

A. Attendance

1. Present: Alexa Tanner, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Anjali Gupta, Arash Shadkam, Arezoo Mehrizi, Claire Preston, Darren Touch, Erik Frieling, Farah Deeba, Gurjot Singh, Hamed Pouryevali, Hilal Kina, Jeanie Malone, John Ede, Jun Sian Lee, Kamaldeep Gill, Karanpreet Matharu, Karen Thulasi Devendrakuman, Kate Sedivy-Haley, Kiana Yau, Larissa Peck, Logan Lorenz, Lois Evans, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Omri Wallach, Philip Karangu, Pouya Rezaeinia, Rahaf Al Assil, Sarah Izadi-Najafavadi, Sebastien Rettien, Solomon Atta, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Temitayo Olarewaju, Temitope Onifade, Theresa Pauly, Uyen Nguyen, Victoria Gomez
2. Regrets: Andras Szeitz, Gloria Mellesmoen, Jakob Gattinger, Lily Takeuchi, Negar Ghahramani, Phil Angel
3. Absent: Amanda Costa de Oliveira, Amber Shilling, Christina Rubino, Fapu Duan, Jasleen Grewal, Joyce Lam, Kelsey Yamasaki, Megan Holec, Rochelle Sumampong-Heavens, Xana Mendez Prendes, Yangfan Zhang
4. Quorum: 22 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: Hamed P. SECONDER: Nicolas R.

Nicolas: Move to amend the agenda: please, add the AMS/GSS presentation as a matter for decision.

MOVER: Nicolas R. SECONDER: John E.

Nicolas: Just a brief explanation: the motion is about the referendum to separate grad students from the AMS. A committee was formed and a survey showed that GSS grad students do not wish to separate from AMS. So we are moving to include a motion to stop our work on the referendum that is meant to unbind us from AMS.

Arezoo: Are you referring to the AGM presentation last year?

Nicolas: Yes, but the origin of the motion is in the 2015 AGM.

Arezoo: You are saying that students do not want to be separated from AMS. I remember the presentation, but I do not remember this particular recommendation.

Conny: We can discuss this later. Let's vote on whether to add this motion to the agenda.

RESULT: For (22): Farah Deeba, John Ede, Eric Frieling, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Karanpreet M., Maria Martinez, Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic,

Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau

Conny: Any other item to add to the agenda? I see none. Let's vote on adopting the agenda.

RESULT: For (28): Rahaf al Assil, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Karanpreet M., Uyen Nguyen, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau

C. Introductions

Introductions were made.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
 - a. Council Minutes – Jan 17, 2019

2. Committee minutes for approval:
 - a. AMS-GSS Referendum Ad-hoc Committee – Feb 8, 2019
 - b. Elections Committee – Jan 10, 2019 and Jan 24, 2019
 - c. Executive Committee – Jan 25, 2019 and Feb 15, 2019
 - d. Executive Oversight Committee – May 22, 2018; July 24, 2018; Aug 14, 2018; Sept 11, 2018; Oct 9, 2018; Nov 13, 2018 and Jan 10, 2019
 - e. Code and Policy Committee – Jan 25, 2019; Feb 12, 2019
 - f. Services Committee – Jan 24, 2019

MOVER: Philip K. SECONDER: Nicolas R.

Speaker: Questions? I see none. Let's vote on the minutes.

RESULT: For (25): Farah Deeba, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Karanpreet M., Lois Evans, Uyen Nguyen, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau
Abstained: Timothy Luk

... 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:

- | | |
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| 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 Committee</i> | viii. <i>AMS Council</i> |
| | ix. <i>Elections Committee</i> |

b. **Questions?**

Jun: Comment. I saw that many committees did not submit updates. I want to remind them to submit updates as this part of their responsibility and accountability. Also, a question to CPC: When do we have the most updated Policy Manual onto the GSS website?

Kate: Next week hopefully. We may have it without an updated appendix, but we shall see.

c. **Matter #1**

Group responsible: Janet Mee, Director, Centre for Accessibility

Presentation time: 30 minutes (15min presentation + 15min Q&A)

Presentation description: Update on Policy 73; review of key changes to Policy 73; and overview of commitment to universal design

Relevant materials: <https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2019/02/policy73.pdf>,
<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility/frequently-asked-questions-about-policy-73-accommodation-disabilities>

Ty: Graduate students belong to GPS and our respective faculties. So who will you work with ?

Janet: Both – we rely on them to be the common admin group, but the department

will have the expertise to put recommendations in place.

Alexa: Do you have an adviser that specializes in grad students needs, particularly around exam time? What about TAs – if your contract ends and there is an exam later, will the TA be required to grade it?

Janet: We do not have an advisor currently that specializes in grad students. All our staff is well trained and able to respond to grad students needs. 14% of the students we see are grad students, and a lot of them come from different faculties. We have the expertise, but we don't have it specialized. In regards to your second question: oftentimes the duty to accommodate falls within the individual ... the university will not consider it undue hardship for the individual to do such a thing. One of the big challenges is the number of sessional instructors, number of TAs ... there is a disproportionate burden based on those staff.

Sara: Thank you so much – do students still need to go through the Center for Accessibility? They still feel marginalized and express frustration about it.

Janet: Two perspectives on this question. The first one is administrative: the policy does require that students provide documentation that certifies their disability. We do recognize that some students do not agree with this process and find it an additional burden. If we could do things differently, we would love to have this conversation. In the absence of this information, it is very difficult to determine what would work in terms of an accommodation. It is a requirement and it helps us do our work.

Kate: Could you give an example of what would be considered an essential requirement for a program?

Janet: Can I use case law? The case that led to the language in the policy. It is about a firefighter working in the interior for the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry had a process to determine what candidates would be good for the job, and namely those who could run 1 mile in 8 mins. However, they also applied that standard to people, who were already successfully working as firefighters. One female employee failed the test and the Province terminated her from her job. The Supreme Court reversed the decision. And there are many more such examples.

Similarly, in medicine being on-call was part of the job. We would argue that on-call gave you many skills – such as working alone, being efficient, etc.

Maria: Besides knowing all this, will this change of policy change what we do as Councillors?

Janet: Yes and no – you can play an advocacy role for a student who was not getting proper accommodation. This is a large institution so the more people know about it the better the advocacy.

Nicolas: If we have an issue around disability should we refer this to your office rather than working it out ourselves?

Conny: The answer is yes.

Teasha: You mentioned that in some cases external experts are called. Where do they

come from?

Janet: Depending on the dispute the experts will differ. So we will call experts in human rights legislation, who will give advice on the process to go through a human rights legislation issue. We will ensure that most often there are external legal experts.

Matter #2

Group responsible: Elections committee

Objective: Summarize current progress of 2019 GSS Executive Elections

Summary: Nomination period has now ended. We have one candidate for President, one candidate for VP Students, four for VP University and Academic Affairs, and three for VP External. Campaigning period starts on Feb 19 until the end of Elections. The debates will be held on Tuesday Feb 26 (BC Cancer Research Centre) and Thursday Feb 28 (St John College). Voting starts March 4th to March 15th.

Note: Please return the filled voter surveys to Theresa or send pictures of the filled surveys to info@gss.ubc.ca.

Alexa: Why are senators not included in the election blurb?

Jun: According to the Academic Governance Officer because we have two positions and two candidates, there will be no official elections and they will be automatically elected. Their names will appear on the list.

Maria: But this is not the case for the one candidate we have for President and the other for VP Students?

Conny: No, it is not as one is provincial law, the other is GSS.

Pouya: Campaigning can be until the day of election or not ...?

Nicolas: Campaigning can continue until the end of voting according to Chief Electoral Officer.

Matter #3 - President's Announcements

3.1. GSS Logo Update:

In Jan 2019 Susan Point, a Musqueam artist of national repute, accepted the invitation extended by GSS soliciting a First nation artist to produce a logo for the Society. Susan Point has produced the bespoke logo design for the GSS (Please see UBC graduate logo). The initial design specifies design justification and rationale by Susan. A contract has been executed and the GSS expects the final version in March 2019. Ben Hill, who has been in the lead of the project, will work with Susan closely to ensure the design meets all technical specifications before it is delivered in March.

Jun: What is the expected timeline for implementation of the logo? I really like it and hope to be given updates about the final color.

John: We expect to have the final before March Council. The color is a technicality as Ben Hill and the team are working on choosing the colors. You will have the option to see it before the date.

Ty: John, thank you so much for doing this – we have been waiting for two years. After we have the logo, we will need to do new merchandise. Have you considered the budget implications?

John: Yes. There is budget for it.

3.2. GSS/AMS Health and Dental Committee meeting: 24th January 2018

- Please see minutes attached.
- Highlights:
 - * Psychology Coverage : In Oct 2018 the committee meant to discuss premium increases of \$3.12 (to be verified) per student per annum to increase coverage from \$300 to \$500.
 - * 5% increase in premium is being proposed for 2018/2019 session to keep up with inflationary coverage costs.
 - * Health and Dental Survey questionnaire, administered by Studentcare was presented and approved by the committee.

Nicolas: Could the committee prepare a breakdown on how the total fee is constructed? We get a recommendation about systematically raising the total fee, but we don't know the particulars.

John: The increase is inflationary. I will soon receive the breakdown and send it to you.

Nicolas: They will always recommend an increase. My thought is that there may be services we are not using and getting rid of them may decrease the inflationary pressure. So this is why I want the breakdown.

Conny: From my time, 5% is not even enough.

Maria: Do we have a say on it?

John: Once the committee passes it, it comes to GSS and AMS Council.

Jun: Is this cost increase going to be done through a referendum – you mentioned a referendum when you were speaking?

John: The cap increase has to go through the two Councils and this is what I meant by a referendum.

Kate: When will this come to a vote?

John: March Council.

Tayo: 5% for just inflation is high. In the last two years, inflation has been about 2% – I just checked.

John: We are shooting for the limit, the reason is there is push to increase psychology services from \$3 to \$5 per student. The premium has to be absorbed.

Alexa: Is this different from the Empower Me discussion. Is there any talk of combining the two programs?

John: Empower Me is a different service altogether – it does not give clinical psychological services. It does not satisfy us. The plan is to give this service to both our societies.

Kate: Empower Me does provide referrals to limited registered counselling.

John: Empower Me could eventually recommend clinical psychology, but it is not the immediate service. The psychology service will give up to 5 clinical visits per person. So separating the two is the best.

Rahaf: Can these students be referred to a psychiatrist through their GP? Do they need the extra coverage or is it already covered?

Nevena: This is more of a response – a psychiatrist referral can take upwards of 3-4 months, whereas a psychologist can give a service within a week. So this coverage is essential for providing equity. Also the training is very different. Giving breath of options is best.

Theresa: I am from the psychology department. A psychiatrist is someone, who is trained in medicine, so treatment is very different. It is not a lot of money as the service is very expensive.

Alexa: UBC also has counselling services on campus. Have you advocated on more UBC run counselling services?

Jeanie: UBC is thinking about restructuring the way it does mental health. UBC doesn't have buildings for hiring more counsellors. So there is some capital planning for the long-term. They are trying to tie the different units together and re-structure them.

Matter #4: Executive Committee Updates

4.1. GSS Executive/VPS office meeting: 23rd January 2019

- Deep dive into GSS Student satisfaction survey presented at Nov 2018 meeting. Outcome was selecting 5 priorities for the year (see attached GSS Priority Framework Template for details).
- The committee is in the process of developing actions to populate the framework and inviting input from Councillors.
- VPS office shared a policy proposal draft on Policy V-130 Content and Distribution of Course Syllabi, made to the Senate (see attached).
- Information shared by VPS on Child Care Expansion Project (please see attachment)
- Possible varsity game event for graduate students discussed – GSS VPS organized a 30-ticket graduate student group attendance on February 8th Thunderstruck game.

Arezoo: What about GSS autonomy? After Life Center is built will it belong to GSS?

John: Yes, it is clear that the ownership will remain with GSS. We are working on signing a document.

4.2. GSS Exec Comm/VPS/G+PS meeting on Graduate Life Center: 28th January 2019

- Agenda of the meeting is to plan next steps of action after the approval of the project proposal and inclusion in the UBC Strat Plan.
 - Project will begin along at least two parallel paths : (i) identification of programming needs/desires and (ii) building needs. A building assessment will need to be done initially, beyond what was done for the VFA and recent projects (Sauder, SPO). Estimated to cost the order of \$30-50K (or more). The need for seismic upgrading will be part of that. Funding for necessary seismic upgrading would likely come from a separate source (central UBC, city...).
 - Gaining Executive 1 approval was recommended (by Interim VPS), to ensure recognition and support of the concept. It could include an ask for the building assessment costs (Please see GLC Vision attached for Exec – 1 draft).
- (i) programming
- An individual needs to be hired (as per proposal) to coordinate the consultations on programming/purpose/interest. This person should have experience in graduate student life, and ideally also experience in running a student center. One possibility is to have the new ‘community liaison coordinator’ position in VP-S tasked with this job. Otherwise, we should write a JD for a one-year contract and advertise (and/or identify someone)
 - To help in the preparation for Exec 1 approval and also the consultations, we created a short (no more than 3 page) ‘vision document’ about the big picture. To include the top 3-5 things the university needs to better support graduate students in this domain, and some big ideas of what a GLC could be; mainly a fleshing out of the material we’ve been circulating. We should also be initially identifying the groups to be consulted, to finalize when the new hire is on board.
 - Eventually, consultations will identify interests and ‘infrastructure intervention boundaries’. There may or may not be time to include targeted questions on the upcoming GSS survey.
- (ii) building
- Catherine’s office will create an RFP for a building assessment and circulate

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Seatings**

- i. New Councillors

GSS Council Meeting Agenda

February 21, 2019 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:

Yee Fay Lim to be seated as a Departmental Representative for **Bioinformatics**.

MOVER: Arash S.

SECONDER: Claire P.

RESULT: For (34): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Eric Frieling, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Areezo M., Karanpreet M., Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kiana Yau

ii. Committee Seatings

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

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

MOVER: Tayo O.

SECONDER: Karen D.

BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

Razi Bayati, Sara Hosseinirad, _____ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (3 needed.)

Karanpreet M., Yee F. Lim to be seated as a Councillor to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (2 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Code and Policy Committee** (1 needed.)

Arezo M. to be seated as a Councillor to the **Code and Policy Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Elections Committee** (5 needed.)

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

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Executive Oversight**

GSS Council Meeting Agenda

February 21, 2019 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Committee (3 needed.)

Nicolas R., _____ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Governance and Accountability Committee**, upon ending his term as departmental representative on Feb 28, 2019 (1 needed.)

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

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

Tarique Pembo to be seated as a Chair of the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (1 needed)

Speaker: Has Tarique accepted the nomination?

Nicolas: He has accepted the nomination verbally and by text.

Victoria: Friendly amendment? Can you specify the end of your term, so we know for sure?

Nicolas: I believe that my term end at the end of this month – Feb 28th. So Speaker please add it.

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

Karen Thulasi to be seated as a Councillor to the **House Finance Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Human Resource Committee** (1 needed.)

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

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Services Committee** (1 needed.)

MOVER: Tayo O.

SECONDER: Karen D.

RESULT: For (28): Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz,

Teesha Luehr, Areezo M., Lois Evans, Uyen Nguyen, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kiana Yau

b. Matter #1

Group responsible: Elections committee

Proposed objective: Suspend Policy 12.4.5 for 2019 GSS Executive Election

WHEREAS Policy 12.4.5 reads: “There shall be no campaigning within ten meters of: (a) the polling booth when polls are open, in the case of paper ballots, and (b) any member known to be using a device currently logged in to the electronic, in the case of an electronic voting system.”

WHEREAS it is difficult for candidates to monitor individual smartphones which may or may not currently be logged in to electronic voting.

WHEREAS the restriction may be interpreted as “do not campaign near anyone who has a smartphone”.

WHEREAS Policy 12.4.13 has already specified: “Candidates shall not in any way force or dishonestly influence a member into making a voting decision in any way.”

BIRT the GSS Council, by special resolution, suspends part (b) of Policy 12.4.5 (There shall be no campaigning within ten meters of: (b) any members known to be using a device currently logged in to the electronic voting, in the case of an electronic voting system.) from February 21 to March 15, 2019.

MOVER: Elections Committee

SECONDER: Theresa Pauly

Kate: I would like to point out that any person with a smart phone could potentially shut down campaigning simply by walking close to the campaign.

Arash: How does this make this impossible to do?

Jun: Technically speaking we have lack of enforcement power. The only thing we can do is to disqualify the person.

Solomon: Do you have mechanisms to check if people do not break this law?

Jun: No mechanisms except for grad student reporting that they are called to vote in a certain way.

Solomon: I think we need to improve this matter and put measures in place.

Kate: The current policy to prohibit campaigning within 10m means two things: 1. The intent of the policy, a candidate cannot go to someone who is voting and tell them vote for me; this is also prohibited by Policy 12.4.13 against dishonest influence. 2.

Unintended consequence, you can stop campaigning using your smartphone; if we vote in favour of suspending the policy then this will be prevented.

RESULT: For (31): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Hilal Kina, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Areezo M., Karanpreet M., Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Kate Sedivy, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach, Kiana Yau
Abstained: Nicolas Romualdi, Darren Touch

Matter #2:

Group responsible: Elections committee

Proposed objective: Suspend Policy 12.4.6 for 2019 GSS Executive Election

WHEREAS Policy 12.4.6 reads “Candidates may not use Society or any email distribution lists administered by UBC, its faculties, or Departments during their campaign.

WHEREAS UBC Policy does not disallow campaigning using email distribution list.

WHEREAS Elections committee intends to increase the voter turnout by encouraging candidates to campaign through email campaigns.

WHEREAS email distribution lists of individual departments can be accessed by request to the departments’ graduate secretaries.

WHEREAS Elections committee does not have the resource to monitor the use of individual departments’ email distribution list.

BIRT the GSS Council, by special resolution, suspends second half of Policy 12.4.6 (... or any email distribution lists administered by UBC, its Faculties, or Departments during their campaign) from February 21 to March 15, 2019 to allow candidates to use their departments’ or faculties’ email distribution lists to introduce themselves and to remind fellow graduate students to vote.

BIFRT notwithstanding the suspension, Council clarifies that candidates are disallowed from using Society’s email distribution list for GSS Executive Elections campaigning.

MOVER: Elections Committee

SECONDER: Philip K.

Jun: I want to comment on behalf of Elections Committee and read a statement from the Chief Electoral Officer.

Dear Madam Speaker, My name is Alice, and I am serving as the Chief Electoral Officer in the 2019 GSS election. I am sorry that I won't be able to attend today's meeting, and thank Jun for reading my comments. I believe the society should not suspend section 12.4.6 from the Policy Manual due to the following rationales. First off, I believe the use of faculty/departmental email lists would clash with Policy 97 "Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment". The policy states that no one may use "information that is acquired as a result of his or her relationship with the University and not in the public domain for Non-University Activities". The term "Non-University Activities" refers to anything that falls outside a person's official duties at UBC, which I would argue clearly includes campaign messages intended to solicit potential voters. Accordingly, UBC contact info should not be used for this purpose. I also have serious concerns about how this could impact our ability to administer a fair election. When students approach faculty/departmental staff to have their campaign messages sent out, we have no control over that process. What will happen when a department agrees to send out messages for certain candidates but not for others? We have already received feedback that staff are willing to send out one or two messages, but they balk at sending out more than that. What if some candidates find their messages have been edited by staff, while others are sent out unaltered? We obviously have no recourse against UBC staff for this. I feel this has the potential to create the perception of a poorly regulated free-for-all. Therefore, I believe section 12.4.6 serves a very good purpose and should be retained. One last side note, AMS currently does not allow the candidates to distribute campaigning material via email lists administered by the university, the society, faculty/department. I have talked to their Election Administrator and learnt that they have no plan to repeal this rule.

Thank you very much.

Teesha: I have a bit of experience with this at UVic GSS Council. A person was from a large department, used their email list, and won by a landslide, but we felt that it was a fairly unfair campaign as they were running against a candidate from a small department. And in my opinion it is important to have a fair grounds campaign. I am biased as I was closer to the gentleman from the small department, but I try to remove myself from this to see if this is a fair way to campaign. I feel I would be on the side of not giving access as it is better to have even campaign grounds for voting.

Kate: I agree that coming from a large department can bias voters in favour of a candidate and using departmental email amplifies this. We need this in our Policy Manual so it is more visible in the policy even if it is part of UBC's policy. If the motivation is to increase voter turnout then it makes more sense to ask all departmental reps to receive a general invitation to vote – in this way we can send a more uniform message. I am speaking against suspending this policy.

Alexa: Kate's point just covered mine. Individual campaigning is not a fair process, so maybe having a uniform "Go Vote" is the way to go.

Ty: I am also concerned for email pollution. So if we are sending emails about pressing issues students might not open their emails.

Nicolas: Without speaking for or against the motion, so I don't provide undue influence as I am running for elections I want to say that if we want to have recourse to stop candidates against doing this, we want to keep this in our policy.

Jun: The policy will stay there. The secondary intention is to start a conversation. The primary intention is to start something different like other grad societies or the AMS. The intention is suspension, not amendment or removal.

Arash: We are suspending part of the code which is against part of UBC code and adding something which is part ... If that is the case, I am against this motion and don't see need for this.

Theresa: Candidates can use other resources to send emails. To me this is an example of having access to something.

RESULT: For (5): Solomon Atta, John Ede, Jun Sian Lee, Temitope O., Theresa Pauly
Against (18): Rahaf al Assil, Karen Devendrakumar, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Yee Fay Lim, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Tayo Olarewaju, Larissa Peck, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Alexa Tanner
Abstained: Timothy Luk, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Omri Wallach, Kiana Yau

Matter #3

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Presentation Time: None

Subject Description: Policy requiring list of Affiliate Organizations to be posted to the GSS website

Relevant Materials: None

Motion:

WHEREAS an easily accessible list of affiliate organizations would make collaboration and administration of GSS policies such as the Event Fund easier.

WHEREAS posting a list of affiliate organizations on the GSS website would make the role of the GSS more visible to graduate students.

BIRT Policy 2.5.8 be added reading:

2.5.8 Affiliate organizations must be listed on the GSS website, including the organization name and primary contact information; VP students shall ensure the list is updated within 30 days after each council meeting.

MOVER: Code and Policy Committee

SECONDER: Philip K.

Kate: Move to amend “VP Students shall ensure that the list is updated.”

Pouya: When do the AOs need to be on the web-site?

Speaker: 30 days after Council meeting.

Claire: What is the motivation to have the primary contact information that is made public?

Kate: This is supposed to increase the ability of AO’s to collaborate on issues. The type of contact information required is intentionally left open so a group email or social media account can be used instead of individual email.

RESULT: For (29): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Yee Fay Lim, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Uyen Nguyen, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Darren Touch, Kiana Yau
Against (1): Karanpreet M.
Abstained: Areezo M., Pouya Rezaenia

Matter #4

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Presentation Time: None

Subject Description: Amendments to Appendix Numbering and Table of Contents

Relevant Materials: Briefing Note “Appendix”

Motion:

WHEREAS errors have been identified in the Policy Manual Table of Contents list of Appendices, and in a reference to an Appendix within the Policy Manual.

WHEREAS the list of Honorary Members of the Society should be designated an appendix number for easy reference.

WHEREAS it is easier to navigate the Policy Manual if the lengthy HR manual is the final appendix.

BIRT the list of Honorary Members be named “Appendix I. Honorary Members of the Society”

BIFRT the Policy Manual Table of Contents and numbers of other appendices be revised as follows:

Appendix I. Honorary Members of the Society

Appendix II. Affidavit of Election

Appendix III. Nomination Form for GSS Elections

Appendix IV. Ballot Layout for GSS Elections

Appendix V. Preliminary Announcement of Election Results

Appendix VI. Standard Council Agenda

Appendix VII. Departmental Organization Fund Committee Petition

Appendix VIII. Letter of Engagement for [e.g., Assistant to the Executive]

Appendix IX. **Confidentiality Agreement and Personal Information Protection Agreement**

Appendix X. GSS Legal waiver form

Appendix XI. Councillor Information Form

Appendix XII. Petition for Recall

Appendix XIII. Policy Revision Form

Appendix XIV. Human Resources Manual

BIFRT references to the appendices in the Policy Manual be updated according to the new numbering.

BIFRT Policy 2.2.1 be revised to read:

2.2.1 An honorary member is as stated in Bylaw 3.2, **and a list of honorary members can be found in Appendix I.**

MOVER: Code and Policy Committee SECONDER: Philip K.

RESULT: For (30): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Kiana Yau

Against (1): Karanpreet M.

Abstained: Areezo M.

Matter #5

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability Committee

Subject Matter: To appoint Lois Evans as Sustainability Coordinator

WHEREAS the Student Sustainability Council (SSC) has existed at UBC Vancouver since 2010, providing input on projects, programs and initiatives from UBC's Sustainability Initiative, Campus and Community Planning, and UBC Wellbeing, and

WHEREAS the UBC Graduate Student Society (GSS) previously had two members on the SSC when it was created but has not coordinated efforts on sustainability with UBC since then, and

WHEREAS the UBC Sustainability Coordinators Program (SCP) has existed at UBC Vancouver since 1999, to inspire colleagues, deliver information, identify sustainability initiatives, and communicate UBC policies, procedures, news and events regarding sustainability; and

WHEREAS Councillor Lois Evans has expressed interest in liaising between the SSC, the SCP, and the GSS.

BIRT the GSS Council appoints Lois Evans as interim Graduate Student Representative to the Student Sustainability Council and to the Sustainability Coordinator Program, effective immediately and until May 31st, 2019.

MOVER: Arash S. SECONDER: Philip K.

Nicolas: We had a sustainability initiative but it fell through. We believe that appointing her is a first good step.

Conny: Any comments? I see none – let's vote.

RESULT: For (28): Rahaf al Assil, Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Yee Fay Lim, Logan Lorenz, Areezo M., Karanpreet M., Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Kiana Yau

Against (1): Maria Martinez

Abstained: Timothy Luk, Lois Evans

Matter #6

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability Committee

Title: To Create a Working Group to Assess How to Address and Coordinate Sustainability Initiatives in the GSS

WHEREAS the Student Sustainability Council (SSC) has existed in the UBC Vancouver since 2010, providing input on projects, programs and initiatives from UBC's Sustainability Initiative, Campus and Community Planning, and UBC Wellbeing, and **WHEREAS** the UBC Graduate Student Society (GSS) previously had two members on the SSC when it was created but has not coordinated efforts on sustainability with UBC since then, and

WHEREAS the GSS does not have a structure for initiatives to address sustainability in its operations or to inform and educate graduate students at large about sustainability.

BIRT the GSS Council, by special resolution, strikes the Sustainability Assessment Working Group, with the following characteristics:

Working Group Coordinator: Graduate Student Representative to the Student Sustainability Council.

- Membership: 4 Ordinary Members and the GSS administrative assistant.
- Appointment: By the Coordinator of the working group.
- Unseatings: Members may choose to unseat themselves by notifying the working group coordinator. The working group coordinator may choose to unseat a member, in which case the GSS Council and all members of the working group shall be notified.
- Period: March 1st to May 31st, 2019.
- Objective: At the end of its term, the working group shall make a recommendation to Council on the best structure for developing sustainability initiatives in the GSS, its potential reach, and an effective mechanism to coordinate with UBC-wide initiatives.

MOVER: Nicolas R.

SECONDER: Philip K.

Nicolas: We don't know if the best long term solution is to create an ad-hoc committee or a permanent committee?

Sara: The working group is supposed to have four ordinary members – how are choosing the ordinary members?

Nicolas: This is not a committee, so any councillor can sit into this group by appointment – if you want to join talk to Lois.

Sara: If we can't find enough members, is there a reason for the working group not to function?

Nicolas: There is no quorum issue it can only work with coordinator and AA.

Conny: Let's go for a vote – standard vote.

RESULT: For (28): Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Hilal Kina, Jun Sian Lee, Yee Fay Lim, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Areezo M., Maria Martinez, Temitope O., Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Kiana Yau

Against (1): Tayo Olarewaju

Abstained: Lois Evans

New Matter #7

Person Responsible: Nicolas Romualdi

Subject: GSS/AMS Referendum

WHEREAS during the 2015 GSS AGM it was voted by ordinary resolution to explore unaffiliating the UBC Graduate Student Society (GSS) from the UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS) which would potentially lead to a referendum, and

WHEREAS the GSS/AMS Referendum ad-hoc committee was struck by the GSS Council to investigate the willingness of UBC Vancouver Graduate students to cease their membership with the AMS, and

WHEREAS in the event of a successful referendum, UBC-Vancouver graduate students will not automatically cease to be members of AMS.

WHEREAS A fact-finding survey was conducted by the GSS/AMS Ad-Hoc Referendum Committee in 2017, in which UBC Vancouver Graduate Students expressed themselves as unwilling to cease being a part of the AMS, and

WHEREAS it is the position of the Executive Committee, the AMS/GSS Ad-Hoc Referendum Committee and the AMS Caucus that graduate students' interests are best served by remaining a part of the AMS and fostering collaboration between the AMS and the GSS.

BIRT the following motion be included in the March 2019 GSS AGM agenda as a matter for decision:

WHEREAS during the previous meeting, members of AMS/GSS Referendum have unanimously agreed that we will not recommend graduate students to leave AMS, and

WHEREAS it is the position of the Executive Committee, the AMS/GSS Ad-Hoc Referendum Committee and the AMS Caucus that graduate students' interests are best served by remaining a part of the AMS and fostering collaboration between the AMS and the GSS, and

WHEREAS the previous survey done by AMS/GSS Referendum committee has shown a strong indication that graduate students are unwilling to cease being a part of the AMS, and

BIRT the Graduate Student Society will remain an affiliate organization of the Alma Mater Society, and

BIFRT, the GSS will no longer be bound to conduct a referendum or fact finding survey on the willingness of Graduate Students to remain members of the AMS.

MOVER: Hamed P.

SECONDER: Arash S.

Ty: The last BIFRT – does it mean that our successor here could not conduct a referendum? Does it mean forever?

Conny: Future Council can revoke it.

Nicolas: We are bound by an old AGM that we carry out a referendum, so we are bound by a referendum or an AGM to undo it. I see your point to find a solution to unbind ourselves from previous decision but bind ourselves to another problem.

Kate: Motion to amend: “BIFRT the GSS will no longer be bound to conduct a referendum or fact finding survey on the willingness of Graduate Students to remain members of the AMS.”

MOVER: Kate S.

SECONDER: Nicolas R.

Victoria: This does not resolve the issue – if in the future we had an AGM to hold a referendum ...

Nicolas: No we can revoke it.

Conny: You can have a motion to revoke a previous decision as long as it is not in the same meeting.

John: I yield my time.

Kate: We are currently bound, so adding the text removes this particular decision.

Nicolas: The decision was made in 2015.

Arezo: I just want to share what I learned last AGM.

Nicolas: Point of order.

Arezo: I know but there are some strong sentences here so we should remove them ...

Speaker: Clarified that the referendum is no longer in discussion.

Nicolas: I want to call the question.

RESULT: For (22): Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Karanpreet M., Lois Evans, Temitope O., Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach

Against (1): Maria Martinez

Speaker: Motion carried. Let’s vote on the change in the language “to be bound to ...”

RESULT: For (13): Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Jun Sian Lee, Maria Martinez, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach

Against (4): Philip Karangu, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Lois Evans

Abstained: Solomon Atta, Karen Devendrakumar, Arezo M., Larissa Peck, Sebastien Rettie, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner

Speaker: Finally let’s vote on the motion.

RESULT: Against (23): Karen Devendrakumar, Victoria Gomez, Anjali Gupta, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Arezo M., Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Tayo Olarewaju, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch

Abstained: Solomon Atta, Timothy Luk, Omri Wallach

GSS Council Meeting Agenda

February 21, 2019 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

... 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: Any event this year for our AOs?

Pouya: No, we did not have enough budget.

Arezoo: Did you reach out to VP Students office as we did last year?

Pouya: In the discussion we had with Services we did not find it necessary.

Philip: Where is the money not coming from? What is the budget line for AOs?

Pouya: It is not in the Event Fund and it was not a priority this year.

Alexa: We have no food budget for AGM, but we barely reached quorum last year ...
Sorry ignore my comment. I was confused about what we were talking about.

Ty: UBC VP Students organizing a dinner for AO's and funding is actually coming from them. But the VP Students is in transition, so this is part of the difficulty in organizing the event.

Arezoo: We have a budget line for that – \$2000 for this, it is not enough. I believe that at least one effort could be made. I don't understand why this is not necessary. Why did Services feel it is not necessary?

VP Students: It was an informal discussion – it was not my priority.

Nicolas: Line 886, event cost – precisely for this purpose scheduled to be spent in April.

Christina: I don't think it is specifically for this event.

Nicolas: We have this line for April – it is not spent.

Arezoo: My question was why the Services Committee did not see it necessary to have it this year? We worked hard to make it happen and our AOs appreciated it greatly. No effort has been made to it from VP Students.

Conny: Is there money there?

Nicolas: I move to refer this question to HF to report back to Council next year.

Arezoo: And what is the rationale for not running this event?

VP Students: It was not a priority this year.

Philip: At the GSS we try to increase our visibility within UBC, so having this will increase our visibility.

Arezoo: He said that it is not a priority, not a priority is not a rationale. What is the rationale?

Pouya: I focused on other events.

Arezoo: Last year we had a lot of events and we still had this one ... this is not a sufficient justification.

Jun: I move to refer to Services Committee to consider and VP Students to report back next Council Meeting, so we can have a more productive conversation.

BIRT VP Student and the Services Committee report back in the March 2019 council meeting regarding Affiliated Organization event.

MOVER: Nicolas R.

SECONDER: Jun. S. L.

RESULT: For (18): John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Hilal Kina, Jun Sian Lee, Teesha Luehr, Areezo M., Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Larissa Peck, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Omri Wallach

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 February 2020:

- **Biomedical Engineering Graduate Association**
- **Graduate Law Students' Society**
- **Graduate Students in Nursing Association**

MOVER: Hamed P.

SECONDER: Philip K.

RESULT: For (24): Solomon Atta, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi,

Philip Karangu, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Areezo M., Karanpreet M., Maria Martinez, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

President: I have a request for amending the agenda.

MOVER: John E. SECONDER: Philip K.

WHEREAS the GSS AGM Awards are an annual tradition for recognizing outstanding contributions from councillors, committee members, executives and all manner of relevant GSS representatives

WHEREAS the awards usually take about 40mins to an hour

WHEREAS making meetings more efficient and shorter is a priority for the current Executives

WHEREAS the AGM is the only venue where we can debate and decide on important issues, which demand the attention and vote of the entire graduate student community

BIRT that the GSS AGM Awards are moved to the 2019 April Council Meeting, which coincides with the end of the term of the outgoing Executives.

BIFRT that the timing of the GSS AGM Awards is re-assessed in January of 2020 with an eye to how the award ceremony went in April 2019.

Maria: What are the awards?

John: Different categories of performance.

Jun: AGM stands for Annual General Meeting, which we will hold on March 21st and then we will have a Council meeting after, so this is why the request.

Conny: Let's vote

RESULT: For (21): Solomon Atta, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Jun Sian Lee, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Areezo M., Maria Martinez, Lois Evans, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Larissa Peck, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

Abstained: Nicolas Romualdi

GSS Council Meeting Agenda

February 21, 2019 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

... 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**

Arezoo: Sara, can you inform Council about your work with off-campus advocacy?

Sara: I tried to continue Arezoo's work from last year with off-campus advocacy. Two main things: we approached Kavi Toor, Director of Recreation Centers, to hear about recreation centers off-campus. We were able to get a budget of \$1200 to spend on off-campus events, but we still have not started advertising.

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:

Person Responsible: FEOO

Time: 10 mins

Subject Matter: Budget Update up until Jan 31, 2019

Relevant Materials: Budget Presentation Jan 2019

Jun: A comment and a question: we need more chairs and tables for Loft and what's the big variance in the corporate budget?

FEOO: It is a matter of timing – money still waiting to be paid in Jan. Some money has not yet come in and some we need to spend.

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability Committee

Time: 5 minutes

Title: The Case for Oversight

Relevant Materials: None

Victoria: Thank you for the wonderful presentation, Nicolas! I hope during your presidency your presentations are similarly humorous. It is important to have governance, but also to have an active role in it. We also need to make sure we are all working together on this goal. So I hope we all participate and work on this smart goals.

2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

Person Responsible: VP Academic

Time: 5mins

Subject Matter: G&A Goal Review

Relevant Materials: Presentation G&A

Person Responsible: VP External

Time: 5 mins

Subject Matter: Interest Free Loans

Relevant Materials: None

I. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 pm.
MOVER: Arash S. SECONDER: Logan L. RESULT: All in favor.

J. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting
 - a. *Date:* March 21, 2019
 - b. *Time:* After AGM
 - c. *Location:* Thea's Lounge, GSS (225-6371 Crescent Road)

2. Notice of Unseatings

Ashenafi Alemu to be unseated as an Ordinary Member from the **Elections Committee**.
Emily Murphy to be unseated as an Ordinary Member from the **Academic and External Affairs Committee**.

Kelsey Yamasaki to be unseated as a Departmental Representative for the **School of Community and Regional Planning**.

Lily Takeuchi to be unseated as a Councillor from the **Academic and External Affairs Committee**.

Lipiar Goni to be unseated as a Councillor for the **Elections Committee**.

Madison Bolger Munro to be unseated as an Ordinary Member from the **Governance & Accountability Committee**.

Maria Jose Athie to be unseated as a Councillor from the **Academic and External Affairs Committee**.

Megan Holec to be unseated as a Councillor from the **Academic and External Affairs Committee**.

Nicolas Romualdi to be unseated as Councillor from the **Governance & Accountability Committee** upon end of departmental representative term.

Solomon Atta to be unseated as Councillor from the **House Finance Committee**

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

- a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society
 - i. **President**
 -
 - ii. **Financial & Executive Oversight Officer**
 -
 - iii. **Executive Oversight Committee**

-
- iv. Governance & Accountability Committee**

Work is underway to finish ironing out committee SMART goals, as explained in the January Council meeting. The committee has submitted its goals to the executive committee for review. The committee has collaborated with Councillor Lois Evans to appoint her Sustainability Coordinator and liaison to the UBC SSC (Student Sustainability Council).

- v. House Finance Committee**

- vi. Code & Policy Committee**

CPC has consulted with the VP Students, General Manager, and FEOO on the Event Fund policy and will soon be drafting changes based on these conversations, in collaboration with Services Committee and Finances Committee. Changes discussed include an increase to the maximum amount that can be reimbursed, additions to the event report to include requests for testimonials and photos for advertising purposes, and putting the calculator for reimbursement on the website, as well as putting a list of AOs on the website as in the motion brought to this Council.

CPC has made progress on its SMART Goals. We have begun consultation on the appointment of chairs. We have also begun consultation with Services, AcEx, and EOC regarding updates to their Terms of Reference with respect to the Strat Plan, and has reviewed HR and HF Terms of Reference but not yet consulted with these committees. Finally, CPC is in the process of applying updates to the Policy Manual.

- vii. Human Resources Committee**

-
- viii. AMS Council**

-
- ix. Elections Committee**

It is half way through the 2019 Elections season. The official nomination period ended on Friday, Feb 15. The election webpage link is <http://gss.ubc.ca/elections-2019/>. However, Elections committee seeks nominations for all the positions from councillors. The debates will be held on next Tuesday Feb 26 (BC Cancer Research Centre) and Thursday Feb 28 (St John College). Please sign up for the two debates by contacting elections@gss.ubc.ca, as seating space is limited.

Voting starts on March 4th to 15th. There will be a booth in the AMS Nest asking graduate students to vote in the elections in the week of March 11th.

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

i. VP Students

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ii. Services Committee

•

c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

i. VP University & Academic Affairs

GSS and CASA cooperate on raising awareness about student mental health

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and GSS cooperated on a #StudentsLetsAct Campaign, which aimed to increase student awareness around mental health and bring a few action-based initiatives to the attention of the federal government that could improve conditions around student mental health.

GSS had a full-day table in the Nest on Thursday, Jan 31 where VP University and Academic Affairs and various Executives, student and staff volunteers encouraged students to sign and write a short message on a heart about why mental health matters. CASA will send the hearts to the federal officials, responsible for mental health policy.

GSS also shared the findings of the GSS Student Satisfaction Survey regarding the mental health of UBC graduate students.

The second day of the campaign was carried out online and we shared materials via our electronic media.

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ii. VP External Relations

•

iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee

iv. Graduate Council

•

v. Senate

vi. Board of Governors

The February cycle of the Board of Governors was held over Feb 7-8th (committees) and 12th (full Board). We have written a brief [summary of topics](#) discussed, and the full agenda and documents is [on the Board website](#).