

A. Attendance

1. **Present:** Alyssa Kirlin, Amber Shilling, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Arash Shadkam, Arezoo Alemzadeh Merhizi, Ariana Saatchi represented by Sumreen Javed, Bradley Balaton, Christina Rubino, Claire Preston, Farah Deeba, Gurjot Singh, Hamed Pouriayevali, Jakob Gattinger, Jeanie Malone, John Ede, Jun Sian Lee, Lily Takeuchi, Nicolas Romualdi, Peter Musser, Phil Angel, Pouya Rezaeinia, Rahaf al Assil, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sebastien Rettie represented by Nicky Trischuk, Theresa Pauly, Yangfan Zhang, Victoria Gomez
2. **Regrets:** Amanda Tobias Costa de Oliveira, Zoe Lam
3. **Absent:** 22 Councillors
4. **Quorum:** 20 Councillors

B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:32 pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.
MOVER: Nicolas R. SECONDER: Bradley B.

Christina W.: Motion to amend. Please, include the unseating of Lisa Zhu from House Finance Committee.

Alyssa K.: Can we include EOC's Presentation on the smart goals of VP Studnets?

MOVER: Christina SECONDER: Nicolas

RESULT: For (8): Bradley Balaton, Alyssa Kirlin, Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh

C. Introductions

Introduction by all attendees were made.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
 - a. GSS Council Minutes - August 16, 2018
2. Committee minutes for approval:
 - a. Code and Policy Committee - August 14, 2018 and August 28, 2018;
 - b. Elections Committee - June 21, 2018;
 - c. Executive Committee - August 23, 2018, Sept.6, 2018 and Sept. 17, 2018;
 - d. Governance and Accountability Committee - August 18, 2018;
 - e. House Finance Committee - August 1, 2018
 - f. Services Committee - August 21, 2018.

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September 20, 2018 | Room 2301, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

MOVER: Nicolas SECONDER: Victoria

Conny: Any discussion? None. Let's vote.

RESULT: For (17): Phil Angel, Farah Deeba, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

Abstained: Bradley Balaton, Alyssa Kirlin

... 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?**

None

c. **Matter #1**

Person Responsible: President

Subject Description: Councillors' Retreat

Councillors' Retreat will be held on Saturday, November 17th in Thea's Lounge, Thea Koerner House, Graduate Student Society. Topics and activities are under discussion, if you have any suggestions, please share. For now save the date. It will be great!

Sara Izadi-Najafabadi presented instead of John Ede, who was running late for the meeting.

Matter #2

EOC Presentation on VPS goals update (5min)

Alyssa to present on behalf of EOC.

Goal 2: Foster the professional and academic growth of graduate students by hosting thesis/dissertation bootcamps meets Strategic Plan priorities and has been approved.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Seatings**

- i. New Councillors

BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:

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Fapu Duan to be seated as Departmental Representative for the School of Forestry.

Omri Wallach to be seated as Departmental Representative for the School of Journalism.

Theresa Pauly to be reseeded as Departmental Representative for Psychology.

Joyce Lam to be seated as Departmental Representative for Neuroscience.

Gloria Mellesmoen to be seated as Departmental Representative for Linguistics.

Negar Ghahramani to be seated as Departmental Representative for Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.

MOVER: Bradley SECONDER: Nicolas

RESULT: For (18): Bradley Balaton, Farah Deeba, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Kelsey Yamasaki

Alyssa: I have a motion from the floor.

Speaker: I need a seconder.

MOVER: Alyssa SECONDER: Nicolas

BIRT the name cards for members of the council shall have different colors depending on their status as follows

White – Executives

Yellow–Everyone who counts for quorum

Blue–Everyone else like committee chars

BIFRT that this change should be implemented as of October Council meeting.

Omri: Do you know why it was changed?

Alyssa: Things started to slip off when the previous GM left and the AA was turned over several times. It is something that happened by accident due to staff and exec turnover.

Nicolas: Motion to amend, BIFRT that this change should be implemented as of October Council meeting

Speaker: Alyssa, friendly?

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Alyssa: Yes.

RESULT: For (20): Phil Angel, Farah Deeba, Eric Frieling , Victoria Gomez, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

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** (3 needed.)

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

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Code and Policy Committee** (2 needed.)

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

_____ to be seated as Ordinary Member to the **Executive Oversight Committee** (2 needed.)

Fapu Du an, Omri Wallach to be seated as Councillors to the **Executive Oversight Committee** (2 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (2 needed.)

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

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_____ 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**.

Arash: Point of information. Do they have to be seated or elected?

Peter: Point of information – the stakes have not been lower as all committees are being reseeded next month.

Nicolas R., _____ to be seated as Councillors to the **House Finance Committee** (4 needed.)

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

John Dupuis to be seated as Ordinary Members to the **Services Committee** (1 needed)

Joyce Lam, _____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Services Committee** (3 needed.)

Arash: We also have 2 vacancies for AMS Council Representatives.

MOVER: Amber SECONDER: Jun Sian Lee

RESULT: For (23): Bradley Balaton, Farah Deeba, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

b. Matter #1

Group Responsible: HR Committee

Subject Matter: GM Hiring

Motion:

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WHEREAS the GSS Council has passed a motion for the hiring of 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 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 This Staff Member has confirmed willingness to fill the position of General Manager, if it is offered.

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

WHEREAS The Executive team and the HR committee have agreed on the procedure described below and selection of this individual

BIRT that the GSS Council appoints Vivian Tian as "Interim General Manager", for a period of 3 months, starting October 1st and ending December 30 2018, with a raise in salary to that of the GM position,

BIRFT that the HR Committee posts the job description on Indeed.ca for one week starting on September 21, 2018 with the caveat that the position is being filled internally and the advert is for public information only

BIFRT by December Council, the President, HR committee and the FEEO will present to Council on the performance of Vivian Tian in the position as GM,

BIFRT that upon presentation of a report of satisfactory performance from the President, HR committee and FEEO, the appointment shall be confirmed and made permanent with effect from January 1, 2019.

MOVER: Rory Long

SECONDER: Nicolas

RESULT: _____

Nicolas: If we will discuss anything, we have to go in camera.

MOVER: Nicolas SECONDER: Amber

Result: For (15): Bradley Balaton, Farah Deeba, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

Against (4): Eric Frieling , Jun Sian Lee, Sebastien Rettie, Arash Shadkam

Abstained: Pouya Rezaenia

IN CAMERA SESSION IN PROGRESS

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Speaker: So who is in support of HR motion? Please vote.

RESULT: For (23): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

Matter #2

Group Responsible: Executive Oversight Committee

Proposed objective: To adopt an official template for executive and committee goal setting

Relevant materials: EOC SMART Goal Template

Motion (standalone):

WHEREAS the Executive Oversight Committee and the Governance and Accountability *ad hoc* Committee facilitate annual goal setting with all of the GSS Executives and Committees, and

WHEREAS the SMART goal setting procedure is useful for setting effective, measurable goals, and

WHEREAS the Executive Oversight Committee and the Governance and Accountability *ad hoc* Committee have developed and made use of a template for SMART goal setting over the last two years,

BIRT the GSS adopt the EOC SMART Goal Template as the official template for Executive and Committee goal setting.

MOVER: Alyssa (on behalf of EOC)

SECONDER: Nicolas

Speaker: Any discussion?

Alyssa: Basically what we have been using the template for past 2 years already. This is only a better version. It has been endorsed by G&A Committee as well.

Jun: I am a bit worried about hyperlink.

Alyssa: Hyperlink goes to a google drive – EOC's.

RESULT: For (24): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

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Matter #3

Group responsible: Elections Committee

Presentation time: 5 minutes

Presentation description: Highlight proposed change to the policy manual (12.2.1) and answer any related questions.

Proposed objective: Amend Policy 12.2.1 of the GSS (e.g. adopt/ratify)

Relevant materials: None.

Motion (standalone):

WHEREAS in recent Society elections, a special resolution has been required in Council to delay the announcement of the election period;

BIRT the following change to Policy 12.2.1 is recommended by the Elections Committee to be approved by the GSS Council: Policy 12.2.1 The dates for Society elections shall be set and announced to the membership of the Society by the President no later than 30 days prior to the start of voting.

MOVER: Jun Sian Lee **SECONDER:** _____ **RESULT:** _____

Jun: Problem with 12.2.1. is that it is set around AMS' election, which is usually set in February. So we recommend that they are set one month in advance.

Speaker: AMS announcement policy is 30 days.

Alyssa: Did you post this 7 days before our meeting? I believe this motion is out of order because there is a set procedure about how to revise the Policy Manual. I believe we are out of order to amend the Policy manual.

Nicolas: I move this to go back to Elections committee and to consult with CPC. Any policy amendments should go through CPC.

Alyssa: Seconder

MOVER: Nicolas **SECONDER:** Alyssa

Bradley: Last time I looked CPC was not a functional committee.

Alyssa: I was in communication with them, so they did meet.

RESULT: For (25): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki, Yangfan Zhang

Against (2): Farah Deeba, Sebastien Rettie

... 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

Arezoo: Can you say something about the hiring of VP students?

Pouya: Yes, we had two interviews today, but I am not allowed to say anything more.

c. Matter #1

Person Responsible: VP Students

Subject Matter: Thank you, Orientation Volunteers!

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 September 2019:

- **Neuroscience Graduate Student Association (NRSC GSA)**
- **Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Network**
- **Graduate Student Wellbeing Network**

MOVER: Alyssa

SECONDER: Sebastien

RESULT: For (24): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Areezo M., Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Christina

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Rubino, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Lily Takeuchi, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki
Abstained: Sebastien Rettie, Yangfan Zhang

... 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?

No.

c. **Matter #1**

Group responsible: AcEx Committee

Presentation time: 15 minutes

Presentation description: Results of 2018 Student Satisfaction Survey

Proposed objective: Data-driven advocacy according to GSS Strategic plan

Relevant materials: Powerpoint and pdf

Nicolas: Great job. How are you making sure that the information is spreading?

Gill: Newsletter and web-site and every month we sent out bite-sized graphics.

Lily: For your average populations are you deciphering core-based and research programs?

Gill: I have not broken down the report into different demographics. Probably before the end of the year I will do it and one of our monthly analysis will be on finances. If you are interested, you can email me, and I will let you know immediately.

Yangfan: Do you know the proportion of funding?

Gill: Yes.

Yangfan: As far as I know there is a large amount of funding available for domestic PhD students, and not so much for international.

Gill: Good point. There will be a wage gap for domestic vs. international, female vs. male.

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Yangfan: The chance for international funding is much smaller. So we should advocate for a better funding for international students. They are equal contributors to academic life.

Ty: We have ordinary members of society joining AcEx and asking for specific findings and questions. Again, please join our meetings and share insight.

Gill: I would like to add that if you send me an email and make an inquiry we can add this to the survey for next year.

Arezoo: I would like to make two recommendations: Really congrats on AcEx and we can make use of it better. I was wondering if we can present these data to BoG and Senate.

BoG: You can send it as submission – aim for November or December meeting. I know AMS has presented before.

Senate: Typically this would be not be accepted from AMS and GSS or any employee groups. We can talk about it in student caucus.

Ty: We are working closely with both VP Internal and External – we do the analysis as a committee and they do the political work.

Peter: Does the GSS own the dataset? Can we anonymize the data set and make it publicly available?

Gill: It is a bit murky whether GSS owns it. We are trying to develop this. The data is already anonymous. Maybe in the future we will be able to do what you suggested.

Rory: Good job. Are we breaking the information into demographics as we can see what groups are affected by it and we can really go into it.

Gill: We haven't broken it down, but every month I try to break data into multiple groups and find patterns.

Victoria: Congratulations – this is amazing! So all of those will be available on web-site?

Gill: There are posted on web-site every month. There are currently on web-site.

Victoria: How long will these be on the web-site? Are there any plans to remove them?

Gill: We have not discussed this.

Ty: We just want to populate the web-site for now and later on during the recommendations we will actually be able to explore this question.

Yangfan: We need to distinguish what PhD and masters get in the end. We need to join forces and work on this issue.

Ty: This is the idea why we are doing this. This is the foundation for our advocacy. I would commend Sara and VP External for using the data in their own advocacy. Right now AcEx is really focusing on the analysis. We are taking it step by step and we hear you, but this will be a long process.

Gill: If you have an idea about questions that will give you the data you need for advocacy, I encourage you to suggest them.

Ty: We are really open for suggestions, so watch out for our emails.

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Sara: I had a meeting last week with Charles from International Student Development and Danielle Barklay from the Centre for Student Involvement and Careers and they are planning to do more advocacy for international students. We are collaborating with GPS to send out a survey about international student needs, so we can collaborate on this. This is something GSS is getting involved in.

Arezoo: It will be good if President is involved as he is in the Committee for Strategic Involvement.

Gurjot: I will be using this data for advocacy. ABCS has a meeting during the last week in October.

Pouya: Can you send the report to me? We are in the process of choosing VP Students?

Theresa: Who can we share the report with?

Ty: We are discussing this. Right now the full report could be shared with Council because we noted in our survey that we will be sharing the aggregate answers.

Matter #2

Group responsible: AcEx Committee

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: Recommendations for 2019 Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS)

Proposed objective: To showcase ways of improving SSS this year

Relevant materials: Powerpoint and pdf

Sara I.-N. presented on behalf of AcEx Committee

Alyssa: The clear role for a survey coordinator comes through. Is there a more long term plan to maintain the survey coordinator as it seems a central role?

Sara: I also budgeted for this, but we got work-learn funding for the position. We really think this is something that GSS needs. We think this position should be a permanent position for GSS.

Ty: We will be discussing this with HR.

Rahaf: Regarding February – many students travel during Spring Break.

Ty: Survey is administered for a month and will transverse reading period. We also want to tie to elections for Executives, so students can think about who they are electing. Finally, February is the middle of the term, so graduate students do not have papers. Based on our conversations, February seems to be the best time.

Sara: These recommendations are from an AcEx meeting after Gill, I and Ty met. Discussion continues.

Ty: We learned a lot from the survey about Harassment and Discrimination. If you are a member of this ad hoc committees please consider joining AcEx – we want it to be the lead for surveys.

Gill: We want the policy assistant to help us with guidelines about how we will be

storing and managing data. Regarding the anonymity – it starts with entering students' emails.

Nicolas: Great point to make the data available to graduate students at large. If you open the GSS strategy, you don't see referendum data. We seem to be missing the point on this. Also how can we make the survey coordinator a permanent institution?

Ty: We hope that through practice we can entrench this system in the GSS DNA.

Sebastien: I think – individual people can spread the word, but also you can send emails to other people to send emails for you. I often archive emails. When you get emails from sources you look at, you are more likely to read the email.

President: We are looking for this feedback to tweak our communication strategy. The work with our communications team is ongoing one ... we will take this feedback and do better.

Alyssa: Just to clarify, it is still open for a month.

Ty: The admin of survey will be open for a month.

Alyssa: Reading week will be just a part of this month. And my second question was about communication.

Sara: We sent the list to graduate advisors, but it is not updated.

Ty: As you can see, we still have lots of things to do.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Matter #1:**

... Next page: Matters for Discussion

H. Matters for Discussion

1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:

Proposed objective: To report the current status of the GSS referendum and to discuss strategies to achieve the quorum of 600.

Group responsible: Chair of GSS Elections Committee

Presentation time: 5 minutes

Presentation description: GSS is running a special referendum from September 10 to 23 (coming Sunday) to ensure that our Constitution and Bylaws comply with the new BC Societies Act 2015. The voter turnout so far has not close to satisfy the quorum of 600. The Elections Committee recommends councillors to vote right away and to send out notice to the students in their department to get them to vote. If you have any questions or comments, please email to junsianlee1@gmail.com. Thank you!

Link: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zr-3HhVW2hTdfKM2uKvNSbaOLdZYcn4rYohyTyg5X34/edit#slide=id.p>

Alyssa: I can tell you what I did to promote the referendum. I sent out emails. It is also important for incoming graduate students to put faces to names – so go to these early events and tell people what the GSS is and tell them about the referendum. Councillors really need to be leveraged.

Jun: If you have sent out the email, please let us know. Maybe we can get stickers for top three faculty or something.

Peter: Victoria and I mentioned this to our incoming students and we included it in the newsletter. So last Friday it got its own section in newsletter.

John: What is the ratio of yes/no?

Jun: It is a special referendum so we have to have 2/3. We will know final results after Sept. 23.

Kamaldeep: If we can send the referendum to affiliated committees

Jun: The only issue is that we don't have their emails. And their maybe a privacy issue.

Sebastien: I voted now because the wording of the two changes are minor. But it is very important, so we still need to vote. Just make sure you make clear that voting is important for the continuation of GSS.

Jun: We discussed this with Nicolas about how alarmist we should be ... we decided to say it in a neutral way.

Nicolas: This comes down to communications strategy – I would like to see the President present a developed communications strategy so we are clear with our membership.

Alyssa: Then we can actively campaign for a particular answer.

2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

a. **Matter #1**

Group responsible: Heart and Stroke Foundation Club (Nitai Weinberg, Wendy Guo) (i.e. presenter/committee)

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: Helping Hearts, a CPR/AED Training Initiative for the UBC Community

Proposed objective: Promotion of the event, and an open invite to all GSS members to attend

Relevant materials:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wULqxmsvW8t_P241TQKMc3ARegSTdbLLdsqG29rDLeE/edit?usp=sharing

(Helping Hearts Google Slides Presentation)

Arash presented on behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation Club.

Alyssa: How is this advertised? Is this an opportunity to actually get certified?

Arash: Facebook and there is no actual certification.

3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

a. **Matter #1**

Group responsible: Student Members for the Vancouver campus on the UBC Board of Governors

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: Brief overview of UBC Governance, including the University Act, Board and the Senates

Proposed objective: For information; to orient GSS councillors to UBC's governance structures

Relevant materials: Governance Presentation

Amber: Can you share about student caucus?

Jeanie: There are 88 senators, 18 of them are students. Students have in the past formed a caucus, a joint voting block and we meet to talk about different issues.

Jacob: Trying to present a unitary front for students. It has worked a lot of times.

Nicolas: As members of BoG do you have to share with university?

Jeanie: Yes

John: Today I was going to contact you, but what struck me today is that your vote for passing the school budget counts equally. How do you ensure you take the students' interests at large into account?

Jacob: We have to set aside the fact that we are students and look at what's best for the whole university. But we do go there as student advocates and are able to also

wear that hat. Outside of the formal meetings we serve more as advocates, asking questions at the right time. It is truly a governance board, not as much a management body which maybe GSS and AMS are.

Jeanie: In terms of tuition increases, I usually do a lot of advocacy outside of formal meetings.

Jacob: Policy 131 is a great example. It won't be here without Jeanie's great work and also Kevin's.

Alyssa: I just want to thank you for coming to talk to us. Please continue to talk to us.

I. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:32 pm.

MOVER: Nicolas SECONDER: Omri

RESULT: All in favor

J. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting

a. *Date:* October 18th, 2018

b. *Time:* 5:30 pm

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

2. Notice of Unseatings

John Dupuis to be unseated as a Councillor from Services Committee.

Katherina Othonos to be unseated as a Councillor from Elections Committee.

Joyce Lam to be unseated as an Ordinary Member from Services Committee.

Emily Leischner to be unseated as a Departmental Representative for the Department of Anthropology.

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

- a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

- i. **President**

- i.1. Councillors' Retreat

- Date: Nov 17

- Place: Thea's Lounge, Thea Koerner House

- Purpose: review work of committees, check progress acc to Strategic Plan, discuss GSS priorities, etc.

Suggested program:

8:30-9:30am – Breakfast

9:30- 12:00pm – Work Meetings

12:00-1:00pm – Lunch

1:00-3:30pm – Meetings

3:30-5:00pm – Team-Building Activity

i.2. September Staff Update (in supporting documents)

ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer

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iii. Executive Oversight Committee

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iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee

The committee goal review process for the 2017/18 end of term has been started. Committee members have reached out to committee/caucus chairs and the FEOO to receive a report on the progress on each of the goals that have been set. G&A plans to report to Council in October on the results of the 2017/18 cycle.

CPC has asked G&A to provide a recommendation on a motion to amend the policy manual regarding establishing minimum recommendations for the chair honorarium to be paid. A response to the committee was sent. In summary, the opinion of the committee is that focus shouldn't be on penalizing chairs when committees aren't functioning but on addressing the issue of disfunction during council and making the appropriate motions to address the issue.

v. House Finance Committee

The HF committee is currently monitoring GSS finances by reviewing monthly profit and loss statements. We are also actively working with Tim Yu to assess needed upgrades to Koerner's pub, and the GSS staff to assess needed upgrades and renovations to Thea Koerner House.

vi. Code & Policy Committee

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vii. Human Resources Committee

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viii. AMS Council

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ix. Elections Committee

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The Elections Committee is currently running the special Referendum to make essential updates to the GSS Bylaws and Constitution. Outreach is being done:

- via email (through Councillors and AOs),
- via in-person orientation events, and
- via online media.
- via in-person visits to faculties and departments

We encourage all GSS council members to promote Referendum participation to their colleagues. Voting started on Sept 10 and ends on Sept 23; the voting period may be extended to Sept 30. The webpage for referendum is:

<http://gss.ubc.ca/referendum/> . Please vote ASAP!

Additionally, the committee has transitioned between Chairs this month and is in need of 1 councillor and 3 ordinary members. As we prepare for the 2019 Executive elections, it will be imperative to continue growing graduate student participation throughout all facets of the GSS.

Elections Committee is engaging with Ben, the GSS Communications and Marketing Director, to help with the ongoing initiatives to improve student engagement.

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

-

iv. Graduate Council

-

v. Senate

-

vi. Board of Governors

The Board held the majority of its committee meetings on September 13th, and the full Board meeting will be held September 27th at the UBC Okanagan campus. A livestream, as well as all agendas and materials, can be found at

<https://bog.ubc.ca/>. For a recap of the important issues, check out the [Ubysey](#)

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[summary](#) that highlights the student-facing topics of the September meetings.

As always, please feel free to reach out to jeanie.malone@ubc.ca or jakob.gattinger@ubc.ca if you have any questions, comments, or concerns!