

Proposed objective: To decide if we need to hire a GM

Relevant materials: Powerpoint

Motion:

WHEREAS the GSS has set aside funds for a GM position

BIRT the following presentation is discussed and Council votes on whether the GSS will hire a GM or not

MOVER: Rory Long SECONDER: _____ RESULT: _____

Nicolas: Presentation should stand, but motion should be stricken because it is out of order. There is a resolution on the GM.

Speaker: Agreed. Motion falls.

Nicolas: Motion to amend the agenda: this is a presentation ... it has to move to the back of the agenda as there is no decision to be made. We should move to matter for discussion to p. 13.

Rory: The points that will come across this presentation are relevant to next motion, so please let the presentation stand.

Speaker: If you vote yes this presentation would be moved to p. 13, if not it stays here.

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MOVER: Nicolas **SECONDER:** Arash

RESULT: 20 against, 1 for

Against (20): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger–Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling

For (1): Nicolas Romualdi

Speaker: Motion fails, presentation stays where it is.

Rory to present on behalf of HR:

- Update on what happened before – previous GM resigned for a variety of reasons,
- One of smart goals for the HR was to hire a GM, rent out Sauder to collect funds to hire a GM;
- HR prepared GM job description – manage the growth and sustainability of the GSS, needed for many of our hirings, guarantees institutional memory and archival issues, promote collaboration between staff, handle external partnerships, decide to spend CPIX money and advocate on behalf of students.
- Staff position on GM, new position VP Admin, Distribute responsibilities to staff.
- Because of Board of Governors regulations – we cannot promote staff straight up without going through interviews.
- HR highly recommends hiring a GM

Amber: This already exists as a directive from Council ... although staff members are hesitant and executives are hesitant, we do not have to delay as we have a directive from Council. We are separate from UBC, so we are not obliged to Board of Governors

Nicolas: We are.

Arezoo: Rory, could you go back to slide “job description” – what do day-to-day operations of society means here?

Rory: Day-to-day operations of staff.

Arezoo: How would that work? When I read the agenda I did not find any job description. To me this job description is very general.

Rory: I can make sure that the actual job posting is available to everyone ... business of staff and executives on a day-to-day basis ...

Arezoo: We already have a finance officer, so how are they are going to work together? We want a good job description ...

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Atefeh: HR has already sent a job description to execs and staff members. What Rory sent out today is just a brief description. Can I speak in regards to Arezoo's question.

I have an answer for Arezoo. ... Job description – each staff member ... how to modify or rectify conflicts as an events manager if two people want to book Thea's lounge at the same time – a GM will be able to help in such a situation in the future.

Arash: Could you compare what we have to AMS?

Rory: I am not so familiar with AMS. We believe that the GM will be best option for us as somebody who will be able to stay for multiple years.

Rahaf: Committees are not full ... How would the GM function if committees are not functioning?

Peter: GM makes sure that in spite of committees the society still runs.

Atefeh: Employee Services Agreement that HR alludes to ...

Rahaf: Don't you think that having a GM is taking away from students rights

Rory: There is no student, who can work on issues full-time and the GM has no power over what we decide, but he is there to help us reach our goals.

Arezoo: How will the GM oversee executive function, if he does not have an executive function?

Speaker: The first question is about committees and second question is about executive function.

Atefeh: This person will be dedicating 40 hours per week to oversee these operations, everyone else is a student and cannot dedicate this amount of time ...

Speaker: Any further questions? No? Thank you!

c. Matter #2

Group responsible: President

Description: On the GM Hiring

WHEREAS the GSS Council has passed a motion for the hire a General Manager, and **WHEREAS** the HF Committee has budgeted for the position in the 2018/19 budget, and

WHEREAS the HR Committee has developed a job description for the position, and **WHEREAS** the Society has a Staff Member, XXX, who satisfies the competency requirements for the position laid out in the job description, and is familiar with the operation of the GSS, and

WHEREAS XXX has been informally filling in for a considerable portion of the GM's

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portfolio, and

WHEREAS it is generally considered good practice to promote staff from within, as it increases retention and job satisfaction,

BIRT that the GSS Council appoints XXX as "Interim General Manager", for a period of 3 months, starting September 1st and ending November 30th 2018, maintaining current salary,

BIFRT by November Council, the President and the FEOO will present to Council on the performance of XXX in the position as GM,

BIFRT that upon presentation of a report of satisfactory performance from the President and FEOO, the appointment shall be confirmed and made permanent with effect from December 1st 2018.

MOVER: John Ede SECONDER: Arash RESULT: _____

Nicolas: I move to continue the session on camera and invite speaker to remain in room.

MOVER: Nicolas SECONDER: Amber

RESULT: 18 for

For (18): Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling

Nicolas: Can we invite Christina Wiesmann to stay as chair of HF?

Arash: What is the reason to go on camera?

Nicolas: We will be discussing staff member ... the objective of this is so that we discuss freely.

Rory: I wonder if I can stay as this pertains to my committee.

Speaker: Vote ... motion carried. Rory can stay.

... ..

ON CAMERA SESSION

... ..

End of on camera session.

Motion is edited as follows:

WHEREAS the GSS Council has passed a motion for the hire a General Manager, and
WHEREAS the HF Committee has budgeted for the position in the 2018/19 budget,

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and

WHEREAS the HR Committee has developed a job description for the position, and
WHEREAS the Society has a Staff Member, XXX, who satisfies the competency requirements for the position laid out in the job description, and is familiar with the operation of the GSS, and

WHEREAS XXX has been informally filling in for a considerable portion of the GM's portfolio, and

CLAUSE DELETED: "WHEREAS it is generally considered good practice to promote staff from within, as it increases retention and job satisfaction,"

BIRT that the GSS Council appoints XXX as "Interim General Manager", for a period of 3 months, starting September 1st and ending November 30th 2018, maintaining her current salary,

BIFRT by November Council, the President and the FEOO will present to Council on the performance of XXX in the position as interim GM,

CLAUSE DELETED: "BIFRT that upon presentation of a report of satisfactory performance from the President and FEOO, the appointment shall be confirmed and made permanent with effect from December 1st 2018."

BIFRT the permanent confirmation of appointment is pending on consultation with our legal counsel.

Peter: Yield the floor.

Rachel: Amend motion to remove the final "whereas clause" given that it is no longer relevant.

MOVER: Rachel SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: 11 for

For (11): Mohammad Chaudhry, Kamaldeep Gill, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam

Speaker: Back on the main motion.

Conny: So now motion is to defer to HR and Executive Committee, both.

Alyssa: They are on different opinions about this. I call the question.

MOVER: Alyssa SECONDER: AMBER RESULT: For 19, against 0, abstain 0

Speaker: Back to main motion to defer to two committees.

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RESULT: For 17.

For (17): Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger–Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Against (1): Eric Frieling

Abstained: Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi

d. Matter #3

Person Responsible: President

Description: Set the Date for December Council

Motion:

WHEREAS Council usually holds a December meeting and a holiday dinner,

WHEREAS in the past the dinner has been held on either the first or second Thursday of the month

BIRT that December Council meeting is held on either December 6th or December 13th, 2018.

MOVER: John Ede **SECONDER:** Alyssa

Alyssa: The standard practice is always the second, so I move to select December 13th.

MOVER: Alyssa **SECONDER:** NICOLAS

Speaker: Vote on amendment. Motion carried.

RESULT: 19 for.

For (19): Madison Bolger–Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Nicolas calls the question.

BIRT that December Council meeting is held on December 13th, 2018.

RESULT: 20 for

For (20): Madison Bolger–Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

e. Matter #4

Person Responsible: President

Description: Appointment of Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Whereas the term of the interim Financial and Executive Oversight Officer is ending on August 31st, 2018.

Whereas the GSS is required to have a Financial and Executive Oversight Officer from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019

BIRT the GSS appoints (_____) as the GSS Financial and Executive Oversight Officer from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.

MOVER: John Ede **SECONDER:** Philip K.

RESULT: 20 for

For (20): Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Eric Frieling, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Alyssa: Do we have any nominees, John?

John: Not at present

Arezoo: Should we advertise that?

Nicolas: I read the Bylaws and it is extremely unclear – they do not mandate that we advertise or hold an election.

Alyssa: Can I nominate Philip to continue in the role? Does Philip accept?

Philip: Yes

Speaker: We have a nominee.

Arezoo: When will you be graduating?

Philip: 2021

Speaker: Standard vote. Congratulations Philip.

f. Matter #5

Committee Responsible: President

Description: GSS' Transition to the New Societies Act

WHEREAS the BC Government requires all societies conform to the new Societies Act by November 2018,

WHEREAS an analysis of the current GSS Bylaws and Constitution has been carried out, and

WHEREAS the proposed alterations to GSS Constitution and Bylaws are the minimum requirements for compliance with the new Societies Act were summarized in the Summary of Proposed Changes, and listed in the GSS Constitution – Amended, and GSS Bylaws – Amended documents, and

WHEREAS pursuant to the Societies Act section 15(2)(b) and 17(2), proposed alterations (amendments) to constitution and bylaws must be authorized by special resolution at a general meeting or voting by means such as referendum.

BIRT the GSS Council approves the proposed alterations as presented in the Summary of Proposed Changes, GSS Constitution – Amended, and GSS Bylaws – Amended documents (“the proposed alterations to the constitution and bylaws”),

BIFRT the Election Committee conducts a referendum to authorize the proposed alterations to the constitution and bylaws that starts no later than September 10th and concludes on or before September 28, 2018, and

BIFRT that the proposed version of the GSS Bylaws and Constitution, as presented in the supporting documents, will be accessible to the membership for the duration of the referendum,

BIFRT that Elections Committee will have the capacity to add explanatory text in the referendum that clarifies and reflects the spirit of the changes in the Bylaws and the Constitution, and

BIFRT if the referendum does not reach quorum (600 votes) or fails to pass the proposed alterations, the Election Committee conducts a Special General Meeting or referendum that concludes on or before Oct 19, 2018.

MOVER: Arash SECONDER: Peter

RESULT: 18 for

For (18): Madison Bolger–Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

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Nicolas to present: Ideally we do a referendum, if it fails we need to call a special general meeting ... Any questions? We need to pass this.

Victoria: All or majority of corrections are on style and grammar and no new bylaws were created.

Nicolas: Mostly true, does not change our functioning at all.

Speaker: There is one line in Constitution that is talking about locality of operation which in societies act is not allowed to be there.

MOVER: Pouya SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: 18 for

For (18): Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Nicolas: I would like to present on both of next motions as they need to be considered jointly. We were short of quorum and this is why they were not passed before.

Amber: To include both of these respective motions in a referendum to ... because we are having the referendum we can include them in motion.

Arezo: Why now and not during next AGM? What about Duty 5 and 6?

Nicolas: We want to do this now as we may not have quorum in next AGM; if referendum has quorum it may make sense to do it now .. this is verbatim the motion council passed in February.

Arezo: I am not talking as to the whereas clause ... goals and duties of the committee.

Nicolas: Whereas clauses frame debate.

g. Matter #6

Committee Responsible: G&A Committee

Description: Position of the Speaker

WHEREAS the GSS Council had approved in February to submit a motion to the GSS Annual General Meeting (AGM) to codify the position of the speaker into the GSS Bylaws,

WHEREAS this motion was not carried due to lack of quorum (64 votes in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions),

WHEREAS the GSS is holding a referendum in September to ensure compliance of its Bylaws with the new BC Societies Act,

BIRT that the referendum will ask the membership to include the following amendment,

“**WHEREAS** Bylaw 8.5.2.E.1 provides that the President is responsible for chairing the meetings of Council,

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WHEREAS in lieu of the President of the Society, Council has in recent years employed the services of a knowledgeable and neutral third-party (also referred to as “Speaker of Council”) as Chair of Meetings of Council,

WHEREAS the Bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order makes no provisions for the official position of Speaker of Council,

WHEREAS the presence of a Speaker of Council has enabled fair and productive debate to occur in Meetings of Council,

BIRT Bylaw 8.5.2.E.I shall be amended to read: “chairing meetings of Council or appointing a designate to do so;”

BIFRT a new Bylaw 8.5.2.E.II shall be included to read: “setting the agenda for meetings of Council;”

BIFRT pre-existing clauses of Bylaw 8.5.2.E (II – V) shall be renumbered to (III – VI)

MOVER: Nicolas SECONDER: Pouya

RESULT: 15 for

For (15): John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

h. Matter #7

Committee Responsible: G&A Committee

Description: G&A Standing Committee

WHEREAS the GSS Council had approved in February to submit a motion to the GSS Annual General Meeting (AGM) to create a standing Governance & Accountability Committee,

WHEREAS this motion was not carried due to lack of quorum (52 votes in favour, 4 against, 3 abstentions),

WHEREAS the GSS is holding a referendum in September to ensure compliance of its Bylaws with the new BC Societies Act,

BIRT that the referendum will ask the membership to include the following amendment,

WHEREAS the GSS Strategic Plan requires a long-term governance and accountability committee to implement and oversee the execution of the Strategic Plan,

WHEREAS a standing Governance and Accountability Committee shall:

1. Oversee the implementation of recommendations by the Governance and Accountability Ad hoc Committee,
2. Be a means of regular self-evaluation, including, but not limited to the performance of all other standing committees and the Financial and Executive

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Oversight Officer,

3. Ensure the continued adoption and implementation of the GSS goal setting and review processes by the Standing Committees,
4. Ensure the long-term presence of governance training within the Society, empowering our members at large and our Board of Directors in particular,
5. Monitor the performance of the Society's governance continuously, and provide appropriate improvement recommendations, thus reducing the need for frequent expensive external governance reviews; or shall monitor the process when one is deemed necessary,
6. Bolster institutional memory for matters affecting the long-term health of the Society, act as a backup for the executive review process, ensure timely creation of future strategic plans.

WHEREAS this standing committee has distinct and substantial roles, and pre-existing Standing Committees of the Society are not well-suited to adopt them accordingly,

WHEREAS the Governance and Accountability Ad hoc Committee recommends the establishment of a standing committee, with the aforementioned roles, designated as the "Governance and Accountability Committee",

BIRT The Society, by special resolution, approves the creation of the standing committee "Governance and Accountability Committee".

BITFRT Bylaw 9 shall be repealed in whole and replaced with the following:

“

Bylaw 9. Committees

9.1. Standing Committees

9.1.1. The Society shall have the following standing committees:

- (a) Executive;
- (b) Executive Oversight;
- (c) House-Finance;
- (d) Academic and External;
- (e) Services, Programming and Events;
- (f) Code and Policy;
- (g) Human Resources;
- (h) Elections; and
- (i) Governance and Accountability.

9.1.2. Membership and terms of references for the Society's standing committees shall be outlined in the Policy Manual.

9.1.3. The Society's standing committees shall report to Council.

9.2. Special Committees

9.2.1 Council may create additional ad hoc committees, taskforces and working groups for specific purposes as outlined in the Policy Manual.”

MOVER: Amber SECONDER: Alyssa

RESULT: 17 for

For (17): Madison Bolger–Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Jun: Clarification – to be held in referendum or passing this

Speaker: For referendum and not passing this

i. Matter #8

Committee Responsible: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS the installation of a new digital screen system in the GSS building will serve the GSS for longer than five years

BIRT the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver approves an expenditure of \$1054.08 from CPIF for the payment of the screens and the installation.

MOVER: Alyssa SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: 18 for

For (18): Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger–Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Peter: Did HF incorporate prices for maintenance; any money included for incidental repairs over the next 5 years.

Christina: We did not.

Nicolas: As per bylaws this comes from CPIF.

j. Matter #9

Committee Responsible: House Finance Committee

WHEREAS the security system of Thea Koerner House is obsolete, unfixable, and in need of

replacement

WHEREAS the GSS House Finance Committee believes that upgrading the security and switching from ACME security to UBC security would better secure the building in a more efficient manner

BIRT the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver approve the use of up to \$12 500 from CPIF to pay for the security upgrade, as it is expected to last for longer than five years.

MOVER: Amber SECONDER: Pouya

RESULT: 19 for

For (19): Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Eric Frieling, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

Philip: Alarm went on and no one from Acme even responded.

Rory: It is completely necessary that our staff is as safe as can be.

Arash: How did you come up with that number?

Philip: It is from the university security. If done last year it would have been less by \$1300.

... 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

c. Matter #1

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 August 2019:

- **Professional MBA Student Society**
- **Economics Graduate Student Association**
- **Indian Graduate Student Association**

Alyssa: Professional MBA have been quite diligent about following up with us about the MBA Student Society encompassing all professional student societies ... a rep was here but he left when it looked like we were going into camera a second time.

Amber: Change date in text above ending in "August 2019" and not "August 2018."

Speaker: I consider this a friendly amendment.

Alyssa: I am opposed to how low the AO adoption is in the agenda ... please consider moving this section so that representatives don't have to sit through entire meeting

MOVER: Katerina SECONDER: Gurjot

RESULT: 19 for

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For (19): Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Rachel Goossen, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

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

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?

c. Matter #1

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Matter #1:**

... Next page: Matters for Discussion

H. Matters for Discussion

1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:

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

Person Responsible: President

Description: Training for council members

The Manager, Graduate Pathways to Success Program at the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Jacqui Brinkman has proposed to deliver a workshop on “Effective meetings” to Executives and Councillors. The executive committee has agreed that it will be inefficient and cumbersome to have the workshop delivered as separate workshops for each committee at different times.

An abridged version of the workshop will be delivered during the September 2018 Council Meeting, where it is expected, that multiple committee members, Chairs and Executives will be reached at the same time.

Alyssa: I suggest that we have it in October and November Council. October is when all committees are turned over ... maybe the November council meeting is the best time

Nicolas: Why not coordinate this for councillor retreat?

John: This makes more sense.

Victoria: When does council retreat happen?

Alyssa: Typically November

Jun: Could we have it 15 mins before 5 so we can hear it?

John: After our start of conversations

Arash: Is it a workshop or a presentation?

John: Presentation.

Rahaf: Best to be separate from council meeting.

Alyssa: Let's have it during council retreat and that will remove the issue from council time and separating it as a meeting.

Peter: You stole my thunder ... do the whole shebang of 45 mins during retreat.

b. **Matter #2**

Person Responsible: FEOO

Presentation Topic: Financial Reporting

Time: 10 minutes

Objective: Two month financial update

Philip: The budget may seem negative, but we are waiting to sign the pub contract.

Sara: We have 3 advocates now.

Alyssa: In the future this should be a matter to note and should be moved up.

Jun: Technically we spent less than budget it should be “favourable.”

Philip: It is a bit confusing, but Department 10 Corporate is unfavorable because its actual net contribution is less than budgeted. Don't look at the formula. Just that a positive means it is good, or favourable or negative means it's negative or unfavorable.

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Katerina: Use CPIF to renovate thea's or leon's to make it more appealing, so we can get more rentals there.

Philip: Yes someone needs to present this tough.

Christina: We have not had the time because of the GM issue.

Arash: What is the methodology you used to reach this number?

Philip: Monthly expenditure

Arash: Doing monthly reports does not make much sense as month to month things change.

2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

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

Person Responsible: VP Students

Description: Invitation for Councillors to Attend Orientation
Please see attachment with Orientation Events.

3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

a. **Matter #1:**

Person Responsible: VP University and Academic Affairs

Description: Workshop hosted by SVPRO and GSS

On Tuesday, August 28th, 2:00-4:00pm the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) and GSS are putting together a workshop in the Thea Koerner House that will teach participants how to support someone, who discloses sexual assault.

Participants will practice techniques to respond to and support survivors, understand the difference between disclosure and reporting and their role and responsibilities. Discussion of barriers and myths that impede disclosing will also be included.

We have only 12 spots available, so hurry and reserve your spot by sending an email to aa@gss.ubc.ca by Monday August 20th, 2018.

b. **Matter #2:**

Person Responsible: VP University and Academic Affairs

Description: Status of Students from Saudi Arabia

As you know, some of the graduate students from Saudi Arabia have been asked to cease their studies at Canadian universities because of some political conflict between government of Canada and Saudi Arabia. There are 100 graduate students from Saudi Arabia, one third of whom hold Saudi government scholarships and are affected by this conflict. Currently, our office is contacting different offices at UBC such as Enrollment Services, AMS, G+PS, as well as VP

Students office to understand the situation and support these students.
Question is what are the possible ways to help our peers?

Rachel: Can we provide financial support for students?

Rahaf: If people are on scholarship, they are under the rules of government, if government of Saudi Arabia says they need to go back they need to ... perhaps students will be penalized if students choose to get funding from Canada – there may be another risk.

Philip: Supporting Rachel's idea and maybe we may go ahead and advocate for financial aid because international fee is high, liaise with university to waver their fee ... pay like permanent residents.

Nicolas: This is a situation that calls for GSS to do something because the well-being of graduate students is what we are here for ... it calls for a more active role and there is a sense of urgency as students need to know whether they are going back ... focus on students who decide to stay and how we encourage them ... with that in mind clearly the option of advocacy is a good idea ... should we create a support fund? We need to focus on ubc graduate students because this is where our mission stops.

Alyssa: This is a government issue – this could be an opportunity for VP external to see what can be done.

John: Casa has put up a statement that is just a condemnation of the crisis but not affirmative in any way. The question is how to help people that want to stay.

Arash: This is a very unfortunate ... it is very unfortunate that if you get governmental funding you have to do what they say. On the point of what we can do – let's reach out to VP external from the AMS. She has recently been working on Iranian student pr processing.

Rachel: Final thought – if there is any opportunity to connect with these students and hear from them that is likely the best route for us to take in terms of supporting them

Nicolas: Enrolment did not want to give us this information ... we can't reach out to them because we don't know who they are.

Amber: We can utilize things like our social media and reach out to students we are already accessing and offer what we have – advocacy, emergency funding.

Peter: Ben can send out an email "if you are a student from Saudi Arabia or know one ... the GSS wants to speak to you." We can draft up a quick motion and reserve an x amount of budget to help out with this.

Katarina: There is a Saudi Arabian student association on facebook at UBC.

John: Thanks, Peter! We don't have the budget so it may be hard to give money ... Rachel mentioned a good option to advocate with relevant centers.

Christina: We have some extra money. We can hire an advocacy officer to work for this ... before next meeting someone can come to me with an idea ... we also have the contingency fund.

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Rahaf: Their problem is not the money, it is a political problem. When we advocate we need to make sure we are not in political trouble and see how they see it because they have direction from their government. Money is not the first problem here

Peter: I am not saying necessary pay tuition, but to have some money if a student wants to testify to congress, to have some money put aside for incidentals, but specifically tagged for this particular cause.

Nicolas: What are we going to do?

Sara: Maybe it is best to contact the association that Katerina mentioned ... and maybe meet with enrolment services and I can update you during next meeting.

Arash: Also, reach out to AMS VP External.

I. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 pm.
MOVER: Nicolas SECONDER: Amber
RESULT: All in favor

J. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting
 - a. *Date:* September 20th, 2018
 - b. *Time:* 5:30 pm
 - c. *Location:* Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest, UBC Vancouver

2. Food Choices

Option A: Fajitas

Option B: Indian

Option C: 3 Choices Below

Roasted West Coast cod on miso braised cabbage

Roasted chicken thighs with primavera sauce

Braised lentils with smoked tofu, market vegetables and olive oil

Option B was selected with by hand voting

2. Notice of Unseatings

John Dupuis to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Land and Food Systems.

Victoria Gomez to be unseated as GSS Representative to AMS Council.

Rachel Goossen to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Educational Studies, effective Sept 1st, 2018.

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Rachel Goossen to be unseated as Elections Committee, Chair, effective Sept.1st, 2018.

Jennifer Campbell to be unseated as Ordinary Member to the **Executive Oversight Committee** and the **House Finance Committee**.

Amber S. to be unseated as Councillor to the **Executive Oversight 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

1. August 2018 ThinkGRAD Meeting Attendance Report

- The President of the UBC Vancouver GSS, John Ede, attended the meeting on behalf of the society, which was held at the University of Manitoba Winnipeg Campus from August 1st to 3rd 2018.
- During a call for nominations and subsequent vote for election, John was elected by unanimous vote for one of the two positions of Director at Large of ThinkGRAD. The other position was filled by Asma Bouikni, FAÉCUM (UMontreal) University Research Coordinator.
- John also joined the white paper committee to develop issues for discussion on the selected policy theme for the year which is centered on International Students Issues.
- The attendees list and discussions sessions description for the meeting are as follows:

Discussion Session Descriptions

- Session #1: Mandatory Summer Registration and Fees (UManitoba)

At the University of Manitoba, grad students were required to officially register during the summer semester for the first time last year. Before then, grad students only registered if they were taking a class or completing their program.

Last year, a Summer Sport & Rec Fee was the only new fee grad students had to pay due to mandatory summer registration. A few months ago, the University's Board of Governors approved a restructuring of various University fees for all students, including grad students, so that they are more evenly spread across all semesters, including in the summer. Though these fees remain basically the same for students registered in only the Fall and Winter semesters, as is the case for most undergrads, for those registered in the summer, including all grad students, these fees have now jumped up by over 20% in one year. Though these fees are not particularly large, the costs of the fee changes fall disproportionately on grad students. We are wondering if other universities require grad students to register in the summer, whether they pay fees specifically for the summer semester, and whether grad students elsewhere are similarly paying a disproportionate amount of fees compared to the average undergraduate.

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-Session #2: Non-Mandatory Membership in Student Association (UAlberta)

The next Alberta provincial election will likely occur in 2019, and the United Conservative Party currently has as one of its policies that they will shift student association membership from being mandatory to voluntary, though it is unclear whether they will include this policy in their final election platform. We do not know at this point whether they would choose an opt-in or an opt-out method if they were to be elected and implement these changes. Our provincial advocacy organizations, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, will be continuing conversations with the party, and may be meeting the second week of August to further discuss strategies. We are interested in learning whether other associations have had their provincial governments impose or propose non-mandatory student association membership and how other GSAs may have handled these changes.

-Session #3: Organized Sporting Events and Fitness Promotion (UManitoba)

The UMGSA has organized sporting events for grads for many years. These events have taken various forms over the years. Over the course of this year, the UMGSA is planning to hold several separate sporting events, each for a different sport. Last year, the UMGSA only held a two-day Summer Games, incorporating several sports. Before then, grad events for one or more sports would be organized in any given year, but what events were organized was somewhat inconsistent due to the ever-changing interests of successive Executive teams. Most of the students who attend our sporting events come consistently, and few new people come out to participate.

We are wondering if other grad student groups organize sporting events, what sort of events you organize, and if there are any suggestions on how to encourage more and new students to participate. We are also wondering if other grad groups do anything to encourage fitness and health among their students more broadly, beyond sporting events.

-Session #4: Paid Leaves of Absence (USask)

Recently, students have come to us with the concept of having paid leaves of absence. This would include maternity leave, parental leave and sick leave. Currently, the U of S allows for leaves of absence; however, there is no guaranteed payment / stipend. We would like to know if there are policies for paid leaves of absence across Canadian Universities for graduate students and what these policies for this look like and how these came about.

-Session #5: Office for Students' Rights (UMontreal)

The Office for Students' Rights is meant to promote and help defend student's rights and duties. It informs the students about the good and bad practices they can have during their studies. It is also made to accompany students in any procedures meant to enforce students' rights.

Actual Problem:

- The academic affairs coordinator for graduate students and the academic affairs coordinator for undergraduate students are already spending a lot of their time working on resolving academic student cases. This means less time for them to work on defending academic rights towards the administration.
- We can't currently promote this service because of the additional workload that it would bring on the coordinators.

Solution:

- We want to develop a « Students' Rights Office (?) »
- Its mission would be to defend the student's rights and interests
- It would have specialized resources
- It would inform and give advice on student rights and recourses

-Session #6: Online Engagement (UAlberta)

The University of Alberta GSA has started exploring the idea of trying to use different online platforms (i.e. Slack or Google Chat) to engage with Council members (outside of formal Council meeting business), in order to enhance camaraderie and facilitate connections between members. We have also been discussing how to further engage with graduate students at-large, such as looking into the possibility of having an online chat function available on our website. Before we pursue further investigation of different platforms, we're interested in learning whether other GSAs utilize any online platforms for these activities. Specific questions are:

1. Do you utilize any specific online programs/tools to engage with your Council members?
2. Do you utilize any specific online programs/tools to engage with graduate students at-large?

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-Session #7: How to Raise Visibility and Awareness of Our Associations (UManitoba)

Like many student associations, the UMGSA struggles to maintain visibility and awareness among our grad student population. Most of the grad students at the University of Manitoba largely socialize within their own departments. We send a monthly email newsletter to all grad students, unless they have requested to be taken off the email list. The number one bit of feedback that we have received, though, is that grads feel they already receive too many emails from the University, and want us to email less. We also use Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote the UMGSA, events, and funding opportunities.

In our case, we are independent of the undergraduate student union at the UofM, UMSU. They represent over five times as many students as we do, have a full-time Executive team, operate several business on campus, and have a whole marketing and communications team. We have no businesses, part-time Executives, and a total of two staff. Students sometimes confuse us with UMSU, and even more often aren't aware that we are not the Faculty of Graduate Studies itself, or a branch thereof.

We are trying to reach out to more students, but struggle to communicate effectively with those who aren't already engaged. We are wondering if other grad groups find this to be a problem, and what other groups do to reach out to grads who aren't engaged.

-Session #8: Fostering Engagement, Inclusion, and Collaboration Via Governance Structure (UManitoba)

The UMGSA is looking for ways to increase engagement and inclusion of grad students-at-large, as well as among our UMGSA Council members. Our Council, which has 9 monthly meetings a year, is currently structured to have one vote for each graduate department or program, with several small departments lacking a representative, and most other departments having co-councillors (though with just the one vote). One consequence of this is that departments with 8 grad students have the same single vote as departments with 120 grad students. Another is that our Council is fairly large, with well over 40 people attending an average meeting.

Though we consistently have good turnout to our Council meetings, most representatives in attendance do not actively participate in meetings most of the time. Though Council members are encouraged to share news and events from their departments, there are almost never any departmental reports. Some representatives do a great job of communicating what the UMGSA is doing and what we offer to grad students in their departments, but most grad students know very little about the UMGSA.

We have a sub-group, called the Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association (HSGSA), that represents grad students at the UofM's separate Bannatyne Campus. Otherwise, most departmental grad groups do not organize or collaborate with other grad groups within their faculties or beyond.

We are considering whether a reorganization of our governance structure may better support engagement with and inclusion of grad students-at-large, of Council members, and of departmental GSAs. We are wondering what kinds of governance structures other groups use, and whether they find them conducive to fostering engagement, inclusion, and collaboration. Are faculty councils used to facilitate collaboration among departments within a faculty? Do you find that a smaller or larger Council or Board of Directors better-supports your Association's goals?

-Session #9: Presentation and Group Discussion with Elder Carl Stone (UManitoba)

We will be joined by Elder Carl Stone. He will lead a presentation and group discussion around engaging Indigenous graduate students.

-Session #10: Student Parents (USherbrooke)

We have a lot of stakes and projects for Student Parents at Sherbrooke University. We would like to discuss about the stakes in other universities and how they manage to deal with problems surrounding student parents. We would like to share the good practices on how student unions can manage to help student parents, but also about policies and services for student parents in different campuses.

2. Outgoing Councillor Exit Questionnaire Reveal Displeasure with Council

- An outgoing Councillor has expressed the following views as reasons for withdrawing from Council. The following quote is from the exit interview, which is shared with consent:

...as of late council has become a mess, and a quite hostile place ... Robert's Rules

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[are often] ignored ... These [people] in particular have made council a very unwelcoming place. Not only are they rude and often hostile in how they convey their message, but they are probably the worst offenders in regards to following Robert's Rules by constantly speaking out of order ..."

3. Staff Update for July–August

ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer

-

iii. Executive Oversight Committee

-

iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee

-

v. House Finance Committee

- In the past month the GSS HF committee has discussed the 2017/2018 actuals (although further discussion is needed before a presentation will be made to council), the availability of the GSS Loft space, as well as the Sauder ballroom renovation, and a security upgrade for Thea Koerner House.

vi. Code & Policy Committee

-

vii. Human Resources Committee

-

viii. AMS Council

-

ix. Elections Committee

-

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

i. VP Students

-

ii. Services Committee

-

c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

i. VP University & Academic Affairs

-

ii. VP External Relations

-

iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee

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-
- iv. Graduate Council
-
- v. Senate
-
- vi. Board of Governors
 - We have appointed a new VP Finance & Operations, as well as a new VP Development and Alumni Affairs. The next Board meetings will be held on Sept 13th (Committees) and Sept 27th (Board; at UBC Okanagan). You can [learn more here](#).