

## A. Attendance

1. Present: Alexa Tanner, Alice Miao, Amber Shilling, Andras Szeitz, Arash Shadkam, Claire Preston, Darren Touch, Erik Frieling, Fapu Duan, Farah Deeba, Gloria Mellesmoen, Gurjot Singh, Hamed Pouriayeali, Hilal Kina, Jakob Gattinger, John Ede, Jun Sian Lee, Kamaldeep Gill, Karanpreet Matharu, Karen Thulasi Devendrakuman, Kate Sedivy-Haley, Kelsey Yamasaki, Larissa Peck, Lily Takeuchi, Logan Lorenz, Lois Evans, Nicolas Romualdi, Negar Ghahramani, Nevena Rebic, Omri Wallach, Phil Angel, Philip Karangu, Pouya Rezaeinia, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sebastien Rettie, Solomon Atta, Temitayo Olarewaju, Temitope Onifade, Theresa Pauly, Victoria Gomez, Xana Mendez Prendes, Yangfan Zhang
2. Regrets: Jeanie Malone, Kiana Yau, Rahaf Al Assil represented by Teilhard Paradela,
3. Absent: Anjali Gupta, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Arezoo Mehrizi, Jasleen Grewal, Joyce Lam, Maria Joze Martinez, Megan Holec, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Teesha Luehr,
4. Quorum: 22 Councillors

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

1. The meeting will be called to order at **5:31 pm**.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.  
Speaker: Any amendments? I see none.

MOVER: Hamed

SECONDER: Nicolas

RESULT: For (20): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Philip Karangu, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Gloria Mellesmoen, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayeali, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Gurjot Singh, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

## C. Introductions

Introductions were made.

## D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
  - a. Council Minutes – Dec. 13, 2018  
Amber: Amber was in regrets and in absent– should be listed as regrets.  
Kate: Kate should be listed as present.
2. Committee minutes for approval:
  - a. Elections Committee – Nov 6, 2018 and Nov 26, 2018
  - b. Executive Committee – Jan 11, 2019
  - c. Code and Policy – Jan 8, 2019
  - d. Governance and Accountability – Nov 27, 2018

**e. Services Committee – Dec 6, 2018**

**MOVER:** Arash                      **SECONDER:** Nicolas

**RESULT:** For (33): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Xana Prendes, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Yangfan Zhang

**Abstained:** Eric Frieling

*... 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 Committee   | viii. AMS Council              |
|   | ix. Elections Committee        |

##### b. Questions?

Amber: I have a question, which is directed to all Execs: Where was GSS at UBC's budget consultations? No Executives were to be seen attending.

John: We attended consultations with VP Students in October. We did not put an input as they called us and showed us what the budget was, and we did not have enough time to prepare for a consultation.

Philip: I want to say it is information for consultation.

Alexa: What is going on with the consultations for the Loft in the AMS space?

John: We have had a notice of the end of our lease with the AMS. The last time we had discussions was sometime in August and the question who was in control of the space was clear – the GSS.

Jun: Elections decided on the dates for GSS elections and nominations start tomorrow. You can find the exact dates in the Updates, on the bottom of this agenda.

##### c. Matter #1

**Group Responsible:** EOC – Philip, Lily, Kamal and Omri

**Presentation Time:** 10 minutes

**Subject Description:** Inform Council about Executive Midterm Goal Review

**Relevant Materials:** EOC Presentation

Speaker: Any questions? I see none. Moving on ...

## **Matter #2:**

**Group Responsible:** Executive Committee

### **Subject Matter:**

Executive team meeting with President Santa Ono:

Date: Friday January 14, 2019

Agenda: Present Results of GSS Student Satisfaction Survey & Discuss Grad Life Center

Attendees: John, Pouya, Philip, Vivian, Ben, President Ono

Outcome:

1. Ben Hill presented survey results; President Ono zoomed in on mental wellness and students sense of community.
2. President Ono is working on a province-wide mental health program, he is keen to see that it benefits the specific needs of all graduate students.
3. President Ono confirmed his awareness of the Grad Life Center project and affirmed his support of it.
4. He offered to provide funding for temporary facelift/furnishing of Thea Koerner House spaces to support students engagement and increase sense of community.
5. Based on building management plan by Vivian as Interim GM, President Ono requested quotations for immediate facelift of Thea's Lounge and other spaces.
6. Vivian has prepared the quotes for delivery to President Ono, to be sent to him on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

*\*\*Please see attached GSS Building renovation recommendations FINAL and GSSRenoRecommendations as supporting documents\*\**

## **Matter #3:**

Executive Team Priority : Graduate Life center:

1. At its August 2018 Committee meeting the Exec team adopted the Graduate Life Center project as a Committee goal, in collaboration with FOGS
2. During the proposal rounds of the UBC Strategic Plan Implementation Advisory Committee of 2018, a joint proposal was submitted to the committee by the GSS, FOGS and VPS office, being the collaborating partners on the project.
3. Mr Nicolas Romualdi, acting on delegation capacity on the SPIAC for John Ede, presented from the GSS Strat Plan in favour of graduate student spaces and the Grad Life Center.
4. A joint meeting comprising of GSS Execs, Dean Susan Porter, Interim VPS Andrew Parr, and VPS/FOGS staff was held on Nov 2018 to further discussions on the

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project.

5. The Grad Life Center has been adopted into the UBC Strategic plan under the theme “People and Places”

\*\* Please attach Grad Life mail item and Grad Life doc as supporting documents \*\*

Speaker: Any question?

Jun: I have a question: What is the timeline for the Grad Life Center? When will the renovation be done? I spoke to Vivian, our Interim GM, and I learned that UBC is paying most of the cost for the Grad Life Center.

John: The project is still in its formative stages – there is no timeline in place before we know the span and scope of the project. One of these will be a consultation with grad students to understand their needs. The proposal is for a committee to give an assessment for the possibilities of an expansion and renovation of the Thea Koerner building. In our talks we did mention that our priority is for a dedicated space for grad students, but we don’t have a financial commitment. Funding has not been discussed yet.

## **Matter #4**

**Group Responsible:** Elections Committee – Theresa P.

**Subject Matter:** Announcing the voter turnout survey

**Description:** The Elections committee is conducting voter turnout survey from Jan 11 for 4 weeks. We are distributing five survey printouts to each Councillors attending January Council meeting. The goal is specifically to reach people who are not associated with the GSS and/or have not voted in the last year (2018). We decided to mainly have this questionnaire in hard copy format to prevent grad students from bombarded by online questionnaires. Please read Elections Committee written updates for more details.

Speaker: Any other questions? I see none. Moving on.

## 2. Matters for Decision

### a. **Seatings**

#### i. New Councillors

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

**Nevena Rebic** to be seated as a Councillor for the **Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.**

MOVER: Nicolas      SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: For (35): Rahaf al Assil, Farah Deeba, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Eric

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Frieling , Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Xana Prendes, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach

**ii. Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject Description:** Amendment to Policy regarding Committee Composition (6.1.3, 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 8.2.1)

**Relevant Materials:** None

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** many GSS committees have historically had a declining Committee membership, while many councillors have not joined a committee;

**WHEREAS** the members in committees are crucial for the operations of GSS;

**WHEREAS** Policy 6.1.3 reads “Each councillor shall endeavour to join at least one committee of Council and participate in its activities.”

**WHEREAS** Strategy Plan Priority 2.2 Goal D. Provide opportunities for all GSS members to participate in and contribute to the GSS community, as Councillors, Executives, Ordinary Members, volunteers, or Affiliated Organizations.

**WHEREAS** Policy 7.2.1 establishes 5 seats on committees for councillors and 3 seats for ordinary members

**WHEREAS** two elections were held during October 2018 Council meeting because more than three ordinary members were interested to join GSS committees.

**WHEREAS** GSS should be more welcoming to ordinary members to join its committees and participate in their activities.

**WHEREAS** the Executive Committee is defined as a Standing Committee (Bylaw 9.1.a), and Policy 7.2.1 setting numbers of seats for “every Standing Committee” would ordinarily apply to the Executive Committee.

**WHEREAS** Policy 8.2.1.b establishes a mechanism for seating Councillors to the Executive Committee by special resolution, but does not define the duration of that appointment.

**BIRT** by special resolution Council amends Policy 6.1.3 to read:

6.1.3 Each **departmental representative seated as Councillor shall endeavor to join** at least one committee of Council and participate in its activities.

**BIFRT** by special resolution Council amends Policy 7.2.1 to read:

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7.2.1 Every standing committee shall have the following number of seats

- (a) 5 seats for councillors,
- (b) 5 seats for ordinary members not seated on council, and
- (c) as many required in the committee's terms of reference for ex officio members.

**BIFRT** by special resolution Council adds Policy 7.2.2, and amends Policy 8.2.1.b to read:

**7.2.2 Notwithstanding Policy 7.2.1, a committee may define specific numbers of councillor and ordinary member seats in its Terms of Reference, in which case this will override Policy 7.2.1**

8.2.1 The Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Consist of all Executive Officers as voting members and the FEOO as a non-voting member,
- (b) Not consist of any councillors or ordinary members, unless Council appoints a councillor to sit as a voting member on the Executive Committee, by special resolution. In this case Council will define a period of time for the appointment, and at the end of the appointed period, Council may re-appoint the councillor by the same process.**

MOVER: Code and Policy Committee

SECONDER: Victoria G.

Amber: I am really, really concerned about this as this is part of a larger issue in terms of how we are participating in the GSS. I am concerned as this is tied with the fiduciary duty of councillors – I don't think that prescribing involvement will inspire participating. For example, in addition to being a Senator I sit on three committees in Senate. I don't think that that is represented fairly in this policy. I think we have to be careful about prescribing the duties of councillors as it is hard to get volunteers. I am also confused about 7.2.2. – is it there to override ... or ?

Conny: It is legal – you can have a policy overriding another policy.

Amber: Does that mean that a committee can have three councillors?

Nicolas: The current policy compels us to be a part of a committee. The text is "Councillors shall endeavor to ..." A committee has to submit its Terms of Reference to Council for approval, so Council will have the last word on how many Councillors are actually in a Committee. I agree that the word Councillor puts together Grad Council reps, AMS reps, and the other external reps, so I would like to propose an amendment "Each departmental representative seated as Councillor"

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Speaker: I have Nicolas as a mover, do I have a seconder?

MOVER: Nicolas      SECONDER: Theresa

RESULT: For (31): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach

Against (1): Xana Prendes

Abstained: Amber Shilling, Alexa Tanner

Arash: I also have a strong issue with mandating people to join committees. We have to do a better job to motivate people. It is something people should like to do.

Gloria: I have an issue with mandating people to join committees, it does not take into account that I do field work and a lot of time I am away from Council. I and the other students in my department will not be able to or will have great difficulty to come to Council and go to a committee.

Kate: The current reading is that each councillor “shall endeavor to join ...” – there is already the intent that councillors should be in committees. This wording is extremely vague. Given that committees are important for Council’s work, we should encourage participation in them.

Theresa: If we have people seated on committees, who are not motivated to be there, then there is the quorum issue and committees will not be able to work again.

Solomon: The main work of a legislative body is in the committee. If you just come to Council then you are the object of a vote – you just vote by following someone else’s advice. My suggestion is to accept this new policy.

Victoria: I don’t mind either way “shall” or “must” – both have the same intended meaning. What would hypothetically happen if one did not join a committee?

Conny: Our policies don’t have any teeth – so you just violate the policy, but there is no punishment clause.

Karanpreet: Can I join more than one committee?

Kate: The text is must join “at least one committee”, so you can join as many as you wish.



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Claire: Both of these wordings seem to indicate a similar thing – must is perhaps a stronger language ... If there is no consequence if you don't join a committee, I don't think it is necessary to impose this stronger language.

Rory: What would be the point of participating in the GSS if you are not on a committee? This is where the real work gets done.

Alexa: We should do more to make these committees more enjoyable and make people want to join.

Lois: What are external representatives?

Conny: They don't need to sit on a committee.

Nicolas: These are our representatives to Grad Council, to AMS' Council, etc.

Lois: Can we be more creative in incentivizing participation? For instance, improve how we run meetings ... If there is resistance against mandating, the opposite would be to incentivize.

Nicolas: I would like to congratulate CPC on this motion – it is a job well done. I also want to point out that if we don't pass the amendment I suggested, we are mandating senators, Grad Council reps, etc. to join a committee. I also agree with the need to incentivize, but this is a separate conversation. I move to change “must” to “shall endeavor”, but remove the burden from external reps.

Conny: Is this friendly?

Kate: Nope.

MOVER: Nicolas      SECONDER: Arash

For (27): Phil Angel, John Ede, Eric Frieling, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayeali, Xana Prendes, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

Against (7): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi

Abstained: Tayo Olarewaju, Kate Sedivy

Conny: It passed.

Gloria: Why are external reps and why are they excluded from serving on a committee?

Nicolas: Because external reps and Execs are overloaded with many other responsibilities. External reps go to a number of different meetings.

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Alexa: The current AcEx policy postulates that a senator needs to sit on a committee. Is this not in conflict with the policy?

Conny: No, because you are ex officio member of the committee.

Amber: In the context of these amendments I am much less antagonistic. I want to point out 7.2.2.b – we have had great interest ... I am supportive of this. The removal of the prescriptive language feels much more important to me.

Kate: If people object to the first part of motion, don't sink the other two. I think it is important to have a standard for each departmental rep to be seated on a committee. So I would like to propose the following amendment:

“If a departmental rep is not seated at a committee while there are open seats ...”  
The reasoning behind is that if there is a shortage of committee members there may be a need to penalize councillors, who are not engaging with the GSS.

Conny: I have Kate as mover. Is there a seconder? No seconder? None.

Lois: Point of information – is there a specific time that seating needs to happen?

Conny: No.

Andras: Given the lack of enforcement of this policy – perhaps the simplest clause is the most effective.

Victoria: I am in favor of the motion as it currently stands. I would like to encourage fellow students to recruit ordinary members. I would also like to call the question.

MOVER: Victoria                      SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: For (35): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Eric Frieling, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Xana Prendes, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

Speaker: Ok, now back to the policy change. I think it is 2/3 vote as well.

RESULT: For (29): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Karen Devendrakumar, Eric Frieling, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Lois Musser, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Xana Prendes, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas

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Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Andras Szeitz, Darren Touch

Against (1): Gloria Mellesmoen

Abstained: Pouya Rezaenia, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

Speaker: Motion carried.

Jacob: I would like to ask if BOG representatives are members of Council?

Nicolas: No. They are invited to attend Council, but cannot vote because there is a conflict of fiduciary duties.

### iii. 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 an Ordinary Member to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (2 needed.)

**Larissa Peck** to be seated as a Councillor to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (1 needed.)

**Teilhard Paradela** to be seated as Chair to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (1 needed.)

**Sean Swush, Eseohé Ojo** to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Code and Policy Committee** (4 needed.)

\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as a Councillor to the **Code and Policy Committee** (2 needed.)

**Jing (Alice) Miao**, \_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Elections Committee** (4 needed.)

\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Executive Oversight Committee** (3 needed.)

\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as a Councillor to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (1 needed.)

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**Tarique Benbow**, \_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Governance and Accountability Committee**. (2 needed)

\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **House Finance Committee** (2 needed.)

**Tamara Friedman** to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Human Resource Committee** (3 needed.)

**Karanpreet** to be seated as a Councillor to the **Human Resource Committee** (3 needed.)

**Rosanne Tam** to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Services Committee** (2 needed.)

**Nevena Rebic** to be seated as a Representative to **AMS Council** (1 needed).

MOVER: Arash      SECONDER: Hamed

RESULT: For (34): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Xana Prendes, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Andras Szeitz, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

## b. Matter #1

**Person Responsible:** President

**Objective:** To appoint a Chief Electoral Officer for 2019 GSS Elections

**Relevant material:** Resume and cover letter of Alice Miao as a candidate of Chief Electoral Officer

**WHEREAS** the GSS Policy 12.1.1 states that the Elections Committee shall have a Chief Electoral Officer who shall be appointed by Council by a special resolution;

**WHEREAS** the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) will:

- Report to the Council meeting following the election in late March 2019 and make recommendations on the election process and procedure,
- Prescribe and employ the necessary advertising strategies to call for nominations and to announce the date, time and place or method of polling,

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- Prescribe the procedures for counting ballots and communicate these procedures to the Candidates before the counting begins,
- Announce the election results to the Society membership via the Society website, and
- Perform any other CEO responsibilities as laid out in the GSS Policy Manual;

**BIRT** by a special resolution, the GSS appoints Jing (Alice) Miao as the Chief Electoral Officer of 2018–2019 for a limited term from January 17 to April 30, 2019,.

MOVER: John Ede

SECONDER: Victoria

Arash: This seems like a hiring, should it not come from HR?

Conny: No, the position is appointed by Council.

Victoria: Are there any other people interested in the position?

John: No.

**RESULT:** For (29): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Farah Deeba, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Lily Takeuchi, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach

**Abstained:** Larissa Peck, Nevena Rebic, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner

## **Matter #2**

**Group Responsible:** Executive Committee

**Subject Description:** Withdraw from CASA for the next membership year - 2019

**WHEREAS** VP External presented the pros and cons of membership with CASA during December 2018 Council Meeting,

**WHEREAS** the Executive Committee has researched the advantages and disadvantages of membership given the annual fees for CASA,

**WHEREAS** there was a CASA representative during October 2018 Council Meeting, who was able to answer outstanding questions from Councillors and Executives

**BIRT** that the GSS - UBC Vancouver withdraws from CASA at the beginning of next membership year and VP External and Interim General Manager manage the process according to CASA's rules.

**BIFRT** the GSS -UBC Vancouver will cease to pay CASA membership fees with effect

from the 2019 CASA financial year.

**BIFRT** despite that said withdrawal is entirely financial in nature and the GSS – UBC Vancouver remains disposed to collaborate with CASA and attend their events insofar as withdrawing financial membership may allow.

MOVER: Eric      SECONDER: John

Amber: If I remember correctly there was a mention of a White Paper – why haven't we seen it? How are we to make up our minds without the paper? What is the next membership year?

Conny: Their fiscal year.

Gurjot: We will publish the report soon. The final date to notify CASA that we withdraw is Jan 30<sup>th</sup> of this year to end the next membership year.

Claire: There was not a clear recommendation in Gurjot's presentation. Do the Execs have a clear recommendation given that we don't have a White Paper, or other evidence convincing us to vote. I do not think we are currently in a proper place to make this decision.

John: Our motion represents our recommendation and decision. This discussion has been in the Executive Committee for four months – we vigorously considered pros and cons, discussed this with our Interim General Manager ... most big schools are not members in CASA because most education lobbying is done on a provincial level. Ultimately our decision came from a financial position – we have been members of CASA for over 8–9 years, we have spent more than \$300 000, but the impact of CASA on our graduate community has not been commensurate with the money we spent. VP External made a presentation and we assumed his presentation was sufficient – it is in the notes from December Council.

Ty: What is the purpose of the White Paper then?

Gurjot: The White Paper, which is produced by me, Ben, and Anam is about our input to mental health on campus.

Nicolas: The question is are the benefits we get worth \$30k+? CASA has an easy-in / easy-out, so we can always rejoin? What we need to ask is – has someone convinced us that we should keep on paying membership. For me – I don't see the evidence.

John: It is about the cost-benefit analysis. Reducing our financial burden is vital as we don't know what the future of graduate student organizations in Canada is. If we don't withdraw by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, we will continue to be involved with CASA and pay the fees.

Amber: I don't think there has been adequate evidence. Will the Executives continue traveling to Ottawa even if we are not official CASA members? Can VP External provide three pros and cons of staying in CASA for those of us, who do not remember his presentation.

John: The next Executives can decide how much money they spend on travel for CASA,

but for now it is in the budget.

Gurjot: Let me read three pros and cons from my presentation in December.

Philip: I also want to remind you that the previous VP External suggested that GSS pulls out from CASA.

Nicolas: We are the only major graduate university in CASA. If we stop being a member, we will not lose our voice, they will lose their voice on behalf of graduate students.

Kate: Move to amend and add a BIRFT clause that VP External researches how we can maintain our voice at the federal level and present this at the April meeting.

MOVER: Kate      SECONDER: Jun

Kate: The idea is that if we are concerned about ways with which to use our voice more effectively at the federal level, we will perform a thorough investigation.

Nicolas: The issue of the main motion is CASA, not tasking VP External with extra work. Can I have a ruling on whether the amendment is in order?

Conny: Yes, it is relevant.

Tayo: We had a robust discussion on CASA last December. Certain recommendations were made. Based on discussion of last meeting, there is no new evidence presented upon which we should make this decision. This is why I am happy with the amendment.

John: I yield.

Lois: The present government is pro-funding and the increase is not related to CASA - it is related to current government policy.

Nicolas: I strongly advise against talking about the amendment. Let's vote on it and then go back to CASA.

Conny: Do I have a mover?

MOVER: Eric      SECONDER: John

RESULT: For (11): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Tayo Olarewaju, Claire Preston, Kate Sedivy, Andras Szeitz, Darren Touch

Against (16): John Ede, Eric Frieling, Negar Ghahramani, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Larissa Peck, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner

Abstained: Solomon Atta, Kamaldeep Gill, Lois Musser, Nevena Rebic, Omri Wallach

Conny: Back to main motion

Arash: Historically we have not gotten much out of CASA. If we withdraw this year, are we losing any potential opportunities for lobbying in light of next year's elections?

John: Provincially is where our strength comes from and we still have ties to CASA.

Alexa: Why did GSS decide to join CASA in the first place?

Conny: AMS used to be the member and pay the fees at the time. We really needed it at the time as funding was determined at the federal level.

Claire: There are many of us here who are receiving funding by the Tri-Agency.

Recently, there has been lots of funding that directly benefits us as graduate students. As grad students we do research and the research requires funding. Perhaps if we lose our voice we diminish some of the strength of the organization and our livelihood in these labs.

Tal: There are other avenues in which we participate on the federal level – ThinkGrad and CAGS. CASA is actually not the best venue for this type of advocacy.

Victoria: We can join CASA later if we decide too. We aren't losing all of our federal voice. We have all the information to make a decision.

**RESULT:** For (28): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, John Ede, Eric Frieling, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Amber Shilling, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach

Against (1): Claire Preston

Abstained: Solomon Atta, Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz

### **Matter #3**

**Person Responsible:** Governance and Accountability Committee

**Objective:** To establish an oversight body of the G&A

**WHEREAS** the Governance & Accountability was struck as a Standing Committee as a result of the 2018 referendum, and

**WHEREAS** the GSS 2017-21 Strategic Plan establishes objectives for the structure of the oversight system of the GSS for all executive positions and standing committees except for the Standing Governance & Accountability committee, and

**WHEREAS** the Terms of Reference of the Governance & Accountability, as approved by special resolution of the GSS Council, require the Committee to propose to Council oversight mechanisms for itself, and



# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

January 17, 2019 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

**WHEREAS** the Committee has reached out to the GSS President and he has agreed that the Executive Committee is a suitable GSS body to provide oversight for G&A, since their oversight is done by the Executive Oversight Committee,

**BIRT** the GSS Council assigns the responsibility of oversight of the Governance & Accountability goal setting and goal progress review to the GSS Executive Committee.

**BIFRT** the Executive Committee shall report to Council on the setting of G&A goals in the regular February Council meeting and on progress at the same meetings as the Governance & Accountability presents on the other Standing Committees and Caucuses.

MOVER: Nicolas                      SECONDER: Victoria

Nicolas: Before G&A was an ad-hoc committee, but now it is a permanent one. We are facing the question “Who watches the watch dog? Who is exercising oversight over G&A?” Presently, we are suggesting that oversight is done by the Exec Committee, which does not fall under our purview.

Philip: Is the FEOO a member of your committee or not?

Nicolas: The FEOO is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee and we are removing this conflict of interest.

Victoria: Executive committee will oversee G&A just for the goal-setting part and not ad infinitum.

RESULT: For (23): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner

Abstained: Victoria Gomez, Xana Prendes, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi

## **Matter #4**

**Group Responsible:** HR Committee

**Subject Matter:** Promoting the Interim General Manager to the official General Manager of the GSS

## **Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the GSS Council passed a motion promoting Vivian Tian to the position of

# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

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Interim General Manager during the September Council Meeting

**WHEREAS** the HR Committee, the FEOO, and GSS Executives provided Vivian with four main goals upon which she would be evaluated on after three months

**WHEREAS** the HR Committee, FEOO and GSS Executives met with Vivian numerous times over the Interim period to monitor and support the progress of these goals

**WHEREAS** the HR Committee, FEOO and GSS Executives reviewed Vivian's progress on each of these goals after the three month Interim period and unanimously voted to promote her to the position of full-time General Manager of the GSS

**BIRT** that Vivian Tian be permanently appointed as the General Manager of the GSS on the basis of satisfactory performance as stated within the motion from September's Council Meeting

**BIFRT** that Vivian Tian continues to receive a rise in salary representative of the General Manager position

**BIFRT** that the HR Committee, the FEOO, and GSS Executives continue to work closely with the General Manager to clearly define her future goals over the next year

MOVER: Nicolas                      SECONDER: Arash

Ty: Do we need to put a date for the raise in salary?

Conny: It is already in effect.

Arash: Permanently appointed is not infinite, right?

Conny: If she does something wrong, we can always fire her. Like a regular employee.

For (34): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Xana Prendes, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach

Kate: I want to bring us back to my motion that VP External is put in charge of a report on matters of federal advocacy by April Council.

**BIRT VP External in collaboration with AcEx Committee will present on options for federal advocacy for the GSS by March Council.**

MOVER: Kate                              SECONDER: Nicolas

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Kate: The Presentations for federal advocacy should include current work that is being done in addition to new and potentially emerging spaces for advocacy.

Gurjot: I only want to change the motion that it is VP External in collaboration with AcEx.

MOVER: Gurjot SECONDER: Amber

RESULT: For (32): Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Solomon Atta, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Lois Musser, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach  
Abstained: Gurjot Singh

*... 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

... 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**

Amber: I would like to give verbal update: please keep an eye out as there are committees within the Senate that may be looking for additional grad student representation ... more details to follow. I just saw that you are aware ... Also, the Graduate Principles of Supervisory Excellence went through Senate and were endorsed – you can use this as a launching point with your supervisor for what constitutes excellence and you can use it as a conversation pointer with your supervisor.  
Conny: Questions? None. Moving on.

##### c. **Matter #1**

**Person Responsible:** VP University and Academic Affairs and VP External

**Subject Matter:** Mental Health Campaign with CASA on Thursday, Jan 31st – we need 10 volunteers. Please sign up by emailing [aa@gss.ubc.ca](mailto:aa@gss.ubc.ca)

GSS is collaborating with CASA to advocate for governmental financial assistant for mental health through Mental Health Campaign, which will be held on Jan 31st, 2019 in the Nest. In this campaign, we will ask students to write their comments on broken hearts and install them on a poster that will be used later for advocacy. We will set up the poster in the Nest and need volunteers to engage and inspire students in participating.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Matter #1:**

*... Next page: Matters for Discussion*

## H. Matters for Discussion

### 1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:

**Person Responsible:** FEOO

**Time:** 6 minutes

**Subject:** Budget Presentation – November and December, 2018

**Supporting Materials:** GSS Budget Presentation Jan 2019

Kate: What is CPIF?

Philip: The Capital Improvement Fund

**Group Responsible:** Governance & Accountability Committee

**Subject Matter:** Standing Committees and Caucuses SMART Goal Setting

**Description:** The Governance & Accountability Committee has worked with the GSS Standing Committees, Caucuses and the FEOO to develop SMART Goals aligned with the GSS Strategic Plan. The committee will present on the state of this process

**Time:** 15 mins

Amber: In terms of feedback – if I request a revision of the Minutes Template?

Nicolas: One of our goals is to create a new Agenda Template.

Amber: Also, I would recommend more openness to joint work among Execs and committees – one point will be about how we can promo committees better? Highlight their meeting times? Also I would like to see in the goals – flexible meeting arrangements, such as joining a committee meeting through skype.

Nicolas: We want to create an interactive organizational chart, which will explain what committees do. I like your idea to have the goals somewhere where you can easily progress. There is nothing in our policies to say that you cannot join a meeting via skype – maybe we can formalize this for committee meetings and Council as well.

### 2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

**Group Responsible:** VP Students

**Presentation Time:** 10 minutes

**Subject Description:** Inform Council on Events and Progress in VP Students' Portfolio

**Relevant Materials:** VP Students' Presentation

### 3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

**Group responsible:** Victoria Gomez

**Presentation time:** 5 minutes

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**Presentation description:** Introduction to UBC Student employee statutory pay issue

**Proposed objective:** Solicit suggestions for how GSS Council can approach the issue/advocate

**Relevant materials:** Stat pay for student workers.pdf in supporting documents

Kate: This also applies if you are required to work?

Victoria: This applies regardless.

Gloria: What does this mean for people who work as TAs?

Victoria: This isn't super clear – it is whether you are designated as a UBC employee. This is something you should bring to the attention of your supervisor.

Alexa: As a TA I think five hours of your TA hours go to training. I know that TAs get paid for 5h that you are not TAing because of these hours.

Ty: Would you know if you are represented by a union?

Victoria: No, UBC students are not unionized, we fall under UBC payroll and finance.

## I. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:08 pm.  
MOVER: Larissa      SECONDER: Sara      RESULT: All in favor.

## J. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting
  - a. *Date:* February 21, 2019
  - b. *Time:* 5:30 pm
  - c. *Location:* Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest
  - d. Greek Food will be served
2. Notice of Unseatings

**Alexa Tanner** to be unseated as GSS Representative to **AMS Council**.  
**Ariana Saatchi** to be unseated as a Councillor for **Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences**.  
**Ariana Saatchi** to be unseated as a Councillor to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee**.  
**Emily Murphy** to be unseated as a Chair to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee**.  
**Jun Sian Lee** to be unseated as a Councillor from the **Code and Policy Committee**.  
**Lipiar Goni** to be unseated as a Councillor for **Chemistry**.
3. **GSS Updates** (~100 words, sent in advance and included in the final agenda)
  - a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society



**i. President**

- Staff Update in Supporting Documents File

**ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer**

- 

**iii. Executive Oversight Committee**

- 

**iv. Governance & Accountability Committee**

The Governance & Accountability Committee has worked with the GSS Standing Committees, Caucuses and the FEOO to develop SMART Goals aligned with the GSS Strategic Plan. The committee would like to thank Committee Chairs, the FEOO and the acting Chair of the Graduate Council Caucus for their good work and disposition during this process.

The Committee has also consulted by the Code and Policy Committee to develop new policies for committee membership. Also, the Committee plans to include sustainability initiatives in its discussion in the coming meetings to envision a way to incorporate sustainability in the GSS and coordinate with UBC wide activities.

**v. House Finance Committee**

**vi. Code & Policy Committee**

CPC has incorporated suggested improvements to our amendment on committee composition announced in December, and brought the improved amendment to this Council. We have discussed additional possible changes to committee policy with G&A and administrative assistant Maria; these require additional research and consultation. We have begun discussions with Graduate Council Caucus regarding the formalization of their group, as was referred to CPC in December Council. We have continued to address formatting problems with the Word Document Policy Manual, and compiled a list of updates to be applied. Finally, we are beginning initial research into the amendments described by our SMART Goals.

**vii. Human Resources Committee**

- 

**viii. AMS Council**

- 

**ix. Elections Committee**

1) Closely following AMS Elections 2019 schedule, the Elections committee decided to set the following dates for the 2019 GSS Exec Elections:

*Nomination period:* Friday, January 18 to Friday, February 15

*Date of All-Candidates Meeting:* Monday, February 18

*Campaign Period:* Tuesday, February 19 to Friday, March 15

# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

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*Debates: On-campus: Tuesday, February 26*

*Off-campus: Thursday, February 28*

*Election period: Monday, March 4 to Friday, March 15 (12 days)*

2) Elections Committee is starting to distribute the voter turnout survey from Jan 11 for 4 weeks, or until we get 200 responses. We will also bring copies to January Council to ask all Council members to give them to friends. Committee members are encouraged to bring copies to any grad student events or ask some of their friends to fill them out. The goal is specifically to reach people who are not associated with the GSS and/or have not voted in the last year. We decided to mainly have this questionnaire in hard copy format to prevent grad students from being bombarded by online questionnaires.

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 next cycle of Board meetings will be held soon – working groups/subcommittees occur across January 28–31<sup>st</sup>, full committees February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and the full Board meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup>. You can find dockets, agendas and more at <https://bog.ubc.ca/>.